

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 6 August 2013**

(7.30pm – 8.45pm)

Present:

Manny Roper – Mayor	John Hann
Martin Bailey	Kaysar Hussain
J Vincent Chainey	Andrew Kendall
Philip Chandler	Mike Lock
Bridget Dollard	Tony Lock
David Dollard	Wes Read
Tony Fife	David Recardo
Dave Greene	Darren Shutler
Peter Gubbins	Alan Smith

Also present:

Juliet Sims	Assistant Town Clerk
Malcolm Tipper	Widening Participation Co-ordinator of Somerset Skills and Learning

(Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor's Chaplain led those Members of the Council in attendance in prayers on behalf of the Townspeople of Yeovil).

GRANT PRESENTATIONS

The Mayor presented grant cheques to representatives of the following organisations for the purposes indicated.

Applicant	Amount	Purpose
Monday Club	£150	Towards general running costs of the Club
Yeovil Camera Club	£450	Towards the cost of a new projector and lighting stand
Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club	£900	Towards funding of the annual Yeovil Games
Octagon Theatre	£1,000	Towards the cost of mounting the annual Summer School

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/340 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 July 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/341 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Brock, Clive Davis and Jon Gleeson.

8/342 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

8/343 **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 the recent appointment of District Councillor Cathy Bakewell to the House of Lords, and the Council agreed to send a letter of congratulations to her.

8/344 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Letter of thanks from the Yeovil Judokai Club regarding a recent grant award to purchase new judo mats
- Somerset Rambler - 39th Annual General Meeting
- International Tree Foundation Bulletin – June edition

8/345 **SOMERSET SKILLS AND LEARNING**

Malcolm Tipper – Widening Participation Co-ordinator of Somerset Skills and Learning gave a presentation on the work of the Somerset Skills and Learning initiatives in the Yeovil area. (A summary of the role, aims and objectives and current activities of the organisation is attached as an appendix).

The presentation included details of forthcoming courses – including apprenticeships, and their work with disadvantaged groups.

Following Malcolm's presentation, there was a question and answer session, and booklets were left for Members to read, outlining the main points of his presentation.

The Mayor thanked Malcolm for his interesting and informative presentation, and it was

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/346 **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

1 July 2013

15 July 2013

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

8 July 2013

Promotions and Activities Committee

9 July 2013

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

16 July 2013

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

23 July 2013

8/347 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

10 June 2013

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

Bridget Dollard referred to a recent meeting of the Area South Community Forum that she had attended, and advised that the Yarlinton Housing Group, in conjunction with other agencies, would be setting up an 'Advice Centre' where members of the public could seek advice on issues such as debt.

She also mentioned that there would shortly be a Residents' Meeting and Street Party in the Westfield area.

David Recardo reminded Members that the Annual Yeovil Flower and Gardeners' Market, which this year would include a Food Festival, would take place on Saturday 28 September 2013 and that flyers to promote the day would be placed in their post trays for distribution.

8/348 PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

Mayor

Somerset Skills & Learning (SS&L) is the product of a merger between Adult Learning and Leisure and Somerset County Training. In Yeovil it has 2 centres one in South Street and larger premises in Dolphin House, 21, Hendford. It also hires venues at Yeovil Baptist Church, Westfield Academy, the Loft Fitness Centre, Images Fitness Centre, Holy Trinity Church and Morley House. At these venues adults can enrol on a variety of courses as you can see from the brochure. The range includes Apprenticeships and pre apprenticeship training primarily for the 16-19 year old learner, vocational training for employed adults, Functional Skills previously referred to as Basic Skills i.e. English and Maths and a wide range of Leisure classes including Arts and Crafts, Fitness, Languages and many more.

One area of provision not listed in the brochure is Family Learning whereby SS&L will either deliver courses for parents together with their children or without or will fund schools/ Children centres to run their own provision. The range is vast from using the internet safely to mask making, family finances to forest fun and is often a way to encourage parents to get more involved with their child's learning. Courses have taken place in Yeovil Schools and Children's centres including Preston Primary, Pen Mill, St. Gilda's, Birchfield, Reckleford and Oaklands.

My invitation tonight was prompted by the sending to the clerk of a report on Neighbourhood Learning in Disadvantaged Communities (NLDC). The NLDC work basically consists of community groups bidding for up to £8000 to run a community project which must have learning as the key focus. The groups can use staff from SS&L in a variety of ways to support the project e.g. with marketing, recruitment, teaching, quality assurance, staff training etc.

The disadvantaged aspect can be either about a group of people e.g. on low income, unemployed, low skill base, suffering with mental health issues, with physical disabilities, migrant groups, ex-offenders, gypsies and travellers, drug and alcohol abuse etc OR they may live in a disadvantaged ward identified by the use of statistics that create an Index of Multiple Disadvantage (IMD). In Somerset we target the top 50 wards based upon IMD included in that list are Yeovil East (11th), Yeovil Central (13th) and Yeovil West (22nd) during the academic year that finished in July 2012 of the 653 learners involved in NLDC projects 72 or 11% came from the 3 Yeovil wards.

Groups that have been involved with NLDC funding with a Yeovil connection include:

- South Somerset Disability Forum
- South Somerset Mind
- Red Cross
- Midwest European Communities Association
- Yeovil and Dorset Forest Initiative
- Turning Point

Inside out People
Newtown Tenants and Residents Association with Reckleford CC
Core Dance- Physical Disabilities at the Octagon Theatre
Yeovil Foyer

A lot of the projects tackle issues of low self esteem and work toward providing skills that will either enrich their lives or provide opportunities to volunteer or to enter work. Each learner is offered impartial Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) with a view to encouraging progression including into further learning.

This current year NLDC funding has been renamed Community Learning Partnership (CLP) funding but with more or less identical criteria and the next closing date for applications is **Friday September 20th** so if you know of any groups that you think might be interested in applying please put them in touch with me.

Just a brief word about the Community Learning Partnership as this is really still in its formative stage but is an attempt to bring together key partners across Somerset who have an interest in promoting learning, so alongside SS&L will be the colleges of FE including Yeovil of course, the Workers Education Association, Police and Learning South West and will probably expand to include Housing Associations and Health. The Partnership has identified 5 key themes which they will work on together these are:

Skills for Jobs
Health and Wellbeing
Digital Exclusion
Troubled Families
Crime Reduction

Part of my role involves making contact with groups and organisations that also have objectives based around any of these themes and encouraging partnership work to enable limited funding to be more effectively used. For example the question of Digital Exclusion arose when job seekers were required to use an internet site to search for jobs and produce an electronic CV but with limited skills and no access to a computer. Job Centre Plus arranged for groups of these job seekers to come to our centres and take a free 10 hour course to enable them to do this.

Useful contacts:

Course information in Yeovil-Helen Barwick	Yeovil 420067
Community Learning- Malcolm Tipper	07901518458
Information Advice and Guidance Kate Priddle	01460 53195