



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
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Yeovil
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Mayor : Cllr D Recardo
Town Clerk : Amanda Card CPFA, PSLCC, BA (Hons), BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the virtual meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 4th August 2020 at 7.30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Present: Cllrs D Recardo (Chairman and Mayor); O Darling-Finan (from 7:23pm) J Dash; N Gage; K Gill; D Gubbins; P Gubbins; G Hunting; K Hussain; A Kendall; T Ledlie; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; G Oakes; W Read; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland and H Stonier.

In Attendance: A Card (Town Clerk); Rev J Pearce (Mayor's Chaplain); M Beales BEM (co-opted Councillor candidate).

There was four members of the public and one member of the press present.

Rev J Pearce (the Mayor's Chaplain) gave a blessing.

Public Comment

7:39pm *The meeting commenced.*

10/108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Council to receive apologies for absence and consider the reasons given. *LGA 1972 s85(1)*
Apologies were received from: J Lowery (conflicting engagement); S Lowery (conflicting engagement); and E Potts-Jones (family commitments).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

10/109 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

Cllr D Recardo declared in a personal interest in 10/111 – Co-option Yeovil College Ward, in that he was a friend of one of the candidates, so would be abstaining from the vote.

10/110 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 7th July 2020.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 7th July 2020 and that they be signed as a correct record at the next appropriate opportunity.

10/111 CO-OPTION – YEOVIL COLLEGE

Members to consider the report of the Town Clerk regarding the Co-option for the Yeovil College Ward. The Town Clerk updated Council, that Mr Robert Wood had withdrawn his application due to personal reasons. She confirmed that there were now just two candidates: Michael Beales BME and Olivia Darling-Finan. Each candidate spoke to support their application. Both candidates were proposed by Cllr G Oakes and seconded by Cllr R Stickland. A vote was then taken on the two nominations.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that Olivia Darling-Finan be co-opted onto the Town Council to represent Yeovil College Ward (*voting: 16 for O Darling-Finan; 1 for M Beales; 2 abstentions*).

Olivia Darling-Finan, who attended the meeting, thanked the Council and made a verbal Declaration of Acceptance of Office, (The Declaration of Acceptance of Office will be signed at the next appropriate opportunity).

10/112 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLVED: to note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming appointments and engagements with the correction as mentioned above.

10/113 REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS & RESOLUTIONS FROM COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Planning Committee – 13th July 2020

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. There were no questions.

Promotions and Activities Committee – 14th July 2020

Presented by Cllr Wes Read. There were no questions.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 6th July 2020

Presented by Cllr Andy Kendall. A question was asked regarding the marketing of the allotments. The Town Clerk clarified that all but 11 plots were let, and the majority of those unlet were on the Elizabeth Flats site and were in the process of being viewed. She pointed out that the current position of vacant plots was the best that she had seen in her time at Yeovil Town Council. She added that interest in the allotments had picked up since COVID-19.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 21st July 2020

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. There were no questions.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 28th July 2020

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. There were no questions.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above Committee be accepted together with any resolutions and recommendations contained therein.

10/114 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

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

There were no reports from any outside body.

10/115 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2019/20

Members considered the report by the Town Clerk and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019/20. She informed Council that the Internal Auditor had been and that there were some amendments to the AGAR, which she had sent to Councillors earlier that day and highlighted at the meeting.

The amended AGAR 2019/20 has been attached to the end of these minutes.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) that Council approve the annual governance statement; and that the Chairman sign the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 at his earliest convenience; (3) that Council approve the Accounting Statements 2019/20; and that the Chairman sign at his earliest convenience, to confirm that these accounting statements were approved; (4) that Council note that the outcome of the External auditor certificate and report 2019/20 be brought to Council on completion; (5) that Council note the outcome of the Internal auditor certificate 2019/20; and (6) that Council note that the required inspection and notice procedures will be followed.

10/116 STANDING ORDERS

Members considered the recommendation from Policy, Resources and Finance to the amended for Standing Order 4 (d) (xi).

RESOLVED: that Standing Order 4 (d) (xi) be amended to read: *“A Committee will reflect the political balance of the Council (for the purposes of political balance, Independent members will be classified as a group assuming the same affiliation)”*.

10/117 FORWARD PLAN

Members requested that a report regarding the Council's approach during COVID-19 be submitted for the meeting to be held on 1st September 2020.

The Town Clerk would continue to liaise with the organisations listed within the agenda for a representative to give a presentation at their earliest convenience to Town Council.

RESOLVED: (1) to approve the forward plan; and (2) that a report regarding the Council's approach during COVID-19 be submitted for the meeting to be held on 1st September 2020.

Public Comment

There were no public.

The meeting closed at 8:23pm.

Signed:

Date: