



# Yeovil Town Council

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Yeovil  
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**Yeovil Town Council**

The Meeting... **Yeovil Town Council**

The Time... **7.30pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 4 March 2014**

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

*The Town Council will be discussing all the items listed overleaf*

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



*Alan Tawse*

Alan Tawse

Town Clerk

25 February 2014

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Please contact Alan Tawse at the Town House for more information about this meeting

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## **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL**

Manny Roper – Mayor of Yeovil

Mike Lock – Deputy Mayor

Martin Bailey

Peter Brock

Kris Castle

J Vincent Chainey

Philip Chandler

Tristan Cobb

Leah Cross

Clive Davis

Bridget Dollard

David Dollard

Tony Fife

Jon Gleeson

David Greene

Peter Gubbins

John Hann

Kaysar Hussain

Andrew Kendall

Tony Lock

Wes Read

David Recardo

Darren Shutler

Alan Smith

### **Equality Act 2010**

The *general* public sector equality duty places an obligation on a wide range of public bodies (including town and parish councils) in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The protected characteristics are:

*Age*

*Disability*

*Gender Reassignment*

*Marriage and Civil Partnership*

*Pregnancy and Maternity*

*Race*

*Religion or Belief*

*Sex*

*Sexual Orientation*

**Prior to the start of the meeting, Members are invited to join the Mayor's Chaplain in the Council Chamber at 7.25pm for prayers.**

## **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 4 February 2014.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **4. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(See attached at page 5)

#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **6. SOUTH SOMERSET CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Georgina Burton, Chief Executive of South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau, will attend the meeting and give a presentation on the aims and objectives of the Organisation, its achievements over the past twelve months and its plans for the coming year - with particular reference to Yeovil Town.

#### **7. YOUTH SERVICES**

The Youth Services Review Steering Group, which was set up to explore the possibility of a cluster of local councils jointly commissioning youth services in the Yeovil area after the County Council stops funding these services next month, has continued to meet and this report gives a summary of the key developments that have taken place since last October.

By way of background, a number of local councils – including Yeovil Town Council and South Somerset District Council - were concerned when they first heard of Somerset County Council's plans to withdraw funding for youth services and they decided to take positive action in response.

This initially involved the establishment of a Steering Group, whose membership is drawn from the participating councils and whose work is being co-ordinated by the Town Council and supported by South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council. Jon Gleeson and Tony Lock have been appointed by the Town Council to serve on the Group, whose discussions have been informed by a consultation exercise that was commissioned by the Steering Group last year and which included a number of surveys of young people.

The Group was keen to find out the views of local young people on a range of issues - to make sure that any future services that were provided after this date met young people's needs and expectations. A copy of the consultation report has previously been circulated to all Members.

In the meantime, the Steering Group arranged for two pilot projects to be delivered between October 2013 and March 2014 in two areas of the Town where a shortage of youth services had been identified by the consultation report – the Brympton/Westfield area, and the Wraxhill/Forest Hill/Sampson's Wood area.

These ongoing projects are being delivered by an experienced and qualified youth service provider and include a range of interesting activities and focus on a number of issues highlighted by the findings of the report, including

- Health advice and support to young people
- Delivery of play provision and activities
- Improving communications with young people

Yeovil Youth Council, which includes student representatives from all the community schools in Yeovil and who helped to compile the questions used in the surveys, have expressed their unanimous support for the way in which the town and parish councils have approached this issue and are fully behind the pilot projects.

The cost of the consultation process and the pilot projects has been largely met from a grant of £10,000 that the Steering Group successfully secured from Somerset County Council.

The Steering Group recently reviewed the success of the ongoing pilot projects and were pleased with their progress. Somerset County Council has also expressed its satisfaction with the achievements to date. However, it was noted that owing to the difficulties of finding fixed premises in the Westfield part of the Town, the pilot project for the Brympton/Westfield area has to date been delivered from Abbey Manor Park.

Whilst this has benefitted young people living in the Brympton area, the opportunity has not yet arisen for the Group to offer similar facilities in the Westfield area. However, a new fixed venue has emerged and the Steering Group are keen to use it to extend the pilot to the Westfield area.

Confirmation has recently been received of a £40,000 transitional grant that has been allocated by the County Council to assist with the future development of sustainable youth services in Yeovil. This has presented an opportunity for the two existing pilot projects to be extended by a further six months, and for the Brympton and Westfield project to be delivered over that time from two separate locations on different evenings.

This approach will also enable the Steering Group to test the delivery of youth services during the warmer months of the year when there is scope for a much wider variety of activities to take place. The estimated costs of £15,000 will be met from this additional grant.

This extension will also give more time for the operation of the pilot projects to be evaluated and assessed by the participating councils, most of whom have already made a provisional allocation in their respective budgets to help meet the costs of delivering youth services in their areas in the future but who will wish to consider the outcome of the pilot projects before deciding whether to invest their provisional allocations for this purpose.

The Steering Group is also developing a strategy for youth services in the Yeovil area, which will help achieve a number of objectives, including the creation of capacity for the future delivery of such services and the necessary support structures for voluntary and community organisations that fund and deliver local youth work provision.

A networking meeting was held last month, to which a wide range of local youth organisations were invited, and all those attending were given an opportunity to comment on the proposed strategy. The final draft will be circulated to all the participating councils in due course for their consideration.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the recent developments regarding the work of the Youth Services Review Steering Group and await further updates.

*(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

## 8. **SAFE PLACES SCHEME**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have recently launched a force-wide community safety scheme aimed at vulnerable adults, and have written to all town and parish councils to make them aware of the new initiative and to seek their support in helping to promote the scheme and to assist with its operation.

Details of the scheme are set out in the letter attached at pages 6 to 7. The main purpose of the initiative is to make vulnerable adults be safe and feel safe when they are out and about; and to raise awareness of the greater likelihood of vulnerable adults being a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the new initiative and to consider whether it wishes to join the new scheme and to apply for the Town House to be designated as a Safe Place location.

## 9. **FLOODING**

John Osman, Leader of Somerset County Council is supporting The Royal Bath and West Society who have set up a relief fund to assist Somerset residents whose homes and businesses have been flooded over the last two months.

Cllr Osman has written to all town and parish council across Somerset (copy letter attached at pages 8 to 12) asking them to consider making a donation to the fund which will help start other flood preventative measures.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to consider whether it wishes to make a contribution towards the relief fund.

## **10. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

(The Minutes of the following meetings are open to discussion. Where a Committee has made a recommendation that will be listed on a separate sheet circulated with the Agenda).

### **Planning and Licensing Committee**

3 February 2014  
17 February 2014

## **11. REPORTS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

### **Yeovil Youth Council**

27 January 2014 13 - 15

### **South Somerset Countryside Steering Group**

13 February 2014 16 - 18

Members who represent the Town Council on Outside Bodies may wish to take the opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

## **12. NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **Grants – Motion 1/14**

Peter Gubbins will propose the following motion:

"To help the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee make more informed decisions about grant applications, the following additional information must be provided by all future applicants:

- any charges applied by the organisation, and details of any other income stream; and
- evidence that the organisation has applied to other grant funders - including other local authorities - in the past five years; the amount sought and the outcome of all such applications.

In addition, a policy be adopted that grants can only be paid for a single year and a second application is not allowed for the same project/purpose within 3 years, unless the applicant has a Service Level Agreement with the Town Council. The Service Level Agreement to apply as a 1 year agreement only".

## **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

**List of Engagements attended/to be attended by His Worship The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper and the Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Mike Lock from 4<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

07/02/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended the Yeovil Town Twinning Association Annual Dinner.
10/02/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended the presentation of Programme Completion Certificates by Active Plus.
17/02/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended Compton View Residential Home to celebrate the 100 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Lily Burwood.
22/02/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended the Community Safety Day Celebrating Diversity held at the Methodist Church.
28/02/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended afternoon tea at Preston Park House to celebrate the laying of the foundation stone at Cookson's Court, a new care home.
02/03/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended Axbridge Town Council Civic Service and Community Awards.
05/03/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will attend the presentation for the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards at the Octagon Theatre.
11/03/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will host his Civic Day, visiting AgustaWestland's and Yeovil Town Football Club
14/04/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will attend the South Somerset District Council's Civic Evening at The Octagon to see a performance of 'Sister Act'.
20/03/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will attend a coffee afternoon at Sherborne house Care Home.
21/03/14	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Mike Lock will attend the performance of 'Sister Act' by Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society at The Octagon.
23/03/14	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will attend the Legal Service at Wells Cathedral.



# AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## **Safer, Stronger Neighbourhoods**

Crime Reduction and Community Safety, Somerset East  
Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1SN  
Telephone: 101 (non-emergency)

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014

Dear Town/Parish Clerk

I am writing to inform you about a community safety scheme called 'Safe Places' being launched by Avon and Somerset Constabulary force-wide on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014, in partnership with Somerset County Council, Compass Disability and Mencap Lufton College (in our Local Authority area). Safe Places is a national scheme aimed at vulnerable adults that already operates successfully in other counties, such as Devon and Cornwall, Gloucester and Sussex.

The Safe Places Scheme aims to help vulnerable adults with learning disabilities deal with any situation that makes them feel scared, threatened, at risk or confused when they are out and about in the community. This could be anything from being lost to missing a bus, losing a mobile phone or being harassed and bullied.

The idea is simple – logo stickers are displayed in the window of places that sign up to the scheme. A Safe Place location can be a bus station, a shop, café or any other public space, such as a library. Those who have joined the scheme carry an "I need help" card containing contact details of someone they trust.

Staff in the Safe Place location will be able to assist anyone who has an "I Need Help" card and approaches them for help. The assistance provided could be in the format of giving directions or simple advice such as bus times, calling the contact number on the "I Need Help" card and/or calling the Police if a crime-related incident has occurred.

The purpose of the scheme is to:

1. Make vulnerable adults be safe and feel safe when they're out and about.
2. Raise awareness of the greater likelihood of vulnerable adults being a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour.

The Police and Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and our partner agencies have a strong desire to protect and reassure vulnerable adults, as well as improving opportunities for engagement with minority groups. The scheme is service-user led, has been and will continue to be shaped by the service users i.e. vulnerable adults.

Neighbourhood Teams in South Somerset and Mendip are currently identifying and risk assessing potential Safe Place locations to join the scheme and we are keen to work with local organisations, businesses and service providers to promote the initiative to potential safe place locations and service users with learning disability. This is likely to later include vulnerable adults with autism and dementia.



I would be grateful if you could forward this information to your councillors and promote the Safe Places scheme in your town/parish, for example using town/parish newsletters or websites. I have emailed a webpage template for this purpose.

If you would like to find out more about the scheme, become a Safe Place location or know of someone with a learning disability, autism or dementia who would like to benefit from using the scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of your local Neighbourhood Team.

Yours faithfully,

**Beth Poole**

Crime Reduction Officer, South Somerset  
Police Community Support Officer 9593

Email [beth.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:beth.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk)



**John Osman**

Leader of Somerset County Council

Somerset County Council

County Hall

Taunton

Somerset

TA1 4DY

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Tel: 01823 356663

jdosman@somerset.gov.uk

12 February 2014

Dear Councillors

**Somerset Levels Relief Fund - Royal Bath and West Society**

I write to ask for your assistance in supporting Somerset residents whose homes and businesses have been flooded over the last two months.

For the second year in succession Somerset has been subjected to unprecedented rainfall, which has caused millions of pounds of damage. Somerset County Council has provided extra funding of one million pounds to assist in flood relief and future prevention.

Whilst we will be lobbying for extra funding can I ask you to consider the documents attached from the Royal Bath and West who have set up a relief fund. Whilst we all welcome the government's commitment to help dredge the rivers the initial dredge will only be for 8km out of a total of 100km of rivers running through the county. In addition the fund will help start other flood preventative measures.

I know that times are tight but I would ask if your council could consider making a donation to the fund, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

John Osman

Leader of Somerset County Council

# SOMERSET LEVELS RELIEF FUND

SETUP BY



## **Saving the Somerset Levels**

The Royal Bath & West of England Society recognised last summer that the money to fund essential dredging of the rivers on the Somerset Levels was not going to be found, despite the horrendous flooding of the preceding year.

The Environment Agency was unable to come up with sufficient funds to pay for the work, and appeals to the Flood Minister fell on deaf ears.

The Society decided that, in the best traditions of the Bath and West, a self-help fund was the way forward. The Somerset Levels Relief Fund (SLRF) was launched by Michael Eavis on Burrow Mump in September 2013. In the last four months we have engaged with all the agencies and groups with interests in the Levels, including the conservation bodies, and won their support for the Fund.

Our aim is to raise between £2 million and £3 million by the end of 2014.



Members of the Royal Bath & West of England Society have made contributions to get the fund started, and we are now working hard to secure support from organisations and individuals with an interest in the fate of the Levels. The more money we are able to raise ourselves, the greater the leverage we will have with both government and large donors nationwide.

Since our Fund was launched, the Government has finally woken up to the seriousness of the situation. The Prime Minister has announced that £10 million will be made available for tackling flooding-related issues in Somerset this year. This will include the initial dredging of the key stretches of the rivers Parrett and Tone as soon as weather and ground conditions permit.

However, that is only the start. As a condition for providing emergency financial support, the Government has asked for a 20 year action plan, with matched funding, covering all aspects of flooding in Somerset. This will include:

- Further dredging, bearing in mind that the initial dredge will clear only 8km of river, out of a total of over 100km running through the Levels and Moors
- On-going maintenance to keep the rivers clear and to bring riverbanks, pumps, sluice-gates and other flood defence works up to the standard needed to cope with increasingly extreme rainfall events
- Work in the upper catchment to slow run-off from farmland and urban areas
- The construction of a tidal sluice near the mouth of the Parrett to protect against tidal flooding and prevent re-silting of the river



This is a major programme, with a strong and important environmental theme running through it. To unlock grants from the Government and other potential funders, we need to show that the local community is supporting the Fund by providing partnership funding.

**At present, and for the foreseeable future, the Somerset Levels Relief Fund is the only available way of raising the £3million partnership funding necessary to trigger matched funding from Government and so implement the 20 year Action Plan.**

A specialist group has been appointed to administer the Fund. They will be charged with allocating money to where it is most needed and can do most good, but with an emphasis on practical actions which directly reduce the flood risk, especially where it is possible to release match funding.





The combination of short-term Government action and the long-term plan means that Somerset now has the best opportunity for many years to beat the menace of flooding and manage the water on the Levels in ways that will produce the outcomes that we all want. To seize this opportunity, the people of Somerset have to play their part, and that means, raising the money that is so desperately needed.

We do hope that you are able to support us, and so help us to give the Somerset Levels and Moors a better, brighter future.

Donations can be made:

Just Giving link on the Royal Bath & West website: [www.bathandwest.com](http://www.bathandwest.com)

OR

**Please send your cheque to:**  
Somerset Levels Relief Fund  
c/o The Royal Bath and West of England Society  
The Showground  
Shepton Mallet  
Somerset  
BA4 6QN

OR

Telephone 01749 822200

Charity Registration number: 1039397



## **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the Meeting of **Yeovil Youth Council** held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil, on **Monday 27 January 2014**

(7.00pm – 8.20pm)

### **Present:**

Rebecca Pitts (Chairman)  
Sam Barnes-Thornton  
Isobel Brennan-Laird  
Jack Britten  
Chloe Broadribb  
Kevin Chan  
David Cook  
Natasha Dennington  
James Gard  
Louise Golby  
Daisy Parsons  
Ryan McGuinn  
Heather Murphy  
Isabella Tandy  
Bethany Vince  
Sami Wiltshire

### **Also Present:**

Gill Tomlinson      Committee Administrator

### **(1) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from, Luke Brickley, Kieran Whyte, Zoe Braddick, Rhiannon Davies, Hayley Worton and Alan Tawse.

### **(2) Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 November 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **(3) New Website**

David gave an update on the new website that he was developing on behalf of the Youth Council.

He had registered the domain name under South Somerset District Council but will change it to Yeovil Town Council.

The web site will be [www.yeovilyouthcouncil.co.uk](http://www.yeovilyouthcouncil.co.uk)

David said he had information on various servers and a decision needs to be made regarding costs.

To develop the content of the new website Members split into four groups of four, each group discussed one of the following:

- **About Us**

Information on the process of elections in the schools

Constitution

Budget

Officers

It was suggested that a personal biography of each Member of the Youth Council be put on the website. If under 16 this would need parental consent.

- **Past Projects/Future Projects**

Graffiti Mural Tesco Car Park – maybe Tamsin and Adam could help

Skatepark

Photos

Fundraising

Newspaper Advertising

- **Helplines**

Links to Youth Clubs, Drop in Centres, Libraries and school and college web sites

Healthcare Links e.g. Childline

- **Youth Services**

Information on student discount and students union

Careers Advice

Chats with Youth Councillors

It was agreed to gather all this information together for the next meeting in February.

David will do another presentation at the February meeting and a group photo will be taken.

## **RESOLVED**

(1) that the matters be noted; and

(2) that David give a further presentation at the February meeting of the Yeovil Youth Council.

## **(4) South Somerset Youth Opportunities Group**

### **RESOLVED**

that the notes of the meeting held on 25 November 2013 be noted.

## **(5) Schools' Update**

A variety of school plays/musicals/pantomimes/international trips were mentioned and ongoing refurbishment of departments at all schools.



## **RESOLVED**

that the matters be noted.

### **(6) Any Other Business**

Sami asked for an update on the streetlights at Wyndham Park, Rebecca had an e-mail from Jon Gleeson but didn't have it with her.

Sami also asked about Public Transport at Wyndham Park as there is no bus stop.

Potholes were an ongoing problem around Yeovil, Thorne Lane was specifically mentioned.

Fundraising for Diabetes UK will take place at Tesco.

Isabella has a place at Yeovil College.

## **RESOLVED**

that the matters be noted.

### **(7) Date of Next Meeting**

#### **IT WAS NOTED**

that the next meeting of the Yeovil Youth Council would take place at 7.00pm on Monday 24 February 2014.

#### **Future Dates**

Monday 24 March 2014

Chairman

**South Somerset Countryside Steering Group**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2014 at Ham Hill Centre**

Present: Rachael Whaite, Robin Mackay, Clive Hawkins, Dennis Pearce, Alan Lyons, Viv Keyte, Jack Frapple

Apologies: Nigel Mermagen, Graham Forsyth, Sue Osborne, Josie Mills

1. Minutes of last meeting

- Faith Walk – heard nothing from lead officer
- Polaris rangers-new site vehicles at Chard and Ham Hill. Storage issues.
- Swans are back at Yeovil Country Park – power line collision by play area witnessed by a member of the public. Becky Russell reported it to SEC who have now erected disks onto the line to make it more visible to birds
- Minutes agreed as correct

2. Update from sites

**General**

- Storms have caused significant damage across all of the sites but particularly Yeovil Country Park, which has lost over 40 trees in total with damage to fence lines and paths to be repaired. ***RW to collate information on storm damage across all sites-cost, no. of volunteer days, no. of trees down etc & send out a press release***
- Management Plans for Ham Hill and Yeovil Country Park have been updated to take us into 2017. Sylvia requested a short appraisal of the updated plans using a traffic light system to show what's been completed, ongoing and is yet to complete ***RW***
- Robin asked re: s106 money from housing developments. Developers are not paying for leisure facilities at the moment as their priority is schools etc. Lots of scoping involved to get money from s106– no resources to do this at the moment but it is something Countryside will strive to do in the future.
- Disability trail leaflet for Ham Hill and Yeovil Country Park being worked up with Shop Mobility. Jack mentioned path by lake leading onto Aldon used to be advertised as 'all ability trail' RW to check on existing maps and make sure new maps updated. ***Rachael has checked and on the current map panels situated in the park this area is shown as 'easy access'. It is not advertised as such on any leaflets. Map panels are due to be replaced in next 2 years and the team will ensure that this path is not marked as easy access in the future.***

**Moldrams**

- Carried out some pond clearance in November to remove a third of the vegetation, to provide optimum breeding habitat for great crested newts.
- Large conifer tree came down in the storms over Christmas. Five volunteers from the local area came to help us clear it up.
- The volunteer and community involvement at Moldrams has been growing thanks to the help of Bernie Sullivan, a keen amateur naturalist who lives in a nearby village. We are working with Bernie to identify adjacent land owners, to engage them in more landscape

scale conservation of the area. An information pack on great crested newts has already been handed out to one landowner who has created a new pond for wildlife.

### **Eastfield**

- Continue to work with Butterfly Conservation to carry out Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) works in agreement with Natural England, to improve the site for the Large Blue butterfly. This includes scrub clearance and thyme planting. The rangers have planted over 1000 thyme plants this winter. Thyme is the larval foodplant for the large blue butterfly.
- The rangers have been replacing all of the gates on site and using the opportunity to train and assess the apprentices on how to install a gate, as part of their National Diploma.

### **Yeovil Country Park**

- Green Hub update – DX have agreed to underwrite the remaining balance for the build. Press release due in March. Hope to start project in April once contractors have been appointed. Aiming for October half term for the official opening.
- Friends of Yeovil Country Park keen to fund raise in WISH campaign – kitting out of building and tree planting.
- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) project progressing well. Now entering the development phase of the project. During the development phase HLF release some money to us to work up our second round (final) application. During the development phase we will be employing a project development officer and various consultants to design an activity plan for the community ranger, interpretation for the park and building and specific conservation projects for the country park.
- Jack complaining about loss of footpath along Dodham Brook – not a public footpath and people can walk across the flat grassy area. Rangers decided not to maintain the footpath approximately 7 years ago due to the lack of use and time/money spent to maintain it.

### **Ham Hill Country Park**

- Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) work continues to remove scrub and improve fencelines.
- A new grazing tenant, Mr Wakely, from South Petherton, starts in April and they will be introducing cattle into Witcombe and Pitt Wood. There will be more sheep on site but in higher densities, not spread more across the hill.
- Facebook page is going well-‘Ham Hill Country Park’ but need a volunteer to help maintain it more regularly.
- The roundhouse on the plateau fields that was built for the September Fayre, has suffered vandalism. The roof struts have been pulled off. It won’t cost money to fix, just time. There was good support on Facebook for it to be rebuilt, so the rangers will schedule this in as time as allows.
- There was an incident over Christmas when a dog walker saw his dogs eating white powder that was spread on some mole hills in the plateau fields. His dogs then became ill and had to visit the vets for treatment. The white powder was sent away for analysis. Reports were received that a running group had set a trail of flour for the running group to follow, across Ham Hill on the same day that the incident occurred.

The analysis report concluded that the white powder was flour so it is unlikely that the flour and the dogs becoming ill is linked.

### **Chard Reservoir**

- Water levels at the reservoir have been extremely well managed by Tim this year, considering the amount of rainfall we have had this winter.
- Volunteer team is going from strength to strength with six regular volunteers per week as well as 4 students from Lufton Mencap College.
- One of the volunteers has set up a Facebook page for the site-‘Chard Reservoir LNR’
- Countryside will be asking District Executive for some funding to carry out some essential works to the dam and to replace the fenceline along chaffcombe road. **RW to check with Steve Joel if she needs to write a report-6<sup>th</sup> march**

### **3. Update on Delivery Plan**

- Monitor erosion of historic landscape – **RW to ask Paul about this**
- Leaflets at Ham Hill and Yeovil Country Park due for update as we have run out of copies. Will need to find out cost of re-doing them. May have to do a simple/cheaper update unless we can find more funding.
- Jack questioned sale of wood – costs of selling wood doesn’t cover staff time. Rachael pointed out that clearance of fallen trees is part of the rangers job and that the income from wood sales has been included in the country parks budgets.
- Ask Natalie Ross/Kim Close re Wyndham park and extra land – update needed **RW**
- Robin asked where ‘Green Hub’ title came from? A name for the building was needed to produce the fund raising leaflet. Group agreed that they weren’t keen on the name. **RW to discuss with Steve Joel & FoYCP**. Perhaps we could run a competition to come up with a catchy name?
- Pick out points in delivery plan that are to be carried on for 2014/15 using traffic light system (see performance monitoring for new delivery plan) **RW**

### **4. Any other business**

- Robin MacKay thanks the countryside team for Christmas party.
- Viv told group that FoHH have purchased some reflective logo tabards to wear to for events and when walking around Ham Hill. Will help to show a presence on site.

### **Date of next meeting**

- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May, Chard Reservoir, Anglers Car Park. 1pm for walk 2pm meeting