

YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 2 July 2013**

(7.30pm – 9.10pm)

Present:

Manny Roper – Mayor	Peter Gubbins
Martin Bailey	John Hann
Philip Chandler	Andrew Kendall
Clive Davis	Mike Lock
Bridget Dollard	Tony Lock
David Dollard	Wes Read
Tony Fife	David Recardo
Jon Gleeson	Darren Shutler
Dave Greene	Alan Smith

Also present:

Alan Tawse	Town Clerk
Jonathan Higman	Director of Urgent Care and Long Term Conditions – Yeovil District Hospital NHS Trust

(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).

PUBLIC COMMENT

As the members of the public present wished to comment on Agenda item 7 (Forest Hill – Proposed Waiting Order) Council agreed to defer this item until later in the meeting.

8/329 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 June 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/330 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Peter Brock, Kris Castle, J Vincent Chainey, Tristan Cobb and Kaysar Hussain.

8/331 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Dave Greene declared a personal interest in Agenda item 7 (Forest Hill – Proposed Prohibition of Waiting Order) by virtue of his membership of Somerset County Council.

8/332 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.

8/333 CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Letters of thanks from the South Somerset Disability Forum (SSDF) regarding a recent grant award and a contribution towards their operating costs
- Somerset Life – July 2013 edition (including a number of articles about Yeovil)

8/334 YEOVIL DISTRICT HOSPITAL

Jonathan Higman - Director of Urgent Care and Long Term Conditions - Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation on the Trust's achievements over the past year and its plans for the future. (A copy of the slides used during his presentation is attached to these Minutes).

He drew attention to the establishment of a symphony board across the local health community, which had resulted in the provision and delivery of more integrated and better co-ordinated services.

Jonathan also referred to a world-leading stroke rehabilitation clinical trial that was being carried out at the Hospital, which was examining treatments for stroke victims with a view to improving their chances of a good recovery.

Turning to finance, he indicated that the Trust was constantly seeking ways of ensuring that the services it provided represented value for money and maintained standards of quality. He added that a number of joint ventures had been set up with other health service partners to help generate savings and raise additional income. This included a joint venture with Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust and Integrated Pathology Partnerships (IPP) which had resulted in the creation of new laboratory services.

Jonathan also referred to additional temporary parking that had been created in the vicinity of the Hospital following the development of new staff accommodation in St George's Crescent. He added that the long-term use of this site was the subject of ongoing discussions.

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the possibility of providing car park pay machines within the Hospital as a way of restricting the use of the car park to visitors and patients and discouraging its use by shoppers.

Jonathan undertook to raise this suggestion as part of the Trust's ongoing discussions about providing a multi-storey car park close to the Hospital that would incorporate staff parking provision. He added that a further public meeting would be held at an appropriate time to discuss the proposals that emerged and to seek public comment.

Reference was also made to the employment of agency nurses and staff communications. Jonathan indicated that both of these issues were under discussion and that efforts were being made to ensure that the right balance

of staff were employed having regard to market conditions, and that communications were simple, effective and fully understood.

Attention was also drawn to recent improvements that had been made in the Accident and Emergency Unit regarding ambulance waiting times, which had posed a big challenge over the past winter when the number of casualties had risen by 30%.

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

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/335 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jane Smith, who operated a shop in the pedestrian precinct off Forest Hill, spoke on behalf of all the shopkeepers in that area. She raised the following points:

- The proposed changes would reduce the parking available on Forest Hill to three or four spaces for customers visiting the six shops in the precinct, and consequently encourage parking in neighbouring roads
- Planning permission has already been granted for the private land and car park currently serving the shops, which will be unavailable when the development takes place
- Concerns over traffic queuing down Forest Hill during icy conditions
- The safe route for the local school is along the footpath that runs alongside Lysander Road and access to the school via the adjoining Church
- Traffic queuing on Forest Hill will cause vehicles to divert along Lime Tree Avenue or Rowan Way to access Lysander Road
- The existing traffic lights at the junction of Forest Hill and Lysander Road enable pedestrians to cross Forest Hill although the addition of a push-button crossing facility would improve the situation
- Unaware of any accidents or requests to introduce the proposed measures at the planned location, which is not a widely used crossing point
- The specialist nature of some of the local shops and their location requires sufficient nearby parking to be available for their customers
- Concern that a date has already been set to undertake the proposed works despite the ongoing consultation process
- Suggest that a survey be carried out amongst local residents and shopkeepers to establish the need and demand for the proposed works

Terry Ledlie of Rowan Way made the following points:

- Traffic calming does not help pedestrians as it tends to encourage vehicles to go faster – as shown in a scheme introduced in Lingfield, Surrey
- Any solution needs to take into consideration that Forest Hill is used as an access point by a considerable number of vehicles travelling along the A30 (West Coker Road)
- Has a risk assessment been carried out, and if so what level of reduction in risk is expected to be achieved from the introduction of the proposed scheme?
- Improved lane markings on Lysander Road at its junction with Forest Hill to create a left-hand only turn along with the introduction of a push-button pedestrian crossing facility would improve highway safety and balance the needs of motorists and pedestrians
- The introduction of similar measures at the junction of Lysander Road and Pine Tree Avenue would deliver similar benefits and would be a more effective use of the resources allocated for the works currently proposed for Forest Hill

8/336 **FOREST HILL – PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDER**

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

During the ensuing discussion, Members considered the merits of the proposed works, which it was felt would have little impact on improving pedestrian safety in the Forest Hill area and would instead encourage motorists to use nearby roads, which included a local primary school, as “rat-runs”.

It was strongly felt that the funding made available for the proposed works would be better spent on introducing a push-button pedestrian crossing facility in the existing traffic lights at the junction of Forest Hill and Lysander Road along with a pedestrian crossing phase bearing in mind the considerable number of parents, children and cyclists who already crossed Forest Hill at that point and the relatively few people who crossed Forest Hill at the location of the proposed works.

It was felt that this alternative arrangement would enable pedestrians and cyclists to cross Forest Hill safely, and would benefit the significant number of parents and children who already crossed the road at that point to access the local school and the nearby Yew Tree Recreation Ground. It was further felt that a similar improvement should also be carried out at the junction of Pine Tree Avenue and Lysander Road for the same reasons.

Members questioned whether the County Council were aware of the planning consent that had been granted for the private land and car park that currently served the shops in the pedestrian precinct, and the adverse impact that this would have on the level of on-street parking and the viability of the shops when the development took place.

Reference was also made to the need for effective consultation to take place with local people prior to highway improvement schemes being put forward to ensure that they were necessary and achieved agreed objectives.

Attention was also drawn to the funding of highway schemes and safety improvements.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the proposed prohibition of waiting order and associated works be strongly opposed for the reasons outlined above and those put forward by the members of the public at the meeting – including the likely diversion of a significant number of vehicles onto Lime Tree Avenue, which runs past a local primary school, should the planned measures be introduced;
- (3) that the County Council be urged to withdraw the proposed scheme and to use the allocated funds to meet the cost of introducing a push-button crossing facility (along with a pedestrian crossing phase) in the existing traffic lights at the junction of Forest Hill and Lysander Road to facilitate the safe crossing of Forest Hill by pedestrians and cyclists at that point; and
- (4) that, for the same reasons, consideration be given to the installation of a similar facility at the junction of Pine Tree Avenue and Lysander Road

8/337 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

3 June 2013
17 June 2013

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

25 June 2013

Minute 8/188 – Final Accounts 2012/13

RESOLVED

- (1) that the position concerning the £84,747 operating budget surplus for the year ended 31 March 2013 be noted;
- (2) that the position concerning the General Reserve, the Capital Fund and the Asset Register be noted; and

- (3) that the draft Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 and the draft Annual Return and Income and Expenditure Account for that period, be received and approved.

Minute 8/189 – Annual Governance Statement

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the draft Statement of Annual Governance in respect of the Financial Year 2012/13 be approved.

8/338 **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

15 April 2013

Yeovil Twinning Association

29 April 2013

Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee

19 June 2013

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

David Recardo gave a brief presentation, on behalf of the Yeovil Twinning Association, about the recent inward visit from Herblay, France, and the outward visit to Samarate, Italy.

8/339 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no further comments from the members of the public.

Mayor



Review of 12/13 and Priorities for the Year Ahead

Jonathan Higman

**Director of Urgent Care and Long
Term Conditions**

Key Achievements

- Positive CQC inspection in September 2012
- Maintained CNST for maternity services
- Introduction of Friends and Family Test
- Positive feedback from real time patient surveys
- Further improvement in HSMR (mortality rates)
- Further reductions in infection rates
- Introduction of safety thermometer across hospital

Key Achievements

- Reduction in waiting times for treatment – all specialties at 15 weeks RTT with orthopaedics at 17 weeks
- Achievement of annual 4 hour standard for A&E though not achieved in Q4
- Achieved cancer standards for year
- Significant improvement in stroke performance
- Good performance in staff survey – especially staff recommending organisation as a place to work and feeling that their role has a positive impact on patients
- Delivery of surplus though challenge of CIP delivery

Strategic Developments

- Development of strong relationship with new Clinical Commissioning Group and other partners
- Establishment of Symphony Board across Local Health Community
- Positive assessment of Research and Development department
- New residences for Junior Doctors
- Partnership with District Council on nursery provision
- Business Case for new Electronic Health Record system

Key Priorities for 13/14

- Patient Safety
- Patient Experience
- Developing our staff
- Delivering value for money
- Partnerships and new opportunities
- Transformation and Innovation

Patient Safety

- Continue to build on improvements in mortality rates
- Continued drive to reduce pressure ulcers/falls causing harm
- Continued focus on healthcare infections
- Active involvement in South West Patient Safety programme
- Build culture of safety across organisation

Patient Experience

- Develop our iCARE values
- Deliver action plan on Francis report
- Redesign complaints process with Patients Association
- Focus on improvements in patient food, entertainment, front of house and appointment booking
- Improvements in discharge planning and communication
- Ward Sisters in supervisory capacity to improve communication with relatives and training of staff

Supporting our Staff

- Programme of staff engagement led by Communications and HR
- Focus on health and wellbeing of staff to support reduction in sickness
- Improve reward and recognition for staff (e.g. new staff awards event)
- Focus on developing our staff – e.g. new leadership development programme, talent development
- Proactive recruitment to get the best people for YDH
- Make YDH a great place to work

Improving value for money

- Improving our efficiency and reducing overheads
- Cost containment
- Managing our staff budgets efficiently – e.g. reducing bank/agency spend, redesigning administration processes
- Ensuring estates compliance and backlog maintenance
- Effective planning for winter pressures to contain additional spending
- Long term financial planning to understand impact of demographic growth, changes to the National NHS funding mechanism

Partnerships and New Opportunities

- Begin implementation of integrated care through Symphony
- Build collaborative relationships with CCG as well as Partnership Trust and GP providers locally
- Develop partnership opportunities e.g. pharmacy, elective services, back office services
- Build on good relationships with Dorchester, Taunton, Exeter
- Partnership with District Council on car park

Transformation and Innovation

- Develop innovation and improvement culture at YDH
- Establishment of Transformation programme team to support front line teams in improvement activity
- Aim to be 'best in class' for delivery of efficient and effective services
- Integrated care agenda will require innovative approach to delivery of services to deliver at scale and pace
- New Electronic Health Record system
- Health Campus is an exciting opportunity for new and innovative facility in partnership

What will this need?

- Organisation centred around our patients
- Energy, drive and commitment to deliver at all levels
- Working with partners and exploiting new opportunities
- Minimising bureaucracy to focus on getting things done
- Support and engagement of Governors, Members and the community
- Effective communication and engagement to keep everyone informed and involved