

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **PROMOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE** held in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 13 January 2015**

(7.00pm to 7.45pm)

Present:

Jon Gleeson - Chairman
Tristan Cobb
Mike Lock
Sarah Lowery
Sophie Phillips
Wes Read
David Recardo
Darren Shutler

Also Present:

John Clark – Yeovil West Ward
Tony Lock – Yeovil East Ward
Alan Tawse - Town Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/271 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 November 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/272 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Smith.

8/273 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

8/274 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

8/275 YEOVIL IN BLOOM STEERING GROUP

The Committee considered the outcomes of the meeting of the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group held on 1 December 2014.

The Chairman of the Steering Group indicated that nursery work was continuing in preparation for this years' floral displays.

He added that arrangements were in hand for the staging of the South West in Bloom (SWIB) 2015 regional presentation event - the venue for which had yet to be finalised - and that SWIB had organised a spring seminar in Melksham, which would be attended by the relevant members and officers.

RESOLVED

that the matters be noted.

8/276 NEW INITIATIVES BUDGET

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 6 refers).

The Chairman invited John Clark to outline his suggestion for an electric buggy carrying passengers and their shopping in the Town Centre. A summary of the suggestion had been circulated to all Members, and John explained that the initiative, which it was proposed be initially run on a pilot basis, could help to improve the shopping experience of existing visitors and increase footfall.

He added that some initial discussions had taken place with relevant organisations and potential suppliers who had shown positive support for the idea. This included the Quedam Shopping Centre who had expressed a willingness to consider allowing the buggy to operate within the Centre.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to a number of legal and practical issues that would need to be investigated and clarified if the suggestion was to be pursued. Of particular importance would be the views of the Police and the Highway Authority, as part of the suggested route involved travelling on public highway.

Attention was also drawn to the need for adequate arrangements to be put in place to securely store and recharge the vehicle when it was not in use, and for the recruitment of suitable drivers trained to operate the vehicle and to assist passengers in a safe manner.

Whilst the proposal had envisaged that a circular route be adopted, it was suggested that the possibility of extending the service to other parts of the Town Centre be also considered.

Members also commented on the possibility of charging fares to help offset the cost of its operation, and the potential impact on car parking revenue.

RESOLVED

(1) that the matter be noted; and

(2) that the cost and feasibility of operating an electric buggy in the Town Centre on a pilot basis along the lines proposed be further investigated and the results be reported to the next meeting.

8/277 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMPETITION

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 7 refers).

The Chairman commented on the exceptional quality and variety of the nominations received for this year's competition many of which had involved the use of animated displays.

Whilst the Committee was grateful for the support of the Western Gazette in helping to promote the competition and to set up an online nomination facility, it was felt that other media should also be asked to help publicise it – including local radio station, The Breeze.

It was also suggested that Members of the Council be asked to deliver nomination forms to potential entrants in their respective wards to help encourage those households with Christmas Lights displays to take part in the competition.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that other local media – including The Breeze – be approached and requested to help publicise future competitions;
- (3) that arrangements be made for nomination forms to be circulated to all Members of the Council with a request that they deliver them to households with Christmas Lights displays in their respective Wards to encourage their participation in the competition; and
- (4) that the Committee's thanks to Adam Lane, Trainee Administrator for all his hard work in making this year's competition a success, be recorded.

8/278 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2014

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1 October to 30 November 2014 (agenda item 8 refers).

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement be noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Chairman