

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the reconvened **ANNUAL MEETING** of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 12 May 2009**

(7.30pm to 10.00pm)

Present:

Wes Read – Mayor
J Vincent Chainey
Philip Chandler
John Cruddas
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Julian Freke
Dave Gooding
Pete Goodman
Dave Greene

John Hann
Steve Hawker
Andrew Kendall
Ruth Kendall
Tony Lock
Ian Martin
Pat Martin
Tom Parsley
David Recardo
Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse - Town Clerk
Insp Andy Pritchard – Avon and Somerset Constabulary
PCSO Kim Williams – Avon and Somerset Constabulary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Margaret O'Neill of Lower Wraxhill Road, Yeovil indicated her wish to speak in relation to agenda item 10 – Application for Town Green Status. The Mayor agreed to invite her to address the Town Council at the commencement of that item.

7/317 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 April 2009, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

7/318 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

7/319 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

John Cruddas and Tony Fife each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 16 – Former Goldcroft Allotment Site, by virtue of their association with one or more of the bidders.

J Vincent Chainey, Tony Fife, Julian Freke, Dave Greene, John Hann, Andrew Kendall, Ruth Kendall, Tony Lock, Ian Martin, Pat Martin, Tom Parsley, David Recardo and Alan Smith all declared a personal interest in Agenda item 10 (Application for Town Green Status) by virtue of their membership of South Somerset District Council.

7/320 **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.

The Mayor referred at the meeting to a media launch that he had attended that morning along with the Town Clerk regarding the Tour of Britain 2009 cycle race, the seventh stage of which would end in Yeovil on Friday 18 September 2009. He added that this would provide local people and visitors with an exciting spectacle, and would create an excellent opportunity to promote the Town.

He also referred to the Annual Town Crier's Competition that had taken place in the Town Centre on the previous Saturday, and extended his thanks to Bruce Trigger – Yeovil Town Crier and all the Town Council staff who had helped with the organisation and running of the event.

7/321 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letters of thanks from South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action (SSVCA) and South Somerset Mind regarding recent grant awards
- Letter of thanks from the Secretary of Yeovil Twinning Association regarding a recent visit to the Town House by members of the Herblay Twinning Association, which was hosted by the Mayor
- South Somerset News – South Somerset District Council newsletter – Spring 2009
- Heritage Matters – Historic Buildings Owners' newsletter – Spring 2009
- Somerset Community Safety Newsletter – Spring 2009
- Thatch – Rural Community Magazine for Somerset – Spring 2009
- Yeovil Federation Newsletter – April 2009
- Inspector's report to Somerset County Council on an application for land at Pen Mill, Yeovil to be registered as a town or village green.

7/322 **AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY**

Inspector Andy Pritchard of Avon and Somerset Constabulary attended the meeting and gave a presentation on current issues facing the Police in Yeovil and the Force's plans for the future (a summary of the main points covered by Andy during his presentation is attached as Appendix A to these Minutes).

Andy drew attention to the benefits of community policing, and the changes that had been made to the local staffing structure to support this approach. He also explained the Policing Pledge and how this enabled the community to be

kept better informed of the policing work that was being undertaken in their area, and how they could shape the future delivery of services.

He added that, to help ensure that services were being delivered to an acceptable level a number of performance indicators had been adopted - including response times to emergency and non-emergency calls.

Turning to the future, he outlined the plans that were in place for restorative justice initiatives to be introduced in the Yeovil area, following their success in reducing re-offending rates elsewhere in the County.

Kim gave a brief presentation on the work undertaken by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the Yeovil area. This included a number of proactive measures aimed at reducing criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and under-age drinking.

She also drew attention to the difficulties faced by the PCSOs in dealing with illegal parking and breaches of traffic regulation orders. However, she added that enforcement action was undertaken on a regular basis and had met with some success in dealing with particular issues of concern.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to ways by which joint working between the PCSOs and a number of stakeholder organisations in the Town had helped to prevent and detect crime – including the establishment of a business crime reduction initiative.

Attention was also drawn to the planned introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement in Yeovil and the additional opportunities that it would bring for improving parking control in the Town.

The Mayor thanked Andy and Kim for their interesting and informative presentations, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

7/323 APPLICATION FOR TOWN GREEN STATUS

Margaret O'Neill spoke in support of her application for the Turner's Barn Recreation Ground to be registered as a town or village green. She outlined the history of the site and drew attention to the conditions in the conveyance of the land, which she felt protected its current use for sport and recreation and prevented its future development.

She indicated that she had received 170 letters of support from local people, and she sought the support of the Town Council for her application.

During the ensuing discussion, Members considered the merits and implications of the application and its impact of the future use of the Recreation Ground. A number of Members referred to their personal experience of the land having been used for sport and recreation purposes in past years.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the application be endorsed and supported by the Town Council.

7/324 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

Council considered the appointment and constitution of committees for 2009/10. It was proposed and was duly seconded that the following Service Committees and Area Committees be appointed with the membership indicated: -

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee (14 Members)

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee (10 Members plus 1 co-opted non-voting Member)

Planning and Licensing Committee (9 Members)

Promotions and Activities Committee (9 Members)

Yeovil Central Ward Committee (comprising the Yeovil Central Ward Members)

Yeovil East Ward Committee (comprising the Yeovil East Ward Members)

Yeovil South Ward Committee (comprising the Yeovil South Ward Members)

Yeovil West Ward Committee (comprising the Yeovil West Ward Members)

RESOLVED

- (1) that approval be given to the appointment of the above mentioned Committees; and
- (2) that the Members indicated in Appendix B be appointed to serve on the Service Committees shown.

Council then considered the appointment and membership of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

The Town Clerk indicated that John Grana and Simon Hester had previously given formal notice that they wished to be treated as members of the Central Committee Political Group for the purpose of Standing Order No 45 (Appointment of Committees). He explained that in accordance with the political proportionality provisions of this Standing Order, that Group would be entitled to a seat on the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be appointed comprising the following membership: -

Mayor (Ex-Officio)

Deputy Mayor (Ex-Officio)

Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee (Ex-Officio)

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee (Chairman and Vice Chairman)

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee (Chairman and Vice Chairman)

Planning and Licensing Committee (Chairman and Vice Chairman)

Promotions and Activities Committee (Chairman and Vice Chairman)

Yeovil Central Ward Committee (one nominated Member)
Yeovil East Ward Committee (one nominated Member)
Yeovil South Ward Committee (one nominated Member)
Yeovil West Ward Committee (one nominated Member)
Nominated representative of the Central Committee (John Grana)

Council then considered the election of the Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for 2009/10 in accordance with Standing Order 48A.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

that Steve Hawker be elected Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for 2009/10.

Council then agreed to adjourn the meeting to enable the four Service Committees to meet and elect their respective Chairmen and Vice Chairmen and for the four Area Committees to meet and elect their respective Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and to appoint their representative to serve on the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

On the resumption of the meeting, the Town Clerk informed Members of the appointments made by the four Service Committees and four Area Committees during the adjournment.

The Council then considered the appointment of three representatives to serve on the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Joint Committee.

RESOLVED

- (1) that Dave Gooding, John Hann and Alan Smith be appointed to serve on the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Joint Committee; and
- (2) that the meeting be further adjourned to enable the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee to elect a Vice Chairman.

On the resumption of the meeting, the Town Council considered the reappointment of the Standing Orders Review Sub-Committee, the Indoor Recreation Services Review Panel and the membership thereof. Members also considered the appointment and membership of the proposed Bus Shelters Sub-Committee, and the appointment of a representative of the Opposition Group for consultation purposes under the Council's Emergency Procedure.

RESOLVED

that the Standing Orders Sub-Committee be reappointed and the following Members be appointed to serve thereon for the ensuing year: -

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee
Clive Davis
Simon Hester

that the Indoor Recreation Services Review Panel be reappointed and the following Members be appointed to serve thereon for the ensuing year: -

Mayor

Chairman of the Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

Vice Chairman of the Building and Civic Matters Committee

John Grana

that the Bus Shelters Sub-Committee be appointed and the following Members be appointed to serve thereon for the ensuing year: -

J Vincent Chainey (Central Ward)

Tony Fife (East Ward)

Ruth Kendall (West Ward)

Alan Smith (South Ward)

Council then considered the appointment of a representative of the Opposition Group on the Council for consultation purposes under the Council's Emergency Procedure.

RESOLVED

that John Grana be appointed as the representative of the Opposition Group for this purpose.

7/325 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2009/10

Council considered the appointment of representatives to serve on Outside Bodies for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED

that the Members indicated be appointed to serve as representatives of the Town Council for 2009/10 on the Outside Bodies identified at Appendix C to these Minutes.

7/326 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

The Chairman of the Planning and Licensing Committee 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

30 March 2009

14 April 2009

27 April 2009

7/327 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 Twinning Association

5 February 2009

12 March 2009

Yeovil Town Centre Consultative Panel

18 March 2009

Yeovil Youth Council

23 March 2009

20 April 2009

Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee

15 April 2009

7/328 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE

Ian Martin drew attention to his role as Chairman of South Somerset District Council during 2008/09, which had accounted for his absence at various meetings of the Town Council and its committees over this period.

Clive Davis referred to a lengthy period of illness that he had suffered during 2008/09, which had had an adverse impact on his attendance record during the year.

RESOLVED

that the Schedule of Members' Attendance at Council and Committee meetings in 2008/09, as attached to the Agenda, be received.

7/329 PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no further questions or comments from members of the public.

7/330 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

7/331 FORMER GOLDCROFT ALLOTMENT SITE

(John Cruddas and Tony Fife having each declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon).

Council considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 16 refers).

Details of recent offers made for the purchase of the land were outlined in the report together with the views of the Council's appointed agent.

It was noted that the Town Council had previously marketed the site and had planned to meet the capital cost of investing in a number of key projects from part of the proceeds of the anticipated capital receipt arising from the sale of the site. However, owing to reasons beyond the Town Council's control - most notably the current economic downturn – the Council had been unable to sell the land at an acceptable price and consequently had been forced to look at alternative ways of meeting its commitment to these schemes.

This has been achieved by including capital-related expenditure in the precept to raise the necessary funds to deliver these important initiatives. The Town Clerk confirmed that the necessary borrowing approval had now been secured from the Government and that he would shortly be applying to the Public Works Loan Board to obtain the necessary funding at competitive interest rates.

Members discussed the merits of the recent bids having regard to the value of the site and the Council's existing capital commitments. In the circumstances, the Council felt that it was not in the public interest to dispose of the site at this point in time and that the land should be withdrawn from sale pending a substantial upturn in the housing market.

RESOLVED

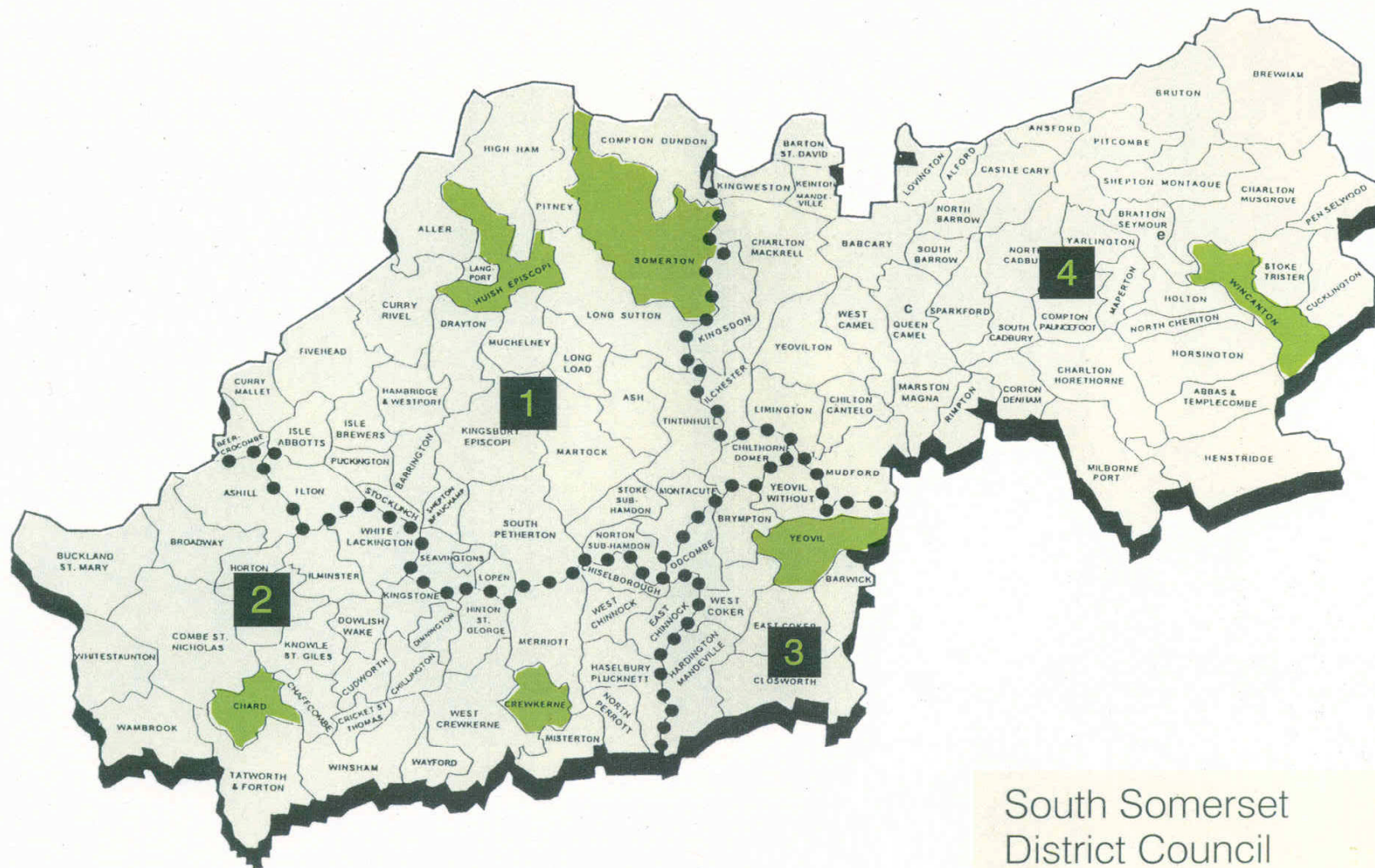
- (1) that the recent offers for the sale of the above land be declined;
- (2) that the land be withdrawn from sale pending a substantial upturn in the housing market;
- (3) that the decision made at the March 2009 meeting of the Town Council to undertake a formal review of the of the situation in twelve month's time (from that date) should the land remain unsold at that time be reaffirmed; and
- (4) that, in the meantime, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee be requested to keep a watching brief on the matter and to refer any significant developments that arise to the Town Council for consideration.

Mayor



Inspector Andy Pritchard

PCSO Kim Williams



South Somerset District Council Areas

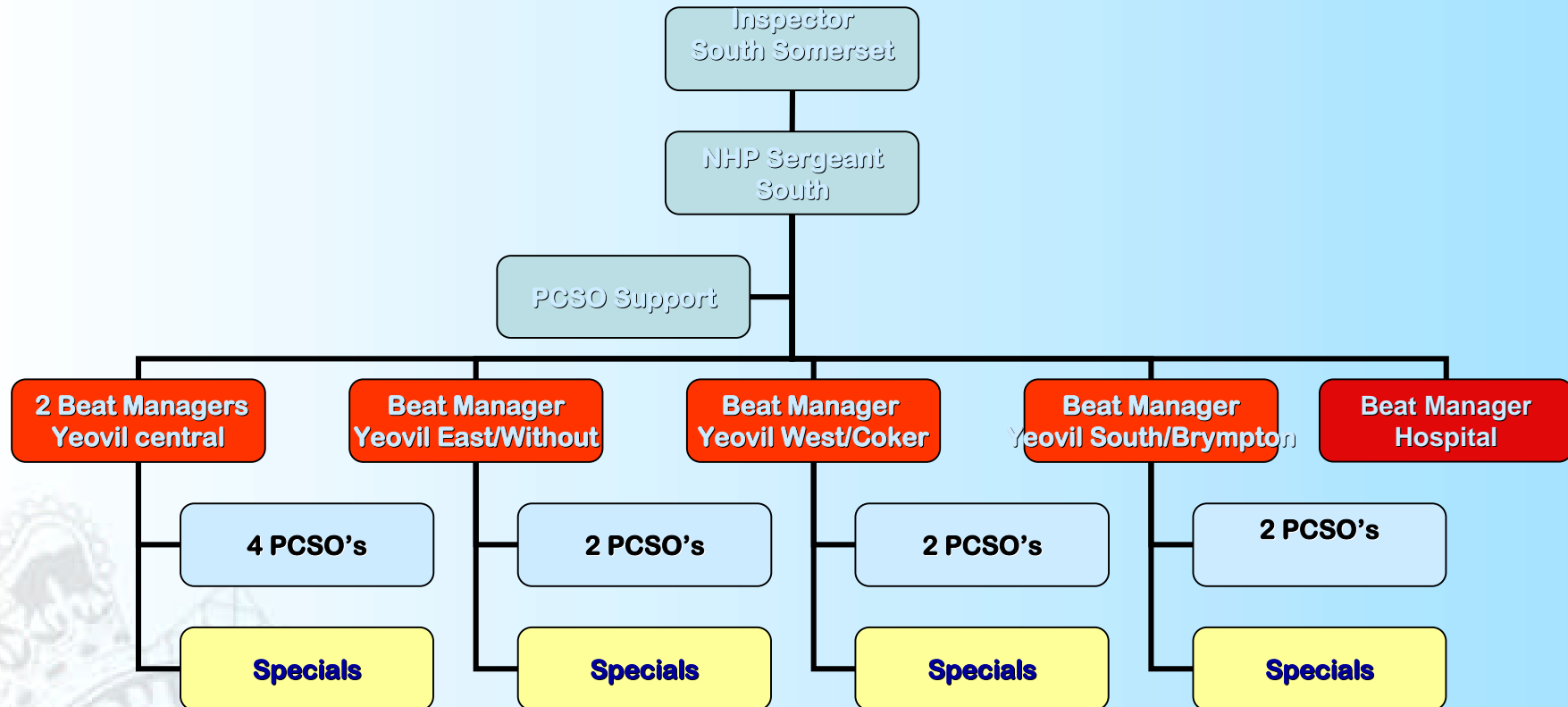
- 1 Area North
- 2 Area West
- 3 Area South
- 4 Area East



Benefits

- Increased amount of staff
- Clear points of contact for each area
- Better partnership working
- Corporate planning
- Sharing of Best Practice

Area South



Response Teams

Duty Inspector
South Somerset

2 Duty Sergeants

**Response Team
Wincanton**

**Response Team
Yeovil**

**Response Team
Chard**

Safer,
Stronger Neighbourhoods

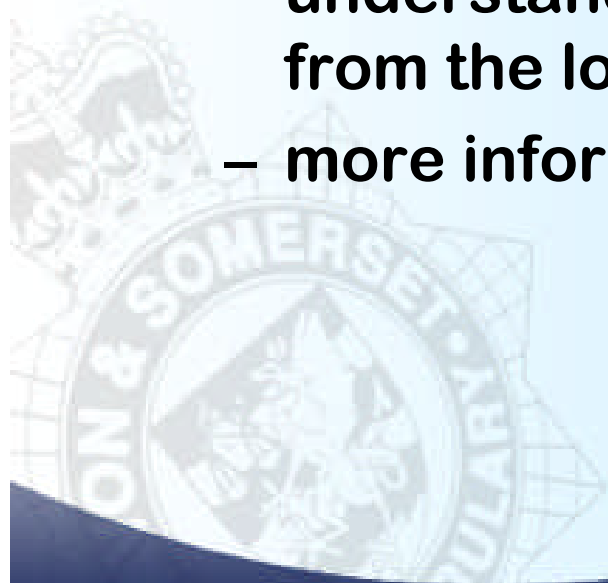
Policing Pledge



www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Understanding the Pledge

- Responsiveness and customer service are key components
- Provides service standards
- Gives local people:
 - a stronger voice
 - understanding about what they should expect from the local Constabulary
 - more information on the local issues



Pledge Summary

1. **Treat you fairly with dignity and respect**
2. **Make sure you know how to contact and work with the Beat Team**
3. **To be visible, not abstracted to other work and turnover minimised – 80% of the time**
4. **NPT to respond to messages within 24 hours**
5. **Aim to answer 999 calls in 10 seconds and respond to emergencies quickly and safely: 15 mins. (urban) 20 mins. (rural)**

Pledge Summary

- 6 Neighbourhood priorities – within an hour. Make an appointment to see a member of the beat team within 48 hours**
- 7 Maintain regular engagement with community (at least monthly) providing opportunities to agree priorities**
- 8 Provide regular updates, feedback and crime stats to local people**
- 9 Improved communication with a victim of crime**
- 10 Be more responsive to views about our service**



What can you expect?

- Guaranteed meeting attendance
- PACT process – not a meeting!!!
- Regular feedback
- Weekly Media meeting
- Newsletter



What can you expect?

- Restorative Justice

- Easier accessibility

Contact sheets
Appointments

Yeovil Town Council – Committee Membership 2009/10

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee (14 members)

J Vincent Chainey
Philip Chandler (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
John Cruddas
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard (<i>Chairman</i>)
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding
Pete Goodman
Peter Gubbins
John Hann
Steve Hawker (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
Andrew Kendall
Tony Lock
Wes Read (<i>Ex-officio</i>)

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee (10 members)

J Vincent Chainey
Philip Chandler (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
Dave Gooding
Pete Goodman
John Grana
Dave Greene (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
Steve Hawker
Simon Hester
Wes Read (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
Alan Smith (<i>Chairman</i>)
Jon Trevett (<i>co-opted non-voting</i>)

Planning and Licensing Committee (9 members)

Philip Chandler (<i>Ex-officio</i>) (<i>Chairman</i>)
Clive Davis (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
Julian Freke
Pete Goodman
John Grana
Simon Hester
Andrew Kendall
Wes Read (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
David Recardo

Promotions and Activities Committee (9 members)

Philip Chandler (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
Ruth Kendall
Ian Martin
Pat Martin
Wes Read (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
David Recardo (<i>Chairman</i>)
Alan Smith

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee (14 members)

Philip Chandler (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Dave Gooding
John Grana
Dave Greene
Steve Hawker (<i>Chairman</i>)
Andrew Kendall
Pat Martin (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
Tom Parsley
Wes Read (<i>Ex-officio</i>)
David Recardo
Alan Smith

May 2009

Town Council
Appointments to Outside Bodies - 2009/10

Appendix C

Organisation	Representation 2009/10
Abbey Community Association	Dave Gooding
Area South Community Safety Action Team	Ian Martin
Barnabas Housing Association (incorporating South Somerset Womens Refuge)	Ruth Kendall
Begging Working Group	Mayor Pat Martin
Birchfield Community Association	Pete Goodman
Friends of South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau	Tom Parsley
Friends of St John's Parish Church, Yeovil	Julian Freke
Larkhill Open Spaces Project	Ruth Kendall
Milford Activities Support Group	Peter Gubbins
Milford Hall Redevelopment Project Management Board	Andrew Kendall Town Clerk
Newtown Tenants and Residents Association Management Committee	Philip Chandler
Parish Tree Warden Scheme	Steve Hawker
Sea Cadet Corps – Yeovil Unit 458	Andrew Kendall
Ski and Activity Centre Working Group	Mayor Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee Tony Fife Alan Smith (South Ward)
Somerset Association of Local Councils	Alan Smith
Somerset Racial Equality Council	Steve Hawker
South Somerset Citizens Advice Bureau	Tom Parsley
South Somerset Countryside Steering Group	David Recardo
South Somerset Disability Forum	Clive Davis
Sunningdale Doorstep Green Steering Group	David Recardo
Toilets Working Group	Mayor Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee Town Clerk
Woborns Almshouse Charitable Trust	Mayor J Vincent Chainey Julian Freke Alan Smith
Yeovil Chamber of Trade	Town Clerk/Mayor
Yeovil Free School and John Nowes Exhibition Foundation	Pat Martin
Yeovil in Bloom and Flower and Gardeners' Market Steering Group	All Members of Promotions and Activities Committee
Yeovil Recreation Charity (formerly the Preston Grove Recreation Field for Adults Charity)	Peter Gubbins Pat Martin David Recardo Alan Smith
Yeovil Shopmobility Charity	Clive Davis
Yeovil Town Centre Consultative Panel (4 members plus Mayor)	Mayor Clive Davis Tony Lock Ian Martin David Recardo
Yeovil Town Centre Partnership Steering Group	Pat Martin
Yeovil Transport Strategy Workshop	Chairman of Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

Yeovil Twinning Association	Andrew Kendall David Recardo
Yeovil Vision Project Management Board	Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee/Town Clerk (Vice-Chairman of Policy, Resources and Finance Committee/Assistant Town Clerk – substitutes)
Yeovil Vision Steering Group	Pat Martin