



# Yeovil Town Council

Town House  
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Mayor : Cllr D Recardo  
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**Minutes of the virtual meeting of Yeovil Town Council (Special Meeting) held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 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; P Gubbins; G Hunting; A Kendall; T Ledlie; M Lock; P Lock; T Lock; G Oakes (from 7:35pm); E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland and H Stonier.

**In Attendance:** A Card (Town Clerk); Cllr V Keitch (Leader of South Somerset District Council); A Parmley (Chief Executive of South Somerset District Council) and J Gamon (Project Officer – Stronger Somerset).

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

## **Public Comment**

There were no public.

*7:30pm The meeting commenced.*

## **10/127 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: O Darling-Finan (conflicting engagement); J Lowery (conflicting engagement) and S Lowery (conflicting engagement)..

**RESOLVED:** to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

## **10/128 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).

There were no declarations at this time.

## **10/129 STRONGER SOMERSET**

The Mayor, Cllr D Recardo introduced both Cllr V Keitch (Leader of South Somerset District Council); A Parmley (Chief Executive of South Somerset District Council).

Cllr V Keitch introduced the Stronger Somerset proposal of two Unitary Authorities. She stated that the proposal was a reform of Local Government not just a re-organisation.

The Chief Executive from Somerset District Council gave more detail about the proposal. The two Unitary Authorities would be Somerset East (Mendip and South Somerset) and Somerset West Sedgemoor and Somerset West and Taunton). The approach was described as being very different to One Somerset, as it was an approach that adopted leading practices around reform to make a tangible difference to services and quality of life by collaborating as part of an ecosystem – councils, communities and other service providers. The proposal focused on a stronger democratic representation, stronger place leadership, people and the economy and highlighted the four priorities of reforming care, enabling communities working together and collectively driving growth. Stronger Somerset provides opportunities for Towns and Parishes to develop ambitions for taking on more responsibilities.

The timetable for the process was given. The Outline Business Case need to be submitted to the Secretary of State by mid-September 2020. There would be public consultations before Christmas with a decision likely in the new year. The Shadow Authorities (elected members and officers) would be in place by April 2021. In April 2022, the 5 Councils will dissolve, and the 2 Unitary Authorities formed. Elections would take place in May 2022.

There was opportunity for the Councillors to ask questions.

The Mayor thanked the representatives from South Somerset District Council for their attendance.

## **Public Comment**

There were no public.

The meeting closed at 8:49pm.

Signed:

Date: