

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 3 December 2013**

(7.30pm – 8.30pm)

Present:

Manny Roper – Mayor	Dave Greene
Martin Bailey	Peter Gubbins
Peter Brock	John Hann
Kris Castle	Andrew Kendall
Philip Chandler	Mike Lock
Leah Cross	Tony Lock
Clive Davis	David Recardo
Bridget Dollard	Darren Shutler
David Dollard	Alan Smith
Jon Gleeson	

Also present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
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(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
Friends of Oaklands	£500	Towards transport costs
St John's Church	£3,000	Towards masonry restoration and repair costs

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/382 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 November 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/383 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Tristan Cobb, Tony Fife, Kaysar Hussain and Wes Read.

8/384 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Manny Roper declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7 (Allotment Rents) by virtue of his allotment tenancy at Milford Dip Allotment Site.

Clive Davis declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 9 (Town House – Use of Meeting Facilities) by virtue of his appointment to a number of outside organisations using the premises.

(In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, all the members attending the meeting had sought and been granted a dispensation to enable them to participate in the discussion and to vote on Agenda item 10 (Estimates 2014/15) despite having a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from property within the Parish of Yeovil Town, as the number of members otherwise prohibited from taking part in the meeting would impede the transaction of the business).

8/385 **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.

8/386 **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- Somerset Community Foundation – 2012/13 Review
- International Tree Foundation Newsletter – October 2013
- Tree News – Autumn/Winter 2013

8/387 **TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY AND GUIDANCE**

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 6 refers).

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the benefits of the proposed “knowledge” test, which it was felt would ensure that all local taxi journeys were carried out in an effective and efficient manner.

The proposals regarding public liability insurance and the need to demonstrate competence in assisting wheelchair users were also supported, along with the proposed move to issuing triennial driver licences.

Whilst it was acknowledged that there was a need for more wheelchair accessible taxis, it was felt that a better approach would be to set a date in the future by which time all vehicles would need to comply with the proposed requirement. If this approach were taken, it was suggested that a five year period would be reasonable as this would give all proprietors the opportunity to plan ahead and make the necessary investment to meet the additional costs involved.

Reference was also made to the proposal to restrict first-time licences to new vehicles, which it was felt was unreasonable given the existing local and statutory checks and tests that were carried out to ensure that all vehicles

regardless of their age met prescribed standards of safety and roadworthiness. However, it was felt that if such a requirement were to be introduced, it should apply to all vehicles from an appropriate future date.

Concern was expressed at the potential adverse impact of the proposed changes in vehicle licence conditions on local taxi service provision. Given the additional costs involved, it was felt that prospective and existing proprietors might decide to trade elsewhere with a resultant reduction in the volume of taxis in and around Yeovil, and that an impact assessment needed to be undertaken by the Licensing Authority to take this factor into consideration.

Members also expressed their support for the planned changes in the MOT requirements and the proposed introduction of a penalty points scheme.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the above-outlined comments be included in the Town Council's response to the consultation exercise.

8/388 ALLOTMENT RENTS

(Manny Roper, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 7 refers).

It was noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had supported the proposed rent increase and had suggested a policy in relation to future rent reviews.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposed increase of 7p per square metre in allotment rents with effect from 10 December 2014; and
- (3) that, as a matter of policy and having regard to the individual benefit of allotment plots to individual tenants, the Town Council seeks to recover an increasing proportion of the net cost of providing allotments from the tenants thereby reducing the level of subsidy by council taxpayers.

8/389 COMMUNITY HALL CHARGES

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 8 refers).

It was noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had supported the proposed hire charges.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and

- (2) that approval be given to the proposed charges for the hire of Milford and Monmouth Community Halls with effect from 1 April 2014.

8/390 **TOWN HOUSE – USE OF MEETING FACILITIES**

(Clive Davis, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 9 refers).

It was noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had supported the proposed amendment to the lettings policy.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the proposed charging policy in respect of the use of meeting facilities at the Town House and for the provision of refreshments to outside organisations with effect from 1 April 2014.

8/391 **ESTIMATES 2014/15**

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers).

RESOLVED

- (1) that the 2014/15 *draft* revenue estimates for the various Service Committees of the Council, summarised below and attached to the minutes of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting held on 26 November 2013 be *provisionally* approved and adopted; and

Committee	Revenue Estimate
Planning and Licensing	£5,471
Grounds and General Maintenance	£243,391
Promotions and Activities	£76,955
Buildings and Civic Matters	£112,434
Policy, Resources and Finance	£378,837
Total	£817,088

- (2) that *final* approval and adoption of these estimates and the setting of the Town's precept for 2014/15 be deferred and determined at the February 2014 meeting of the Town Council.

8/392 **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

4 November 2013
18 November 2013

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

11 November 2013

Promotions and Activities Committee

12 November 2013

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

19 November 2013

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

26 November 2013

8/393 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

12 September 2013

Youth Council

14 October 2013

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

Jon Gleeson referred to a recent meeting of the Youth Council that he had attended and commended the youth councillors for the enthusiastic and committed approach they took to their discussions and the ideas that had emerged.

8/394 PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/395 MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Mayor took the opportunity to wish all Members and Officers the compliments of the season.