



# Yeovil Town Council

Town House  
19 Union Street  
Yeovil  
Somerset  
BA20 1PQ

Mayor : Cllr D Recardo, Town Clerk : Amanda Card BA (Hons), CPFA, BSc (Open)  
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## Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ

**Present:** Cllrs D Recardo (Chairman and Mayor); M Beales MBE; J Conway OBE; K Gill; K Hussain; A Kendall; T Ledlie; M Lock; P Lock; J Lowery; S Lowery; E Potts-Jones; A Pugsley; W Read; M Roper; A Soughton and R Stickland.

**In Attendance:** A Card (Town Clerk); Rev J Pearce (Mayor's Chaplain); Rachael Waites (Countryside Manager, South Somerset District Council) and Becky Russell (Community Ranger, Yeovil Country Park, South Somerset District Council).

There was 1 member of the public and no members of the press present.

### Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Both Rachael Waites and Becky Russell were welcomed to the meeting.

Rachael Waites updated members on the Yeovil Country Park, in particular the invaluable resource of the volunteers (946 volunteer days in 2018/19) and the commitment of the staff. She informed members that Yeovil Country Park had ran 50 events which had nearly 6,000 people in attendance. The Country Park had won the Green Flag Award in 2018/19 for the 15<sup>th</sup> year running. The Ninesprings Café continues to thrive.

Becky Russell updated members on the Heritage Lottery Funded V3 project which involved many stakeholders. A lot of work had been carried out with the schools, an audio trail for the park was being created and a listening post was going to be introduced. A Community Heritage Officer would be in post by February (partially funded by Yeovil Town Council).

*8:15pm – Rachael Waites, Becky Russell and the member of the public left the meeting and did not return.*

8:16pm - The meeting commenced.

### **9/361 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN**

Council to receive apologies for absence and consider the reasons given. *LGA 1972 s85(1)*

Apologies were received from: Cllrs F Boieangiu (family commitments) P Chandler (work commitments); P Gubbins (conflicting engagement); T Lock (ill); G Oakes (work commitments); F Purbrick (conflicting engagement) and A Smith (transport issues).

**RESOLVED:** to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

## **9/362 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

Cllr T Ledlie declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 9/368 Motion from Cllr J Conway in that he is a Trade Union Rep of Communication Workers Union albeit not representing staff at the Crown Post Office. He mentioned that he was an employee of Royal Mail but that the Royal Mail was not part of the Crown Post Office. In addition he mentioned that he had signed the Liberal Democrats petition.

No other declarations were made at this time.

## **9/363 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the previous meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 be signed as a correct record.

## **9/354 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor announced that there would be a forum for the Yeovil Crown Post Office, which would be held on Thursday, 13 December, from 3pm – 7pm at Yeovil Baptist Church, South Street, Yeovil, BA20 1QF. The format is a drop-in session to which customers, employees that work at the branch and their union officials, local stakeholders and the media are invited to call in to meet and discuss the proposal with senior Post Office representatives.

**RESOLVED:** to note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming appointments and engagements.

## **9/358 REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES**

**Planning Committee** – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Presented by Cllr S Lowery. There were no questions.

**Grounds and General Maintenance Committee** – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
Presented by Cllr M Roper. Cllr Roper explained that the allotment rent from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 was discussed at this meeting and that a recommendation had been put to Policy, Resources and Finance to consider.

**Promotions and Activities Committee** – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
Presented by Cllr P Lock. Cllr Lock reported that Super Saturday was well attended despite the bad weather. She commented on the work that the staff put in and the staff received a round of applause. She highlighted the Sponsorship Strategy that was recommended to Policy, Resources and Finance. The South West in Bloom presentations was very good and she was impressed by the venue and staff.

Cllr M Roper in his role as Chairman for Yeovil in Bloom congratulated the Mayor for his Civic Evening and hosting the South West in Bloom presentation. He gave a special thanks to Cllrs P Lock and E Potts-Jones for the items that went into the goody bags and that he had received positive feedback. He also thanked everyone involved in packing the bags. He continued by complimenting the florist from Ilminster who provided the flowers on the tables which were displayed in boxes from Ablebox. The flowers were delivered to a residential home in Ilminster following the end of the South West in Bloom presentations.

Cllr D Recardo thanked Cllr M Roper for sourcing the bags to accommodate the goodies. A thanks was also passed to the Gardens Group for providing the bags free of charge.

#### **Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. Cllr Stickland reported that a local firm had been approached to provide a conceptual design of the hall and full site but that this was not yet available. He informed members that it was highly likely that Sunningdale library would close as a Community Library Partnership had not been established. He highlighted that a recommendation had gone to Policy, Resources and Finance that hourly cost of hire for community halls should increase by inflation rounded to the nearest 50p. Cllr R Stickland informed members that there had been many compliments to the war memorial project and the rededication service and he passed on his thanks to all involved. Recommendations had been made to build into the budget provision for cleaning and health and safety checks.

#### **Policy, Resources and Finance Committee - 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Presented by Cllr P Lock. Cllr Lock explained that the Sponsorship Policy had been approved and adopted making it an easier process when gaining sponsorship. £5,000 had been granted to Love Yeovil for a Marketing Officer. £2,000 had been awarded for grant aid to Cruse Bereavement Care. The Town Clerk had given a verbal update at this meeting regarding the Youth Council. They were due to attend a meeting at the Houses of Parliament to take part in a Youth Affairs meeting. Cllr Lock informed the Committee that the allotment rent review had taken place and that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, rents would not increase but that the provision of skips would be removed with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, The Community Hall charges had been agreed in line with the recommendations from Buildings and Civic Matters Committee. Cllr Lock explained that the draft budget had been recommended for approval to Town Council. Members were informed that Lucy Jones – Admin Officer had successfully achieved “ILM 3 Award in Leadership and Management (Projects and Finance); and that the Town Clerk had successfully completed the “Strategic Human Resources and Organisational Development Business Partner Programme”. Both officers received a round of applause.

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the above Committee be accepted together with any resolutions and recommendations contained therein.

#### **9/366 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- **Yeovil Rivers Community Trust** – 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018 (minutes previously circulated). Cllr M Beales informed members that Dan Martin the Flood Risk Manager at Somerset County Council gave a presentation.
- **Unity in the Community**  
Cllr J Conway informed Council that the Council were now taking a different approach to Unity in the Community.
- **Woburn Almshouse Charitable Trust**  
Cllr J Conway informed Council that the Woburn Almshouse Charitable Trust was seeking a Treasurer due to the previous Treasurer retiring after 13 years.

### **9/367 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODY**

Members to agree who will be appointed as representative to Love Yeovil.

**RESOLVED:** that the Chair of Promotions and Activities will be the representative to Love Yeovil.

### **9/368 MOTION FROM CLLR J CONWAY**

Members discussed the motion received from Cllr J Conway on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

*9:16 pm – Cllr T Ledlie left the meeting.*

**RESOLVED:** (1) Yeovil Town Council notes with concern that: (a) on 11 October 2018 it was announced that many crown post offices across the UK (including that in Yeovil) business model are changing and will be franchised; and (b) the closure of Yeovil Crown post offices, like many other towns means a loss of a prime high street store contributing to the perceived demise of our town centre; (2) this Council believes that Yeovil Crown post office service is a valuable service for the community; and (3) this Council resolves to: (a) write to the Local MP and the Local Government Association to raise concerns about the change in business model and the impact it will have on Yeovil high street; and (b) to raise awareness of the consultation regarding this matter which can be accessed online at <https://www.postofficeviews.co.uk/national-consultation-team/yeovil-ba20-1pz-010549/>.

*(Voting: 15 in favour; 1 abstention)*

*9:20 pm – Cllr T Ledlie returned to the meeting.*

### **9/369 DRAFT BUDGET 2019/20**

Members to approve the Budget for the financial year 2019/20 recommended by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on 27th November 2018 (subject to receiving the tax base from South Somerset District Council for 2018/19; and Crematorium and Cemetery Committee final budget).

**RESOLVED:** to approve the Budget for the financial year 2019/20 recommended by the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee on 27th November 2018 (subject to receiving the tax base from South Somerset District Council for 2018/19; and Crematorium and Cemetery Committee final budget).

### **9/370 FORWARD PLAN**

Members to approve the forward plan as detailed within the agenda. The Mayor invited Councillors to indicate if they had anything that they would like to see on the forward programme. Some suggestions were made, the Mayor suggested Yeovil District Hospital in February 2019.

**RESOLVED:** to approve the forward plan.

#### **Public Comment**

There was no public.

The meeting was closed by the Mayor at 9:25pm and Council were invited for refreshments in the Mayors Parlour.

Signed:

Dated: