



Yeovil Town Council

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Mayor : Cllr D Recardo
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Minutes of the virtual meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 7.30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Present: Cllrs D Recardo (Chairman and Mayor); J Dash; N Gage; K Gill; D Gubbins; G Hunting; A Kendall; T Ledlie; T Lock; J Lowery (until 7:43pm); S Lowery; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; R Stickland and H Stonier.

In Attendance: A Card (Town Clerk); H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk); M Willcox (Director of Youth and Community, YMCA Mendip); Rev J Pearce and Cllr V Keitch (Leader of South Somerset District Council).

There was no members of the public and one member of the press present.

Prior to the meeting, Rev J Pearce led words of reflection and a minute's silence for the sad passing of Lee Collins from Yeovil Town Football Club.

The Mayor, Cllr D Recardo also remembered and paid tribute to Lee Collins. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment

Mark Willcox (Director of Youth and Community, YMCA Mendip) gave a presentation about the provision of Youth Services in Yeovil. Yeovil Town Council commission YMCA Mendip to provide Youth Services in the form of Youth Clubs and outreach.

He explained how Youth work had changed across Yeovil. Physical Youth Clubs had to be temporarily closed due to COVID-19 and virtual and on-line deliver began. YMCA Mendip promoted mental and physical wellbeing and continued to care, safeguard and signpost young people to relevant agencies. As COVID-19 legislation allowed, YMCA Mendip started outreach sessions focussing on Milford and Westfield areas, Mudford Rec and the town centre. The identified two major concerns – the risk of child exploitation and lack of COVID compliance. Following some questions from Councillors, it was expressed by Mr Willcox that he felt that more Youth provision was needed throughout Yeovil. He stated that there had been a decrease in engagement, and this was a national picture, and it was mostly to do with consent.

Members thanks Mark Willcox for the very informative presentation and agreed what an excellent job the service did – especially in these difficult times.

8:03pm - Mark Willcox (Director of Youth and Community, YMCA Mendip) left the meeting and did not return. The meeting commenced.

10/156 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: Cllrs O Darling-Finan (work commitment); P Gubbins (conflicting engagement); K Hussain (work commitment); M Lock (conflicting engagement); P Lock (conflicting engagement); A Sought (personal); and R Spinner (work commitment).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

10/157 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).

Cllrs D Recardo; K Gill; D Gubbins; A Kendall; T Lock; W Read and R Stickland declared a personal interest in 10/164 Somerset Unitarisation in that they were all District Councillors.

10/158 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2021.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 2nd February 2021 and that they be signed as a correct record at the next appropriate opportunity.

10/159 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr David Recardo explained the background for the commemoration for the 80th Anniversary of the death of Charles Gillard – a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service.

He told members that he was no longer contactable on his landline and should anyone want to contact him, they must do so on his mobile.

RESOLVED: to note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming appointments and engagements.

10/160 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 15th February 2021 / 15th March 2021.

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. There were no questions.

Promotions and Activities Committee – 9th March 2021.

This meeting was not held due to the lack of business to transact.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 8th March 2021.

Presented by Cllr Andrew Kendall. There were no questions.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 16th March 2021.

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. There were no questions.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 30th March 2021.

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. He also updated Council regarding the contribution of £21,000 that had been made to the 3 secondary schools in Yeovil for the purchases of IT equipment to assist home schooling and referred to the feedback received from the schools. There were no questions. He invited the Town Clerk to talk about the requirement to re-visit the need for a webcam in the Council Chamber. The Town Clerk explained that she would be utilising standing orders to make an urgent decision to be able to purchase a high spec web cam for the Council Chamber. This would satisfy the ability for the public to exercise their democratic right to be able to attend meetings virtually whilst satisfying the need to maintain social distancing for members who after 6th May 2021 would have to attend face-to-face meeting. A high spec web cam would enable “hybrid meetings” which has been referred to in guidance issued by Central Government.

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

10/162 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.

10/163 MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Council considered nominations for the office of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

It was proposed by Cllr D Recardo, seconded by Cllr G Hunting that Cllr E Potts-Jones be nominated for the office of Town Mayor. It was proposed by Cllr T Lock, seconded by Cllr K Gill and that Cllr A Kendall be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

The election of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council which will be held on 4th May 2021.

RESOLVED: that Cllr E Potts-Jones be nominated for the office of Town Mayor and that Cllr A Kendall be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

10/164 INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

RESOLVED: (1) that the minutes of the Council meeting of 01/12/20 refer in error at minute 10/41 to the approval of the minutes of 03/11/20. The minute number should have been

10/141; and (2) Minute 10/154 of the Council meeting of 07/02/21 refers to the approval of the 20/21 precept in error. The minute should refer to the 21/22 precept.

10/165 SOMERSET UNITARISATION

Members considered how the Town Council would respond to the Secretary of State's consultation regarding the proposal for a unitary local government. It was suggested that a vote be taken as to the preferred proposal; either the proposal for two unitary councils as proposed by the District Councils or the proposal for one unitary council from Somerset County Council. The Mayor, the Leader and the Town Clerk would formulate a response based on the preferred proposal.

Cllr T Lock also brought to the attention of Members that each District Council will be putting forward to their respective Councils to hold a local referendum on local Government reform. This will ensure that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) are informed about which of the two options local people support.

It was proposed and seconded that the proposal for two unitary councils be supported by Yeovil Town Council. A named vote was requested.

RESOLVED: (1) to agree that Yeovil Town Council support the proposal for two unitary councils in Somerset; (*Voting: 14 for; 1 against and 1 abstention*) *; (2) that the Mayor, the Leader and the Town Clerk would formulate a response based on this preferred proposal; and (3) Members to forward any additional comments to the Town Clerk.

** For (Cllrs D Recardo; H Stonier; J Dash; K Gill; D Gubbins; G Hunting; A Kendall; T Lock; S Lowery; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards and R Stickland); Against (Cllr N Gage); Abstention (Cllr T Ledlie).*

10/156 FORWARD PLAN

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. Suggestions were made to include the Octagon Theatre update and a Country Park Update.

RESOLVED: to approve the forward plan with the above-mentioned inclusions.

Public Comment

A comment was made from the member of the press regarding confidential items.

The Mayor thanked Council for their attendance and support through out the year and Members congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The meeting closed at 8:48pm.

Signed:

Date: