

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 2 August 2011**

(7.30pm – 8.15pm)

Present:

Philip Chandler – Mayor
Martin Bailey
Kris Castle
J Vincent Chainey
Tristan Cobb
Leah Cross
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
David Dollard
Tony Fife

Jon Gleeson
Dave Greene
Andrew Kendall
Mike Lock
Tony Lock
David Recardo
Manny Roper
Darren Shutler
Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Phil Jones	Environmental Enforcement Supervisor (SSDC)
Steve Fox	Landscape Officer (SSDC)

PRAYERS

Rev Howard Davenport led the Council in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil.

GRANT PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor presented a grant cheque to representatives of the following organisations for the purposes indicated:

Applicant	Amount	Purpose
Yeovil Olympiads Athletic Club	£900	to meet the costs of the provision of prizes, advertising and administration for the 2011 Yeovil Games
Yeovil and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society	£350	towards the general running expenses of the Society
Monday Club	£150	towards the general running costs of the Club
Yeovil Foyer	£2,000	to help purchase fitness equipment

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/41 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 July 2011, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/42 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Brock, Peter Gubbins, John Hann, Kaysar Hussain and Wes Read.

8/43 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

J V Chainey, Manny Roper and Darren Shutler each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7 (Allotment Rents) by virtue of their allotment tenancies with the Town Council.

8/44 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Details of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements and announcements were attached to the Agenda.

8/45 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the following items of correspondence:-

- South Somerset District Council Area South Newsletter – July 2011
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Newsletter – Summer 2011

8/46 **STREETSCENE SERVICES**

Phil Jones - Environmental Enforcement Supervisor (SSDC) and Steve Fox - Landscape Officer (SSDC) gave a joint presentation on the range of services that the District Council's Streetscene Services Unit delivered in Yeovil Town and their plans for the future (a summary of the main points covered in the presentation is attached to these minutes).

Phil drew attention to the powers available to local authorities to deal with a variety of criminal and anti-social behaviour including graffiti, littering, fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and dog-related problems. He explained how the District Council used these powers to take action against offenders and the work that was undertaken in schools and in the local community to raise awareness of these problems and to encourage positive attitudes.

Steve outlined the horticultural and grounds maintenance work that was carried out by the Unit on behalf of a range of clients, and he explained the landscape design and advice work that was undertaken on request. This included carrying out arboricultural and closed churchyard risk assessments and responding to planning applications.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the approach that was taken to monitor and review the condition of mature trees on public land across the District, and the minimal impact that the changes in the opening hours of the Yeovil Household Waste Recycling Centre had had on the level of fly-tipping.

The Mayor thanked Phil and Steve for their interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/47 **ALLOTMENT RENTS**

(J Vincent Chainey, Manny Roper and Darren Shutler each having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers).

Members were advised that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had expressed their support for the recommendation of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the recommendation of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee be supported; and
- (3) that an increase in allotment rents of 1p per square metre be levied with effect from 1 October 2012, it being noted that, for a typical plot, this would result in an effective increase of £1.43 per annum (less than 3p per week).

8/48 **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

The Chairmen of the various Committees of the Council presented the Minutes from the previous cycle of meetings, drawing attention to specific references to Council, any matters of particular interest and answering any questions.

Planning and Licensing Committee

4 July 2011
18 July 2011

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

11 July 2011

Promotions and Activities Committee

12 July 2011

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

19 July 2011

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

26 July 2011

Minute 8/24 – Applications for Grant Aid

The Town Clerk reported that a grant application for a £1,000 contribution towards the forthcoming Octagon Theatre Summer School had been inadvertently omitted from the agenda of the above meeting. He added that the

grant application handling procedure had since been amended to minimise the chances of a recurrence.

A copy of the application had been circulated to all Members as soon as the matter came to light and, given the need to make an early decision and following consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, he proposed to use the Council's Emergency Procedure to determine the application. To assist with the process, he sought the Council's views on the matter.

Members expressed their support for the grant application in the amount requested.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the intention of the Town Clerk to use the Council's Emergency Procedure to determine upon the above grant application be noted and supported.

8/49 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Minutes of the following meetings of Outside Bodies were attached to the Agenda and Members were given an opportunity to raise matters relating to them:

Yeovil Youth Council

13 June 2011

Yeovil Twinning Association

23 June 2011

Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee

29 June 2011

Members who represented the Town Council on outside bodies were given an opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

Bridget Dollard drew attention to a recent meeting of the Area South Community Safety Action Panel that she had attended, and she outlined details of the Bobby Van Scheme, which was run by the Police and helped to reduce the fear of crime for vulnerable people and the victims of burglary, domestic violence and hate crime by offering a free-of-charge security advice and fitting service

The Town Clerk undertook to circulate details of the initiative to all Members.

8/50 PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

STREETSCENE SERVICES



What do we do ?

- ★ Environmental enforcement
- ★ Street cleaning
- ★ Horticulture
- ★ Plant nursery
- ★ Transport / workshop



Environmental enforcement

Graffiti removal



- Offensive graffiti removed within 24 hrs
- Other graffiti removed as soon as practicable
- Graffiti on private property can be removed at the owners cost



Littering and Fly-tipping



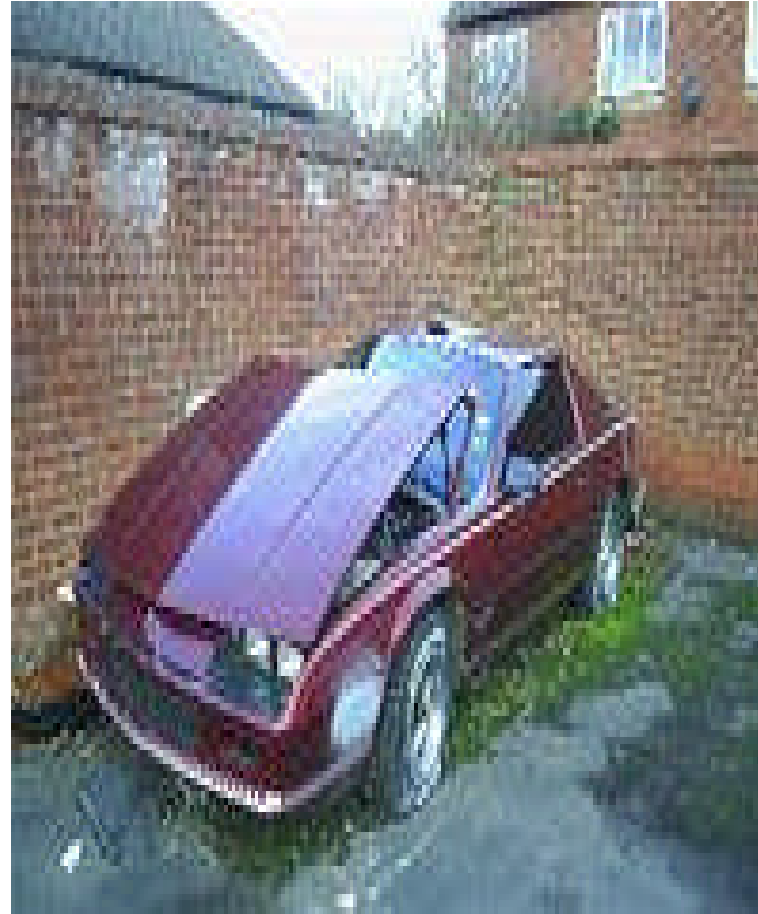
- ★ Dedicated response team for fly tip removal
- ★ 919 fly tips removed in 2009 / 2010
- ★ Regular litter patrols of hot spots





Abandoned vehicles

- ★ 2 x Part time dedicated officers
- ★ 256 abandoned vehicles investigated



Abandoned dogs & dog fouling



- ★ 209 of dogs collected on average per annum
- ★ Regular patrols of dog walking hot spots
- ★ Educational visits





Street cleaning

- ★ 17 street cleaners plus 3 road sweepers to cover South Somerset (Plus occasional agency).
- ★ Town centres cleansed daily
- ★ Housing estates are zone cleansed on an ongoing basis.
- ★ Rural villages are swept quarterly
- ★ Littering hot spots (i.e. Lay-bys) are targeted as required
- ★ Litter and dog bins are emptied daily or weekly as required.





Horticultural

Grounds maintenance operations for:

- SSDC
- Yarlington homes
- County Council Highway verge partnership
- Cartgate rest stop area
- Yeovil town council
- Westland's Thorne house
- Parish Councils

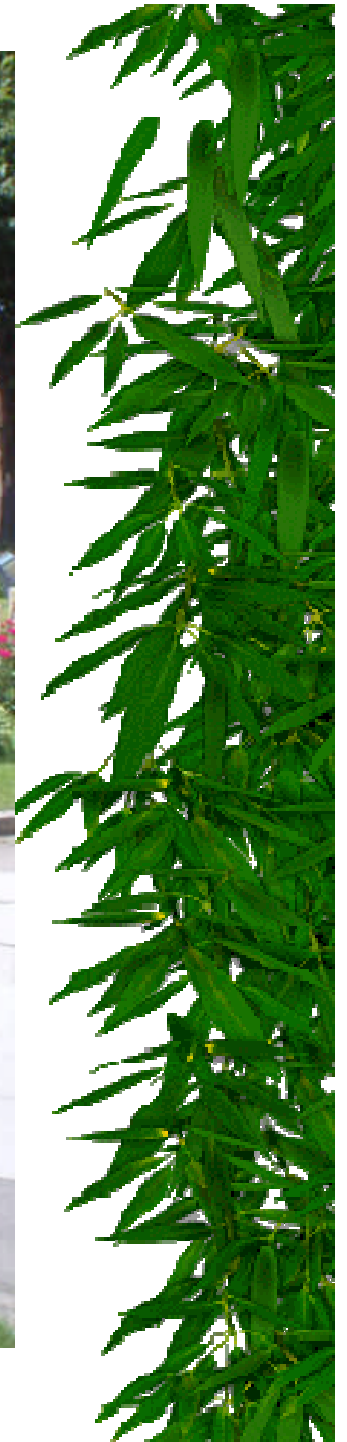




Horticultural management and design

- ★ Landscape design and installation for SSDC and clients
- ★ Yeovil in Bloom
- ★ Arboricultural works
- ★ Arboricultural risk management
- ★ Planning guidance and Open space design criteria
- ★ Closed churchyard management and risk assessment







Community

- ★ Litter picks
- ★ Tree planting
- ★ Parish Bulb planting schemes
- ★ Help & advice



