

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 December 2014**

(7.30pm – 8.25pm)

Present:

Mike Lock – Mayor	Kaysar Hussain
Martin Bailey	Tony Lock
Kris Castle	Sarah Lowery
John Clark	Sophie Phillips
Bridget Dollard	Wes Read
Dave Dollard	David Recardo
Tony Fife	Manny Roper
Jon Gleeson	Wes Read
Peter Gubbins	Alan Smith
John Hann	

Also present:

Sally Freemantle Assistant Town Clerk (Job Share)

(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 and a minute's silence was observed in memory of Mrs Sue Tawse)

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from members of the public.

GRANTS

The Mayor presented a grant cheque to a representative of each of the following organisations for the purposes indicated:

Applicant	Amount	Purpose
Yeovil Visually Impaired Bowls Club	£500	Support Members' trip to New Zealand
Girlguiding Yeovil Division Rangers	£750	Purchase of tents and equipment

It was requested that Yeovil Visually Impaired Bowls Club be invited to report back to the Town Council after their trip.

8/518 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 November 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/519 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from J Vincent Chainey, Phil Chandler, Tristan Cobb, Dave Greene and Andrew Kendall.

8/520 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mike Lock declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda item 11 (Planning Application WD/D/14/002835: Tipping of soils to allow reshaping of area adjacent to 9th and 18th green at Yeovil Golf Course) by virtue of his ownership of the company which submitted the application.

David Recardo declared a personal interest in the same Agenda item by virtue of his Vice-Captaincy of Yeovil Golf Club.

Manny Roper declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda item 6 (Allotment Rents) by virtue of his allotment tenancy with Yeovil Town Council of allotment plots at Milford Dip Allotment site.

8/521 **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.

8/522 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Assistant Town Clerk reported that, in addition to the items of correspondence that had been circulated to Members by email since the last Town Council meeting, the following item had been received:

- Somerset Community Foundation – Annual Review 2013/14

8/523 **ALLOTMENT RENTS**

(Manny Roper, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda Item 6 refers).

It was noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had supported the proposed recharging arrangements for mains water provided on allotment sites and the proposed rent increase of 1p per square metre in allotment rents.

It was also noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had agreed that all new applications for polytunnels must include an adequate water collection and retention system, and that the conditions relating to allotments be amended to include this requirement.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted;
- (2) that approval be given to the proposed increase of 1p per square metre in allotment rents with effect from 10 December 2015;
- (3) that, the actual cost of mains water provision on allotment sites be recharged to the allotment tenants on a site-by-site basis by dividing the total cost of mains water for each site by the number of plots – with

consideration being given to the size of each plot (as set out in the report); and

- (4) that approval be given to all existing and future tenancy agreements being amended to include a reference to the obligation for tenants to pay the rent and the water recharge.

8/524 **COMMUNITY HALL CHARGES**

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 7 refers) and it was noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee supported the proposed revised charges.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and
- (2) that approval be given to the proposed charges for the hire of Milford and Monmouth Community Halls and the Town Council Chamber with effect from 1 April 2015.

8/525 **ESTIMATES 2015/16**

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

RESOLVED

- (1) that the 2015/16 *draft* revenue estimates for the various Service Committees of the Council, summarised below and attached to the minutes of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee meeting held on 25 November 2014 be *provisionally* approved and adopted; and

Committee	Revenue Estimate
Planning and Licensing	£5,628
Grounds and General Maintenance	£243,827
Promotions and Activities	£79,447
Buildings and Civic Matters	£119,774
Policy, Resources and Finance	£397,147
Total	£845,823

- (2) that *final* approval and adoption of these estimates and the setting of the Town's precept for 2015/16 be deferred and determined at the February 2015 meeting of the Town Council.

8/526 **SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

The Council considered the report (Agenda item 9 refers) and the consultation document, and the Assistant Town Clerk summarised the key aspects of the consultation.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matter be noted; and

- (2) that the Assistant Town Clerk email the consultation document to Members so that comments can be returned to the Assistant Town Clerk to enable a consolidated response from the Town Council to be formed and forwarded to the Somerset County Council Library Service ahead of the January deadline.

8/527 **NEW INITIATIVES BUDGET**

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk (Agenda item 10 refers) and it was noted that the proposal from the Promotions and Activities Committee for the installation of a water slide in the Town Centre for one day required further investigation into costs and had been deferred for further consideration in the New Year.

The support of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee for funding of up to £3,000 from the New Initiatives budget to meet the cost of a large interactive screen and computer, a touch pad mouse and the necessary software in the Reception area of the Town House was acknowledged.

It was also noted that the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee had recommended that the £10,000 provisionally earmarked for the Milford Park outdoor gym be carried forward to the next financial year.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the matters be noted;
- (2) that funding of up to £3,000 from the New Initiatives budget be agreed for a large interactive screen and computer, a touch pad mouse and the necessary software; and
- (3) that the £10,000 provisionally earmarked for the Milford Park outdoor gym be carried forward to the next financial year.

8/528 **DORSET COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING CONSULTATION**

(Mike Lock, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, left the room during its consideration and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair for this item.

The Council considered the consultation documents from Dorset County Council (Agenda item 11 refers) and, in answer to concerns, the Assistant Town Clerk explained that the Planning Officer at Dorset County Council was in discussion with Natural England and the Environment Agency, particularly regarding the proximity of the proposed works to waterways.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the consultation be noted; and
- (2) that no objections be raised to the proposals

(David Recardo wished that his abstention from voting on this matter be noted).

8/529 **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 November 2014
17 November 2014

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee

10 November 2014

It was reported that the next Play Area Upgrade in the rolling programme of play area improvements would be Kingston View Play Area and it was requested by SSDC that the Town Council's 50% contribution towards the project fund be £10,000, with the District Council contributing £10,000 to the revised total budget of £20,000.

Promotions and Activities Committee

11 November 2014

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee

18 November 2014

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee

25 November 2014

RESOLVED

- (1) that the minutes from the above meetings be noted; and
- (2) that approval in principle be given to the inclusion of the Town Council's 50% contribution of £10,000 towards the overall £20,000 budget required for Kingston View Play Area Upgrade and that the final approval for this revised sum be included in the adoption of the estimates set out in minute reference 8/525 (above) and the setting of the Town's precept for 2015/16 be at the February 2015 meeting of the Town Council

8/530 **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

13 October 2014

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

Dave Dollard reported that he had attended a South Somerset Together Housing meeting and that he would answer any questions.

Alan Smith reported that he had attended a Somerset Schools Forum meeting and reported on 'Somerset Challenge' – a project involving all secondary schools regarding co-operative and collaborative learning and improvement in 'families' of schools.

David Recardo reported that he had attended the Yeovil Town Team meeting and gave an overview of the Christmas Light Switch On, which took place on Saturday 15 November, was well received by public and traders alike, and was very well attended. The event was project managed by an events organiser, who was employed by the Town Team and as a result the day ran smoothly. It included Saturday market traders, a lantern parade (lanterns made by children in workshops leading up to the event) and entertainment which was organised by the Town Team and Yeovil College.

Following the event, the Quedam Shopping Centre had reported that footfall was up by 12% on the day, and a survey carried out by the Town Team recorded the following information from stores who responded:

- 82% agreed the lantern parade was good
- 100% reported that the free parking offer was beneficial
- 55% saw higher trading performance on switch on week in 2014 than the equivalent week in 2013
- a general increase in trade on the day

Thanks were extended to all the partners who participated in the day, including the Town Council for the lights, the District Council for the period of free parking, the Quedam for their free parking and arranging the physical switching on side, and all the performers who did a great job with the end result on the day being "an eventful and great day for all". In answer to a query regarding the time delay between the lantern parade and the actual switch on of the lights, David Recardo explained that this point had been raised and would be addressed should the lantern parade be repeated next year.

Manny Roper as the Council's representative Tree Warden raised concerns regarding the maintenance of trees in the parks around the Town and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the District Council's arboriculturalist.

8/531 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

8/532 **MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

The Mayor took the opportunity to wish all Members and Officers the compliments of the season.