

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **POLICY, RESOURCES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 23 July 2013**

(7.00pm – 8.15pm)

**Present:**

Tony Lock - Chairman	John Hann
Martin Bailey	Andrew Kendall
Peter Brock	Wes Read
Bridget Dollard	Manny Roper
Dave Dollard	Darren Shutler
Tony Fife	Alan Smith
Jon Gleeson	

**Also Present:**

Alan Tawse – Town Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/190 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 June 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/191 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

8/192 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Andy Kendall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – Monday Club) by virtue of his mother's membership of the Club.

Martin Bailey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – Yeovil Camera Club) by virtue of his membership of the Club and his wife's position as events secretary of the organisation.

Darren Shutler declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – Yeovil Opportunity Group) by virtue of his close friendship with a trustee of the Group. Wes Read declared a similar interest in the same item by virtue of his wife's position as a trustee of the Group.

Bridget Dollard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 5 (Applications for Grant Aid – Yeovil and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society) by virtue of her role as Bookings Secretary for the shows' venue. David Dollard declared a similar interest in the same item by virtue of his position as Leader of the Scout Group that managed the venue. Manny Roper declared a similar interest in the same item by virtue of his position as Chairman of the Society. Darren Shutler declared a similar interest in the same item by virtue of his mother-in-law's position as Treasurer of the Society.

#### 8/193 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

#### 8/194 **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AID**

(a) Monday Club

*(Andy Kendall, 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)*

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £150 be awarded towards the general running costs of the Club. (S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence).

(b) Yeovil Camera Club

*(Martin Bailey, 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)*

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £450 be awarded towards the costs of a new projector and lighting stand. (S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence).

(c) Yeovil Opportunity Group

*(Wes Read and Darren Shutler, both 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)*

During the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the level of unrestricted funds held by the organisation; the purpose of the grant application and the funding available from Central Government and from local authorities to assist with pre-school educational provision for children with special needs.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that no action be taken regarding this application; and
- (2) that the applicant be advised that in view of the current level of unrestricted funds held by the organisation and the proposed use of any grant awarded towards existing staffing costs, the Council cannot support the application.

(d) Yeovil and District Chrysanthemum and Dahlia Society

*(Bridget Dollard, David Dollard, Manny Roper and Darren Shutler, each 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)*

**RESOLVED** that consideration of the application be deferred pending clarification of the miscellaneous payment of £681.33 in the 2012 accounts.

(e) Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club

**RESOLVED**

(1) that a grant of £900 be awarded towards the funding of the Annual Yeovil Games. (S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence); and

(2) that the Club be requested to mention the financial contribution from the Town Council in the event programme and in other publicity material.

(f) Octagon Theatre (SSDC)

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £1,000 be awarded towards the cost of mounting the Annual Octagon Theatre Summer School. (S.1 of the Localism Act 2011 – General Power of Competence)

8/195 **CAPITAL FUND**

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

**RESOLVED**

(1) that the position concerning the Capital Fund and the General Reserve be noted;

(2) that the current position regarding the rolling programme of play area improvements be noted; and

(3) that confirmation of the District Council's funding towards future schemes included in the programme be awaited.

8/196 **NALC – FUTURE STRATEGY**

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

Whilst Members were supportive of the proposed strategy, it was felt that the National Association needed to ensure that it deployed sufficient resources to respond quickly and effectively to Government initiatives affecting the town and parish council sector, and that any income generation from commercial

sponsorship that might be sought did not compromise the interests of the Association and its members.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Association be advised of the above-outlined comments.

8/197 **LOCALISING COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT AND COUNCIL TAX**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the report be noted; and
- (2) that further updates be awaited.

8/198 **BEST VALUE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 9 refers).

The Town Clerk reported at the meeting that the recent customer satisfaction survey had shown a satisfaction rate of 79.4%.

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that the Committee notes this year's achievements and sets similar targets for next year's performance; and
- (3) that arrangements be made for a further training session to be organised for interested Members on Managing Meetings/Chairing Skills in October 2013.

8/199 **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – APRIL/MAY 2013**

The Committee considered the report of the Finance Administrator (Agenda item 10 refers).

**RESOLVED**

that the Financial Statements and payments therein for the above months be approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/200 **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.

8/201 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 11 refers).

**RESOLVED**

that approval be given to the recommendations set out in the report.

8/202 **STAFFING ISSUE**

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

**RESOLVED**

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Town Council Offices be closed on Friday 27 December 2013, and that day be regarded as a statutory leave day for staff holiday purposes.

Chairman