

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 17 September 2013**

(7.00pm to 8.10pm)

Present:

Andrew Kendall – Chairman
Martin Bailey
Bridget Dollard
Tony Fife
Dave Greene
Peter Gubbins
John Hann
Mike Lock
Tony Lock
Manny Roper
Darren Shutler

Also Present:

Juliet Sims – Assistant Town Clerk (job share)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr Peter Egan, resident of St Johns Road; attended the meeting at the invitation of a Ward Member and spoke at Agenda Item 5.

8/194 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8/195 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Chandler and Clive Davis.

8/196 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Bridget Dollard declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 (Town Twinning) by virtue of her long-term involvement with Yeovil Twinning Association.

8/197 **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence

8/198 **ST JOHN'S ROAD – TRAFFIC ISSUES**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk (agenda item 5 refers).

Peter Egan, resident of St John's Road for the past 34 years, attended the meeting to give further details about the problems of the traffic in St John's Road.

Mr Egan highlighted the problems of traffic in and around St John's Road. He commented that this road had become busier and busier over the years, and that vehicles parked on the staggered cross roads, on the junction, and outside the fish and chip shop, library and pub and on the double yellow lines which has made the road almost impassable at times, and obstructed the view of drivers. He would like to see more street wardens in the area, as drivers do not adhere to the parking restrictions on the road. There were also three schools in the area, and so the issue of traffic was heightened at school opening and closing times.

Mr Egan indicated that there had been various traffic calming schemes on the road, but that nothing had reduced or slowed the traffic, and he was surprised that there had not been a major accident in the area.

A Ward Member advised that he was in receipt of several telephone calls with regard to the speed of the traffic, and he agreed that the traffic calming schemes had been ineffective. He also added that to rid the area of green space and use this residents' amenity land for parking would be unlikely to be agreed by the District Council.

Another Member further indicated that this area had a ten fold increase in traffic in recent years, and was the first road in Yeovil to have traffic calming measures put in place following an accident, he added that sooner or later there was bound to be another accident in this area. The road had become a 'rat run', and it was noted that there were 4 bus routes that used this road.

Other Members fully agreed with the comments made and reiterated the issues in the road. Other suggestions were made which included more monitoring in the area, and that if drivers were convicted of a speeding offence that 'naming and shaming' in the local press might make them think twice about speeding in the first place. It was also noted that traffic-calming humps had to have enough space between them to ensure the smooth passage of emergency vehicles, but that this meant that drivers could avoid them and did not have to slow down. Another suggestion was a 20mph speed limit.

RESOLVED

(1) that the matter be noted;

- (2) that the attention of the Police be drawn to the above – outlined problems requesting that effective enforcement action be taken and the situation be monitored;
- (3) that this problem be drawn to the attention of the Highway Authority and a representative be requested to meet on site with the Ward Members to help outline the issues and the need for improved parking enforcement;
- (4) that the Highway Authority be further requested to consider the installation of speed indication devices (SID's) along the road and adjoining roads; and
- (5) that the Ward Members and Mr Egan be kept informed of developments

8/199 **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES**

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

The recent results of the Speed Indication Devices (SID's) in West Coker Road (A30) and Preston Road were considered and noted by Members. Members wanted to see the results of the SID at West Coker Road to be further taken up with the County Councillor.

During the ensuing discussion, Members expressed disappointment at the County Council's apparent reluctance to install pedestrian refuges along West Coker Road.

It was pointed out that such refuges had been installed along Combe Street Lane, which was a narrower road that was similarly used by heavy goods vehicles.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted:
- (2) that the County Council be advised of the Committee's disappointment at the proposal not to proceed with pedestrian refuges in West Coker Road, and their attention be drawn to the successful use of such refuges in Combe Street Lane; and
- (3) that, to help outline the Committees' view, a site visit be arranged between a representative of the Highways Authority, Bridget Dollard and Dave Greene.

8/200 **SOUTH SOMERSET CAR PARKING STRATEGY REVIEW**

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

RESOLVED

that the matter be noted.

8/201 **TOWN TWINNING**

(Bridget Dollard, 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 Committee considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk. (Agenda item 8 refers)

The Assistant Town Clerk advised Members that an email had been recently received from the Secretary of the Yeovil Twinning Association, which advised that Herblay had now decided not to proceed with the Application for Funding from the EU.

It was agreed that a tree planting to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the town twinning of Yeovil and Herblay should take place, with a tree being planted in the Yeovil Country Park,

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted, and
- (2) that, subject to the approval of the Country Park Manager. arrangements be made for a commemorative tree to be planted in Yeovil Country Park at an appropriate time next year to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Twinning of Yeovil and Herblay.

8/202 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT – JUNE / JULY 2013**

RESOLVED

that the Financial Statement for June / July 2013 be noted.

8/203 **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.

8/204 **CCTV MONITORING**

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

Members further noted the dates of a proposed visit to the CCTV Control Room at Bridgwater, being Friday 11 October 2013. The Assistant Town Clerk will confirm this date with Members and the Control Room.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that the Assistant Town Clerk would confirm the date of the visit to the Control Room in Bridgwater to Members and the Control Room, and advise Members of any further arrangements.

Chairman

JS
18/09/13