



Yeovil Town Council

**Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ**

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The Meeting... **Grounds and General Maintenance Committee**

The Time... **7.00pm**

The Date... **Monday 7 September 2009**

The Place... **Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil**

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language, please ring 01935 382424



Alan Tawse

Alan Tawse
Town Clerk

01 September 2009

Please contact Sarah Hunt at the Town House for more information about this meeting

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

To: All Members of the Grounds and General
Maintenance Committee

J Vincent Chainey

Philip Chandler (Ex-officio)

Dave Gooding

Pete Goodman

John Grana

Dave Greene (Vice Chairman)

Steve Hawker

Simon Hester

Wes Read (Ex-officio)

Alan Smith (Chairman)

Jon Trevett (co-opted non-voting)

A G E N D A

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 Minutes)

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2009.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

5. **PLAY AND YOUTH FACILITIES UPDATE**

To consider a verbal update from the Play and Youth Facilities Officer on the maintenance and improvement of sites managed by the Town Council.

6. **YEW TREE PARK REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

Some initial works will be starting on 1 September. During these initial works, some of the play area will be closed.

Building of the Cornish Hedge and moving the mound (to form a bigger mound to accommodate a 5 metre high slide) will take 10 to 14 working days.

Notices have been put up on site so that local residents know what is happening.

Play equipment has now been ordered and the expected delivery time is 4 – 6 weeks.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter.

(Stephen Barnes, Play and Youth Facilities Officer 01935 462408)

7. **ALLOTMENT MAINTENANCE WORK**

To consider the spreadsheet by the Streetscene Co-ordinator on allotment maintenance works carried out at the Town Council's allotments (to follow).

8. DOG BIN INSTALLATION AT ABBEY ROAD

Further to the last meeting, a chute style dog bin has been purchased and installed just inside the Recreation Ground gates in Abbey Road. An old style dog bin, which had previously been in store, was part-exchanged for the new dog bin and the actual cost to the Town Council was £74. This leaves £426 in the budget allocation for dog waste bins for 2009/10.

The Town Clerk has raised with the District Council the concerns expressed at the last meeting about that Council's proposals to start charging for the emptying of additional dog bins. He will be meeting with the Streetscene Services Manager in the near future, and the outcome of these discussions will be reported to the next meeting.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter.

(Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk 01935 382424)

9. DOG CONTROL ORDERS WORKSHOP

The District Council has written to all town and parish councils (copy letter attached at pages 4 to 5) regarding their proposals to make Dog Control Orders across South Somerset with effect from 31 March 2010.

Details of the reasons for making the Orders and the type of offences that it is intended would be covered by the proposed legislation are set out in the letter.

The implementation process requires consultation with other local authorities and, with this in mind, a series of Area Workshops are planned to which representatives of town and parish councils have been invited.

The Workshop for Area South will be held between 6.00pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday 27 October at the Innovation Centre.

The Committee is **RECOMMENDED**:

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) to consider the proposals by the District Council and to comment on their merits – including any problems encountered with dogs in Yeovil, and how the proposed legislation should be applied locally; and
- (3) to appoint one or more representatives to attend the planned Area South Workshop on behalf of the Town Council.

(Sarah Hunt – Assistant Town Clerk 01935 382424)

10. **FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 JULY 2009**

To consider the Financial Statement for the period 1 June to 31 July 2009 attached at pages 6 to 12.

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 Minutes)

Streetscene Services
Lufton Depot, 7 Artillery Road, Yeovil, BA22 8RP
Telephone: (01935) 462462 Fax: (01935) 477107
Website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk



Chris Cooper *Head of Service - Streetscene*

Date: 21st August 2009
Your Ref:
Our Ref: LW
Ask For: Lyndsey Williams
Direct Line: 01935 462830
e-mail: lyndsey.williams@southsomerset.gov.uk

Dear Parish Clerk

Dog Control Orders – Invitation to a Parish Workshop, Tuesday 27th October 2009, 6pm – 7.30pm at the Innovation Centre, Yeovil.

The Streetscene Enforcement Officers are intending to make Dog Control Orders across the district, which will be effective from 31st March 2010.

These Orders are part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and are designed to achieve better control of dogs across the District. Orders have already been implemented by several of our neighbouring authorities.

There are five offences for which Dog Control Orders may be made:

- Failing to remove dog faeces
- Not keeping a dog on a lead
- Not putting and keeping, a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded
- Taking more than the specified number of dogs onto land

The Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006 require us, as a first step, to consult any other primary or secondary authority within the area in which an Order is being made. All Parish and Town Councils are being invited to Area workshops this autumn in order to hear your views on how this legislation should be applied locally. In Area South a workshop has been arranged for Tuesday 27th October 2009.

Dog Control Orders will apply to any land, within the boundaries of the South Somerset District Council, which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment) subject to specific exclusions. However dog control orders cannot be applied to certain land controlled by the Forestry Commission, nor can orders banning dogs be applied to highways or roads.

At present we propose to make Dog Control Orders, which will make it an offence for:

- Failing to remove dog faeces from all land within the boundaries of the South Somerset District Council other than that land excluded

- Not keeping a dog on a lead in certain restricted areas, such as churchyards (after consultation with the Diocese or other)
- Not putting and keeping a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer on all land within the boundaries of the South Somerset District Council other than that land excluded
- Permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded, to include all fenced play areas, unfenced play areas, with play equipment and marked sports pitches when matches are in progress.

At present, Enforcement Officers do not appear to have encountered a significant problem with controlling the number of dogs taken onto any land, other than in a couple of parishes where hunting dogs are kennelled and subsequently exercised. However, we would welcome your comments and are willing to discuss this at the workshop should your parish have encountered any problems.

Under the legislation it is a requirement, where practicable, for signs to be placed on land affected to inform the public of the Order. Dog owners found to be in breach of an Order will be liable to pay a fixed penalty. Please, be aware that there will be significant financial implications in the making of any Orders. This aspect comes under Regulation 3(4)(a) of the Dog Control Orders (Procedure) Regulations.

Full details of the legislation can be viewed at www.defra.gov.uk or www.opsi.gov.uk

I would be grateful if your parish would give consideration to these proposals at your earliest convenience and arrange for one or more representative(s) to attend the workshop, with your comments, recommendations or queries. To help us with planning this event please respond by e mail to esgenforcement@southsomerset.gov.uk or telephone Martin Hacker on 01935 462838, giving the name of your representative(s) the Parish represented, contact details including e mail address.

If, in the meantime, you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Phil Jones, Enforcement Supervisor on 01935 462870 or myself.

Yours sincerely

Lyndsey Williams
Enforcement Officer