

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the **BUILDINGS AND CIVIC MATTERS COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil, on **Tuesday 16 July 2013**

(7.00pm to 8.30pm)

Present:

Andrew Kendall – Chairman
Martin Bailey
Clive Davis
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Peter Gubbins
Mike Lock
Tony Lock
Manny Roper
Darren Shutler

Also Present:

Juliet Sims – Assistant Town Clerk (job share)

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/181 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 May 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/182 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Chandler, Dave Greene and John Hann.

8/183 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Tony Fife declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 (Proposed conversion of public house at Ilchester Road, Tesco Express Shop) by virtue of his position as Chairman of the Area South Committee (SSDC) and his involvement in the future decisions on related Planning Applications.

8/184 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items of correspondence.

8/185 MONMOUTH ROAD – BUS SHELTER

The Committee considered a verbal report from a Member who advised that the bus shelter at Monmouth Road, near Rosebery Avenue had been

removed. He explained that there had been some anti-social behaviour in and around the bus shelter in recent months, and when the Member advised a local PCSO that he had requested the bus shelter be repaired, the PCSO suggested that it should be removed.

This bus shelter was no longer in situ. It had been removed recently by South Somerset District Council. It would appear that there had been no consultation with local residents or Councillors. In addition to the removal, the Member advised that the land belonged to Yarlinton Housing Group. This bus shelter was widely used by older residents of the surrounding area.

The Member indicated that he would like to recommence discussion of this topic when Sergeant Jamie Rees joined the meeting later.

8/186 **PROPOSED CONVERSION OF PUBLIC HOUSE AT ILCHESTER ROAD, TESCO EXPRESS SHOP**

The Committee considered a copy letter received from Yeovil Without Parish Council regarding a number of anticipated highway issues relating to the planned redevelopment.

It was noted that the letter assumed a number of issues, and Members felt that they could not support Yeovil Without Parish Council at this point in time. It was also brought to the Members' attention that this letter was copied to several departments and Councils, including Yeovil Town Council.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that no response be made to the letter.

8/187 **LOWER MARSH LANE - PARKING**

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Assistant Town Clerk would advise when a detailed reply was received from Somerset Highways .

8/188 **LARKHILL ROAD – PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDER**

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk (Agenda Item 9 refers), who indicated at the meeting that the No Waiting Parking Restrictions (double yellow lines) had now been painted.

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted

8/189 **NEW INITIATIVES BUDGET**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 10 refers).

There was a lengthy discussion about the New Initiatives scheme and its implementation. A number of Members felt that time restrictions should not be imposed on this New Initiatives Budget, and that New Initiatives should be considered as and when matters occur, and that if they did not arise, then the budget should be carried over to the following year.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that this matter should be included on the Agenda of the next Policy Resource and Finance Committee meeting, and Peter Gubbins be invited to attend that meeting to take part in the discussion on the matter.

8/190 **YEOVIL POLICING**

Sergeant Jamie Rees joined the meeting and gave an overview and presentation of Yeovil Policing. He handed out statistics of Recorded Crime Performance and Crime.

Jamie also advised that Weston Super Mare, Taunton, Mendip and South Somerset were now one unit, and that they had lost a number of senior officers, although he felt that the public would not notice the changes, and that it would mean that members of the community would not be able to access Senior Officers so quickly.

The Chairman noted that there were no drugs statistics on either sheet of paper, and questioned this. Jamie Rees will get figures and advise.

The Police now have a 'drop in' surgery at Petters Way, and this has worked well .

Jamie reported that the Police are working closely with the RNAS Yeovilton base to find a way of working together during the weekend. The Military could be working alongside Police Officers at the weekend patrolling the Streets of Yeovil Town Centre. He added that with Yeovil becoming an even larger garrison town that it was a good idea to look at other alternatives and resources of policing. Plymouth had successfully implemented this working arrangement.

Sergeant Rees was asked about begging in Yeovil, following a recent press article. He agreed that there is a problem with begging within the Town Centre, but that it was very difficult to prove, however there should be some arrests shortly.

He also advised that Yeovil Police has started using Twitter and Facebook, and that both had received a good reaction from the public.

A Member then asked Sergeant Rees if he knew anything about the removal of the bus shelter at Monmouth Road, and that coincidentally a PCSO patrolling the area previously had suggested that the bus shelter should be removed in order to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour in the area. Jamie advised that he knew nothing about this incident, and that he would look into it and report back to the Members.

Another Member requested that all but essential cars should be banned from driving in the Borough, and that this should be policed more frequently.

Sergeant Jamie Rees confirmed that in future he would attend a Buildings and Civic Matters Committee meeting every six months.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted; and
- (2) that more information be sought from Sergeant Jamie Rees for distribution ahead of his attendance at future meetings should a presentation be included.

8/191 FINANCIAL STATEMENT – APRIL/MAY 2013

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for April / May 2013 be noted.

8/192 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.

8/193 CCTV MONITORING

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 12 refers).

The Assistant Town Clerk advised that she had received some dates from the CCTV Control Centre in Bridgwater for Members to visit, but that the dates were imminent, and that she would seek alternative dates for September 2013.

Reference was made to the way in which a recent award by the Police and Crime Commissioner of Avon and Somerset, had been allocated across the Force area.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and

- (2) that the Assistant Town Clerk would seek alternative dates for a visit to the CCTV control room in Bridgwater in September and circulate these to Members with a view to arranging the visit on a convenient date.

Chairman

JS
30/07/13