



# Yeovil Town Council

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**Yeovil Town Council**

The Meeting... **Yeovil Town Council**

The Time... **7.30pm**

The Date... **Tuesday 5 March 2013**

The Place... **Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil**

*The Town Council will be discussing all the items listed overleaf*

If you need this information in large print, Braille, audio or another language, please ring 01935 382424



*Alan Tawse*

Alan Tawse

Town Clerk

26 February 2013

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Please contact Alan Tawse at the Town House for more information about this meeting

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## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

Clive Davis – Mayor of Yeovil

Manny Roper – Deputy Mayor

Martin Bailey

Peter Brock

Kris Castle

J Vincent Chainey

Philip Chandler

Tristan Cobb

Leah Cross

Bridget Dollard

David Dollard

Tony Fife

Jon Gleeson

David Greene

Peter Gubbins

John Hann

Kaysar Hussain

Andrew Kendall

Mike Lock

Tony Lock

Wes Read

David Recardo

Darren Shutler

Alan Smith

### **Equality Act 2010**

The *general* public sector equality duty places an obligation on a wide range of public bodies (including town and parish councils) in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The protected characteristics are:

*Age*

*Disability*

*Gender Reassignment*

*Marriage and Civil Partnership*

*Pregnancy and Maternity*

*Race*

*Religion or Belief*

*Sex*

*Sexual Orientation*

**Prior to the start of the meeting, Members are invited to join the Mayor's Chaplain in the Council Chamber at 7.25pm for prayers.**

## **A G E N D A**

### **Mayor's Cadets**

### **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

1. **MINUTES**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 February 2013.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4. **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(See attached at pages 4 to 5)

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

6. **DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER – PROPOSED EXTENSION**

Steve Brewer, Community Safety Co-ordinator will attend the meeting and give a presentation on proposals by South Somerset District Council (SSDC) to extend the existing Designated Public Places Order in Yeovil Town. This Order gives the Police additional powers to deal with problems of anti-social behaviour related to alcohol drinking in public places.

A copy of the relevant minute extract and report to the SSDC Area South Committee is attached at pages 6 to 9, which sets out the background to the ongoing review.

The Town Council is **RECOMMENDED** to note the matter and to comment on the proposals.

*(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

7. **LIBRARY SERVICES REVIEW**

Attached at page 10 to 12 is a letter from the Interim Director - Libraries and Services (Somerset County Council) that has been sent to all town and parish councils in Somerset. The letter gives an update of that Authority's review of these services and opportunities to get involved in their future planning and delivery.

The County Council is asking if the Town Council is interested in becoming involved in future pilot projects, and has any ideas about our local library that the County Council should consider. Financial assistance is expected to be secured from the County Council's Community Enablement Fund to help with the implementation of new ideas and ways of working.

Members will recall that in July 2011 an approach was received from the Birchfield Area Residents' Association (BARA) about the possibility of the Association using for community purposes the space within Monmouth Community Hall that is currently used by Sunningdale Library - in the event of the library closing (Minute 8/33 refers).

At that time, the County Council planned to withdraw funding from a number of libraries across Somerset – including Sunningdale - and to reduce the opening hours of a number of others. However, these plans were put into abeyance following a judicial review, and the opportunity for BARA to use the space that would otherwise have become available within the Hall was lost.

Members may wish to propose the pursuance of this potential initiative in light of the County Council's ongoing investigations into future service delivery models.

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to consider its response to the consultation exercise.

*(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

#### **8. TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR**

Council is requested to consider nominations for the office of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2013/14. The election of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor will take place at the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council, which will be held on 7 May 2013.

*(Alan Tawse, Town Clerk – 01935 382424)*

#### **9. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

(The Minutes of the following meetings are open to discussion. Where a Committee has made a recommendation that will be listed on a separate sheet circulated with the Agenda).

##### **Planning and Licensing Committee**

28 January 2013  
11 February 2013

#### **10. REPORTS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

##### **Yeovil Twinning Association**

10 January 2013

## **South Somerset Countryside Steering Group**

14 February 2013

16 - 19

Members who represent the Town Council on Outside Bodies may wish to take the opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

### **Public Comment (15 Minutes)**

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Committee will be requested to pass a resolution excluding the press and public 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.

#### **11. FORMER GOLDCROFT ALLOTMENT SITE**

(Confidential report to be circulated to Members only).

**List of Engagements attended/to be attended by His Worship The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis and the Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper from 5 February - 2 April 2013**

06/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the annual Presentation of Awards by the South Somerset Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Committee at the Octagon.
07/02/13	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended the Yeovil Drum & Trumpet Corp. Opening Evening at Westfield Academy.
15/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Yeovil Twinning Association Annual Dinner at the Red House
16/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Yeovil Trefoil Guild Big Breakfast event at Everton Road Guide Hut
16/02/13	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended the Abbey 104 Community Radio Reception Launch at the Eastbury Hotel, Sherborne.
18/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Presentation of a cheque to Yeovil College Bursary Foundation.
22/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Western Gazette Charity Ball at Westlands Leisure Complex
22/02/13	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended the Extended Project Qualification Presentations at Yeovil College.
23/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended Blandford Forum's 'Mayor's Bash' in the Corn Exchange, Blandford
24/02/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Axbridge Civic Service and Community Awards event
01/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis visited Orchard Wyndham for a guided tour of the house and gardens by the High Sheriff of Somerset
03/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Somerset County Council Civic Service in Taunton
03/03/13	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper attended Verwood Town Council Civic Service.
09/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis attended the Mayor of Weston-Super-Mare's Charity Ball.
15/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil will host a quiz night at the Yeovil Town Football Club on behalf of his charities.
15/03/14	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will attend the South Somerset District Civic Evening at the Octagon watching a performance of 'Me & My Girl'
16/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis will attend the Chard Town Council Charity Dinner at the Lordleaze Hotel.

17/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis will attend the Legal Service for the Swearing in of the High Sheriff of Somerset
19/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis will attend a football match at Yeovil Town ground, Huish Park, where a bucket collection will be taking place on behalf of his chosen charities.
23/03/13	The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Manny Roper will attend Chard Town Council's production of 'A Tribute to Musicals'.
23/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis will attend the Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society's Production of 'Me & My Girl' at the Octagon Theatre.
24/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis will attend the third Yeovil Half Marathon.
28/03/13	The Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Clive Davis will judge the East Bonnet competition at Sunningdale Lodge.

**75. Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 Consultation to Extend the Yeovil Designated Public Places Order (Agenda Item 12)**

The Community Safety Coordinator presented the report as set out in the agenda. He informed members that this report was to seek their comments and support to extend the existing designation order in Yeovil.

He explained that the original DPPO placed on Yeovil Town centre was in 2002 and has been extended twice in 2004 and 2009 to deal with displacement of offenders and that recent problems and on-going issues within the town have resulted in the request for the extension to the DPPO. With the aid of a map he highlighted to members the existing areas and areas identified for future inclusion.

During members' discussion, several points were raised including the following:

- issues around the Park Street car park and the problems arising from nearby shops selling alcohol
- sought clarification over the designation of private property
- concerned that continuing to extend the area will just push the problems further afield
- police should have the ability to enforce any improper behaviour without the means of a DPPO
- questioned why the whole area could not be designated
- mindful not to stop the recreational enjoyment within the Ninesprings area
- look to include Yeovil District Hospital as recent problems within this area
- need to look at ways to support repeat offenders in addition to extending the designated area

Following the discussion, members agreed that the existing Designated Public Places Order be extended for the whole of Area South and not just Yeovil Town.

It was therefore proposed that the second recommendation be amended to replace 'Yeovil' with the 'whole of Area South'. This proposal was then seconded and on being put to the vote was carried by 14 votes in favour and 3 against.

- RESOLVED:**
- (1) Members noted the report and its contents
  - (2) Agreed that consultation with regard to extending the existing Designated Public Place Order for the whole of Area South continues
  - (3) Agreed to accept and consider a further report requesting an extension to Yeovil Designated Public Places Order

*(Steve Brewer, Community Safety Coordinator, (01935 462390)  
Steve.brewer@southsomerset.gov.uk*

*(Voting: 14 in favour, 3 against)*

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Area South Committee 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

## 12. Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 Consultation to Extend the Yeovil Designated Public Places Order

<i>Strategic Director:</i>	<i>Rina Singh, Strategic Director ( Place and Performance )</i>
<i>Assistant Director:</i>	<i>Kim Close, Assistant Director ( Communities )</i>
<i>Service Manager:</i>	<i>Kim Close, Area Development Manager - South</i>
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	<i>Steve Brewer, Community Safety Coordinator</i>
<i>Contact Details:</i>	<i>Steve.Brewer@southsomerset.gov.uk</i>

### Purpose of the Report

To seek support from members to undertake consultation with regard to extending the existing designation order in Yeovil.

### Public Interest

Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO) are made by local authorities using powers under section 13 of The Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 as amended by Section 26 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and the "The Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007" to deal with the problems of anti-social behaviour related to alcohol drinking in public places.

It is not an offence to consume alcohol within a designated area, but failure to comply with an officer's requests to stop drinking and surrender alcohol without reasonable excuse, is an offence.

Any enforcement of this law is carried out entirely at the discretion of the police.

A DPPO may be enforced by:

- A police officer
- A police community support officer (PCSO)
- An accredited person

If an officer suspects that a person has recently drunk alcohol or intends to drink alcohol in a DPPO, in order to prevent public nuisance and disorder, the officer can require a person to:

- stop drinking alcohol (or anything believed to be alcohol)
- Hand over the containers they are drinking from (sealed or unsealed)
- Hand over any other containers believed to contain alcohol.

Penalties can include:

- A penalty notice for disorder of £50;
- Arrest and prosecution for a level 2 fine (max £500);
- Bail conditions can stop the individual from drinking in public.

In South Somerset there are DPPOs in Bruton, Crewkerne, Chard, Somerton, Wincanton and Yeovil. The original DPPO placed on Yeovil Town Centre in 2002 has been extended twice in 2004 and 2009 to deal with displacement of offenders.

Regulations do not place a requirement on the local authority to conduct a formal assessment so the appropriate designation of an area is a matter for local judgement.

There is a duty on the local authority to consult with the Police, Town and Parish councils, premises and land owners in the proposed area.

### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1) That the report be noted and members' comments be considered as part of the consultation process.
- 2) Agree that consultation with regard to extending the existing Designated Public Places Order for Yeovil continue.
- 3) Agree to accept and consider a further report requesting an extension to Yeovil Designated Public Places Order.

### **Background**

Experience has found that introducing an order can lead to nuisance and annoyance to the public or disorder associated with public drinking being displaced into immediately adjacent areas that have not been designated for this purpose.

Whether or not a designation order is appropriate is a matter for local judgement, based on the circumstances applying. Before designating or extending an area local authorities need to consider the implications and consequences of displacement to areas out side of the DPPO area.

### **Issues Relating to the request for an Extension**

The effective policing of the existing DPPO has led to the displacement of offenders to sites currently out side of the controlled area. There are repeated reports and ongoing issues in many parts of the town causing alarm and distress to the public. Many of the areas experiencing bad behaviour relating to the consumption of alcohol are immediately adjacent to and within sight of the signs that mark the existing DPPO.

Initial enquiries and consultation has identified repeated reports and ongoing issues in many areas throughout the town, some of which include:

Park Street/Mill Lane/Taunusstein Way  
Penn Hill Park  
Nine Springs  
Wyndham Hill Park  
Sherborne Road  
Ivel Court  
Central Road  
Sydney gardens  
Reckleford  
Sydney Gardens connecting pathways.

Further investigation and consultation is required into these and adjacent areas to identify the suitability and acceptance of a DPPO in tackling the issues.

It is envisaged that given the support of members to carry out the required consultation a further report will be submitted to advise on the outcome of the consultation and request an extension to the existing DPPO for Yeovil Town.

**Financial Implications**

Existing resources will be utilised. There are no additional financial implications directly related to this report.

**Corporate Priority Implications**

Health and Communities - Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people and that the strategic priorities for policing and crime reduction in South Somerset reflect local needs.

**Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)**

No implications directly related to this report.

**Equality and Diversity Implications**

No implications directly related to this report.

**Background Papers:** Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.  
Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006.  
Local Authorities Regulations 2007.  
Home Office Guidance Note on DPPOs

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Please ask for  
Julian Bellew

Your Reference

Direct Dial  
01823 356212

Our Reference

Date  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

E-Mail  
[jbellew@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:jbellew@somerset.gov.uk)

Dear Parish/Town Council Clerk,

I am writing to update you about Somerset County Council's Library Service Review and opportunities to get involved.

A report on the review was considered by Cabinet on 12 December, 2012. A copy of the report can be found on the County Council's website at [www.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/council/meetings). Cabinet accepted the approach and recommendations outlined in the report.

The report set out three principles for the future delivery of library services:

- **Library services should be provided on the basis of need, demand and value for money** – we will review library provision in the light of these criteria and involve users and key stakeholders in the process.
- **Libraries should be community hubs** – this approach could include sharing buildings with other services, developing the role of libraries as places that provide information about local services, and potentially extending opening hours.
- **Library services should be responsive to and supported by their local communities** – we will seek to deliver local services in partnership with communities, providing support where a community is willing to take on the running of a local library.

The report also recommended that pilot schemes should be set up immediately to test the three principles above. The pilots will test if ideas – for example, a library acting as a community hub – work in practice. We will look at how successful the pilots have been and that will help us decide what we want to do next.

We have had to make some choices about what areas of activity to pilot first. We have chosen activities which:

- Continue work which has already started.
- Offer a wide range of opportunities to learn and to develop policy.
- Ensure opportunities are not lost through delay.
- Require significant time to put into action.

So far, the following two pilot projects are in the process of being set up:

- Taunton and Priorswood libraries – to develop policies for shared use of premises and volunteering, building on current initiatives.
- Developing a community hub model, linking with work that is already underway.

We are also developing a toolkit to assess need, demand and value for money as a way of helping us to review library provision. And we are speaking to stakeholders about ways to make libraries more locally accountable and developing pilots for community-supported libraries.

We will also be looking at other areas of opportunity, such as work with the LibrariesWest Consortium, developing friends groups, income generation, refreshing the People's Network, and a strategy for WiFi (wireless internet access).

We want to hear further ideas and proposals arising from communities as our capacity allows, and are delighted that there have already been a number of approaches to us. We are also pleased to say that we expect to secure funding from the County Council's Community Enablement Fund. This funding will be for the use of community organisations (including town councils, parish councils and community and voluntary groups) to help the implementation of new ideas and ways of working. There is no need to make additional applications for this funding, but as we undertake pilots it will help us to support community activity.

### **How can I get involved?**

We would like to know if your organisation or community:

- Is interested in becoming involved in future pilot projects, or
- Has ideas about your local library that we should consider.

This will help us to plan the work we need to do and to assess the support funding that will be required over the next 3 years. We may not be able to take every idea forward, but all of them will be given serious consideration. They will need to match one or more of the three strategic principles set out above and be financially viable.

The work we do will help us to put together proposals for the future shape of the Library Service. We will share any such proposals as soon as we can.

We would be very grateful if you could let us have your responses by the end of March 2013. To do so please contact us at this address:

Julian Bellew  
Libraries Service Review  
Somerset County Council  
County Hall  
Taunton  
Somerset, TA1 3JR

Email: [JBellew@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:JBellew@somerset.gov.uk)  
Telephone: 01823 356212

In responding please also provide us with a named contact for your organisation.

We are grateful to all of you who have already been involved with us in developing ideas for the future of Somerset's libraries. We look forward to working with more of you as we start to turn ideas into reality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David Dick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

**David Dick**  
Interim Director – Heritage & Libraries

## YEOVIL TWINNING ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013

**Present:** Theresa Mahoney (Vice Chair), Barrie Smallcalder (Treasurer), David Torrance (Secretary), John Attwood, Norma Northcott, Kathy Smyth, + Trevor Rogers (TWA), Madeleine Horvey (TWA), Diana Gray, Andy Kendall.

**Apologies:** David Recardo (Chair), Roger Baker, Suzanne Biddiscombe, Jan Aldridge.

**Fund Raising (1):** Meeting was again attended by representatives of the Thornford Twinning Association with a view to a joint Fish & Chip Quiz night. TR confirmed that the Fish & Chip van was still operating and that they would be prepared to produce a F&C supper at £5.00 or £5.20 per head and that they could cater for 10 tables (the hall can take 120 people) – they were happier with larger no of people. Thornford Village Hall had several bookings already and it was felt prudent to make a provisional booking – KS had spoken to JA and it was felt that the date of the Race Night could be moved if necessary. TM suggested Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April and TR will organise – booking fee of £50.00 would be due 2-3 weeks once provisional date was confirmed. They will pay and we will settle up later. Maximum of 10 tables with, ideally, YTA members + friends. David Recardo would be asked to be the Quizmaster and TR would advertise in the local magazine (to ensure a full house) with between 6 & 12 people per table. It was felt that people should bring their own drinks and TM volunteered to organise the raffle. Cost discussed and it was agreed that £10.00 a head (including supper and hall hire) would be reasonable. Volunteers would be needed to set out hall and to put tables away etc. KS queried arrangements for a score board and TR said he could supply this. We would need to have a discussion as to how the profits would be divided up but this could wait. TR explained that they normally had a cash prize - £36, £24 and £12. It was felt that this might be difficult to distribute depending on the nos at a table. Might be better to have 6 prizes split between the Twinning Associations? – to be decided nearer the date. Table nos to be split between the two organisations.

TM thanked the Thornford Twinners for attending and for their work and support.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December meeting were agreed with an amendment confirming that the Smart App was being produced by the Yeovil Town Team and not the County and was signed.

**Matters Arising:** A new account with HSBC had been opened by the Treasurer and the documentation completed apart from co signatures; meeting with Preston School had been set up for February; The Red House had been booked for the Annual Meal and TM would send out a flyer reminding members of this event. DR regretted that his contact was not involved with group rates for the Haynes Museum.

### Correspondence

DIT had received a note from John Attwood re flights by Flybe to Frankfurt from Southampton and he had passed this information to TM. A further email had been received from Herblay with the list of names of those coming and details of the music to be played.

### Treasurers Report

The Treasurer reported that there were two members whose subs were outstanding but that they would settle these at the Annual Dinner - paid up members totalled 41. Agreed that TM & DIT would check their lists against the Treasurer's and ensure that there was one definitive list for everyone to use. Deposits for the Samarate visit totalled £1200.00 meaning a revised no of 26 members going with 21 staying on to visit Stresa and 5 returning after the initial period. TM to be reimbursed. Balance stood at £3,568.00 plus Italy flight paid £2,349.00 less £1,200.00 = £4,717.00.

**Action:** New Account with HSBC to be completed –HSBC documentation to be completed - DR, TM & DIT; produce definitive membership list – BS, TM, DIT

## Visits

### Herblay - Inward (Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May)

Email from Philippe with details of the music etc. had been forwarded to Bridget for her meeting with Preston School – meeting being arranged and DR to attend with Bridget. She had had positive feedback from the school. DIT distributed list of people coming and there was a general discussion re people coming and the nos. There was a discussion re the arrival date which needed to be clarified ASAP. There were some concerns that members hosting unaccompanied children would need to be DBS (CRB) cleared.

**Action:** Meeting with Bridget re Preston and Park Schools – DR; Arrival date to be clarified – DIT; Possibility of school cookery class to be utilised to provide meals - unassigned; Yeovil College for display of Herblay artwork – unassigned;

### Taunusstein - Inward

Awaiting confirmation of dates.

**Action:** Ideas for visits – all (outstanding);

### Samarate - Outward (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June with a hotel extension 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June)

TM confirmed that the flights were booked and that final arrangements were underway to sort out the coaches – a 49 seater coach was £850.00 return; flights were £90.37 return + £22.00 (£11.00 each way) for baggage. Departs Gatwick at 15.20 on the 6<sup>th</sup> with returns on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 11.00 and on the 14<sup>th</sup> at 15.20. Luggage allowance was 20 Kg. Those staying on were to pay the hotel on arrival. TM would contact Samarate (Marianglea) with the final nos. Balance of payments required by the 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Action:** Finalise costs and travel arrangements etc.-TM;

## Socials/ Fund Raising (2)

Cheese and Wine Party at the Marian Hall, The Avenue, Yeovil on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January – details advertised in Newsletter. DIT to send out reminder.

Joint Fish & Chip Quiz evening with Thornford Twinning Association discussed at start of meeting.

Charity night at the Swan Theatre, Yeovil on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan – JA had sold 40 tickets which was well received. DG queried whether there was food available at the Theatre but TM said no. TM to arrange raffle.

Annual Meal –the Red House on the Dorchester Road on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – BS had visited and paid a deposit – important that this should be well attended and that members returned the booking forms. TM to send out a reminder.

DIT reported that the response regarding the Lottery had been poor but the committee members still thought it a good idea but felt that more information re costs etc. was needed.

**Action:** Use of Thornford Village Hall etc for Fish & Chip Quiz evening – TR (Thornford Twinning Ass.); Reminder re Cheese & Wine evening – DIT; Reminder re Red House Annual Meal – TM; Work up details of Lottery - DIT



## **AOB**

DR and DIT would attend the Travel Show at Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum. Diana, as Hosting Officer, felt it would be helpful to have the names of those people coming from Herblay who were actual members of their twinning organisation.

KS asked how much YTA would get from the Theatre night bookings – TM thought it was a third of the takings although this was seat sales only.

JA suggested that the next meeting should be a Herblay “Special” and members thought this was a good idea.

DIT suggested that he produce a short précis of the approved minutes for circulation to the membership. This would ensure they were involved and were aware of the committee’s discussions and actions on their behalf. This was thought to be a good idea.

TM and Committee Members wished Jan Aldridge a speedy recovery from her illness.

***Action:*** complete draft Biog – all (outstanding); Progress re YTA and Smart App – DR; Report back re the South West Group Show – DR & DIT; Contact Herblay re Twinning membership names – DIT; Produce and distribute précis of previous minutes - DIT

The Meeting closed in good order at 8.05pm

**Next meeting: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

**The Boardroom, Yeovil College @ 7.00pm**

David Torrance

YTA Secretary

01935873979

yeoviltwin@aol.com

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## South Somerset Countryside Steering Group

### Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**Apologies:** Nigel Mermagen, Dennis Pearce

**Present:** Katy Menday, Oliver Edmonds, Clive Hawkins, Josie Mills, Robin Mackay, Alan Smith, Sylvia Seal, Graham Forsyth, Sue Osborne, Viv Keyte, Jack Frapple

#### Minutes of last meeting

*Agreed as correct*

#### Update from Sites

##### ***Yeovil Country Park***

- Events leaflet given out that covers first half of the year (*sorry we have since realised that there are many typo's in the leaflet and we have double checked and corrected all the errors*)
- Improvements to the gravel play area car park are having to wait until it is drier
- Laurel clearance progressing in Ninesprings
- Hedge laying finished on Penn Hill
- HLF bid £170,000 – covering the community ranger position has been submitted and we will hear the results in June.
- Now moving onto the new build application forms. Lots of research has been done already for HLF so hopefully this can feed into these applications. Reaching Communities (Big Lottery) is the next big one to submit. If this is not successful then there are a couple of alternative options.
- S106 we don't have evidence base yet – something we will look to develop. Possibility of green infrastructure policy planning document to facilitate revenue from developers.
- The project is now being marketed as “**V3; Visit, inVolve, Volunteer**”
- Robin took a call from Asda with regards their community voting schemes he advised that they were keen on 'community' - a strong aspect to get across and is something we have strived to do in bids
- If all goes well looking at summer 2014 for build. Full funding has to be in place before the build can commence.
- Yeovil Vision money is from SSDC.

##### ***Ham Hill***

- Archaeologists back in touch, re new 2013 summer dig. Similar locations to last year. Clauses will be in place within their licence to ensure litter is dealt with.
- “Love your Birds” event a success, children made bird feeders, the RSPB also attended.
- Woodland management work progressing despite wet weather.

- New car park creation currently delayed as waiting for SSDC Legal to finalise the Shuldham Licence.
- Wet weather impacting on grazier, as most of his land is low lying, we have secured special permission for him to have his livestock on Ham Hill earlier in the year than usual.
- Looking for funding to support archaeological bid. Montacute and Stoke Parish will be approached.
- Viv will approach Stoke PC and ensure that he refers to the tourism visits that the dig will bring in for the local economy and also the educational benefits for local schools and groups.

### ***Chard***

- Lots of water! – EA officer Oliver Hill, heavily involved in mitigating pollution incidents, very proactive and great supporter of the LNR.
- Public education event being developed for this summer. Three local primary schools will be involved to raise awareness of storm water runoff into reservoir and pollution risk – called the “Yellow Fish” campaign. Powerful illustration to raise profile of issue. Take place June/July and there will be an exhibition at Chard Countryside Day.
- **Katy** to contact Chard School, an independent school on the high street to see if they would like to be involved.
- **Katy** to ensure Yellow fish project to be an update on agenda in May
- New map panel to go up in April (artwork is all finished we just cannot afford the print costs until April)

### ***Eastfield***

- Higher Level Stewardship agreed for £1000 per annum for a 10 year scheme

### ***Moldrums***

- Lots of ranger work going on (with a newly emerging onsite volunteer team as well)
- Species surveys (Great crested newts) commencing soon

### ***Langport Visitor Centre***

- A basket making company is the new tenant at the centre from mid March. They have agreed to keep some of the internal displays.

## **Presentation by Olly on Draft Yeovil Country Park Plan**

Olly presented the next five year plan for Yeovil Country Park. It was explained that this was a draft plan and members were asked for their feedback on the aims and objectives.

Olly went through the draft prescriptions and objectives explaining the main changes. Including the mission statement for the Country Park. Olly explained that most habitat work would focus on biodiversity action plan habitats.

Projects include:

- Restoration of Ninesprings
- Reed bed restoration at Riverside
- Creation of traditional orchard at the foot of Summerhouse Hill
- Grassland restoration on Penn Hill
- Bird and bat boxes schemes extended
- Work with Butterfly and Bumblebee Conservation.
- Control of Himalayan balsam across the park, with the aim of eradicating it
- Improvement of water vole habitat along Dodham Brook
- Monitoring of all projects to capture improvements
- Improve formal and informal education and activity sessions
- Improving and diversifying volunteering opportunities.

Increased to 6 aims, reflecting previous plan's aims, but new ones to improve site resilience.

Partnership working is going to be key to the future of Yeovil Country Park, as is a landscape wide approach to conservation, including the new Local Nature Partnership.

Robin raised the pressures on car parking at Yeovil Country Park and that it should be considered for the future.

### **Update on Delivery Plan**

- We are nearing the end of the current delivery plan (end of March 2013) Katy reported that it is easier to report on items not achieved, which hopefully are not too many:
- Green infrastructure strategy: starting to be pulled together including site and evidence base- can hopefully feed into new Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Maintenance and update of webpages. New website being built.
- Difficult for countryside to work with other councils, but more emphasis on partnership working e.g. RSPB and SWT.
- Impact from County Council environment/ecology cuts is unlikely to be significant on us.
- Ham Hill not designated as Local Nature Reserve as yet – approved by District Executive, now with SSDC legal team awaiting final confirmation.
- Ham Hill smartphone interpretation will be done following next archaeological dig and hopefully partnership project.
- Yeovil Country Park intends to be designated as a Local Nature Reserve- more sensitive however due to development pressure/requirements.
- V3 project on-going: refer to previous update
- Katy to produce new delivery plan for next steering group meeting.
- Budget for next year is manageable.

### **Any Other Business**

Katy to email Alan full summary of work programme for Sampson's Wood, so he can respond to public enquiries.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1pm at Ham Hill Country Park

Agenda items for next time:

Include update on Langport Visitor Centre

Yellow Fish update

Check with Donna about tax implication of woodlands

New delivery plan copies