

Yeovil Town Council



Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Yeovil Town Council

Yeovil Town Council

Tuesday 5th September 2023

7:30pm

Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact town.clerk@yeovil.gov.uk.

Amanda Card, Town Clerk
30th August 2023

This information is also available on our website: www.yeovil.gov.uk

Members of Yeovil Town Council are summoned to attend:

Andy Kendall – Mayor of Yeovil Town

Emma-Jayne Hopkins – Deputy Mayor of Yeovil Town

Barry Boyton

Graham Oakes

Jade Cabell

Evie Potts-Jones

Tareth Casey

Wes Read

Kayleigh Fieldsend

Ashley Richards

Nigel Gage

Jeny Snell

Karl Gill

Andy Soughton

Kaysar Hussain

Roy Spinner

Tony Lock

Rob Stickland

Jamie Lock

Helen Stonier

Sarah Lowery

Liam Watts

Jane Lowery

Dave Woan

Public Comments at meetings

Members of the public may attend the meeting either physically or via zoom.

If you would like to join the meeting via zoom, please e-mail ytic@yeovil.gov.uk by 9:00am on 30th August 2023. Instructions will be sent to you to view the meeting.

Equality Act 2010

The general public sector equality duty places an obligation on a wide range of public bodies (including town and parish councils) in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

The protected characteristics are:

Age	Race
Disability	Religion or Belief
Gender Reassignment	Sex
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Sexual Orientation
Pregnancy and Maternity	

Recording of Council Meetings

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 allows both the public and press to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media).

Any member of the public wishing to record or film proceedings must let the Chairman of the meeting know prior to, or at the start of, the meeting and the recording must be overt (i.e. clearly visible to anyone at the meeting), but non-disruptive. Please refer to our Policy on audio/visual recording and photography at Council meetings at www.yeovil.gov.uk. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during the time allocated for Public Comment who do not wish to be recorded or filmed, need to inform the Chairman who will instruct those taking a recording or filming to cease doing so while they speak.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Members are invited to join the Mayor's Chaplain in the Council Chamber for "Reflections".

A G E N D A

Public Comment (15 Minutes)

11/100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Council to receive apologies for absence and consider the reasons given. LGA 1972 s85(1)

11/101 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).

11/102 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 27th June 2023.

11/103 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To note the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming engagements as attached at page 3.

11/104 CORRESPONDENCE

To consider the correspondence attached at pages 4 to 7.

11/105 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

To note the meetings of each Committee, any resolutions and recommendations contained therein to be ratified.

Planning Committee – 17th July 2023 / 14th August 2023
Presented by Cllr Jeny Snell / Cllr E Potts-Jones

Promotions and Activities Committee – 11th July 2023.
Presented by Cllr Sarah Lowery

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 10th July 2023.
Presented by Cllr Roy Spinner

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 18th July 2023.

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 25th July 2023.

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes

11/106 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members who represent the Town Council on outside bodies should take this opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

- Local Community Network - Yeovil – 7th August 2023 (minutes previously circulated).
- Westfield Community Association – 8th June 2023 (minutes previously circulated).
- Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee – 12th July 2023 (minutes previously circulated).

11/107 MOTION FROM CLLR D WOAN

Notice of motion received from Cllr D Woan on 1st August 2023: *Standing Orders s9* as attached at page 8.

11/108 FORWARD PLAN

To consider the Forward Plan as attached at page 9, lists the items due to be discussed and the decisions due to be made by Yeovil Town Council.

The timings given are indicative and occasionally may be rescheduled and new items added as required.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that Yeovil Town Council approve the Forward Plan.

Public Comment (15 Minutes)

List of Engagements attended/to be attended by the Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Andy Kendall and the Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins from 1 August 2023 to 3 October 2023.

<u>August Engagements</u>	
05/08/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins attended the production of Growing Pains by Project Dance
06/08/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins attended Weymouth Town Council Civic Service
07/08/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins attended Yeovil Book Club
19/08/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins attended The Shire at Crockermoor Farm for the Fundraising Event
22/08/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins attended Leonardo Celebration event of Home of British Helicopters
<u>September Engagements</u>	
16/09/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins will attend Super Saturday
23/09/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins will attend Axbridge Blackberry Carnival
24/09/2023	- The Deputy Mayor of Yeovil, Councillor Emma-Jayne Hopkins will attend the installation of The Reverend DR Megan Daffern at Wells Cathedral

Dear Amanda,

I am urgently writing to you and your fellow councillor's for help and support towards the protection of bus services in and out of this town.

There is no denying that the town has undergone some very intensive reconstruction work and that this has significantly affected patronage on both our town service but also our interconnecting services to other towns. In August First Buses of Somerset stated that due to low passenger numbers they would be making adjustments to our services which begin on the 3rd of September. these changes has meant implementing further cuts to our town 51 service decreasing the frequency meaning waiting time gone from 30 minutes to 45 minutes all day Saturday, and 45 minutes before 9.00 am weekdays.. affecting all those who travel to work by bus making things very difficult to arrive on time. Also Saturdays is the one day of the week that people have the opportunity to travel socially. I very much disagree with this decision sighting that Yeovil has a unique set of circumstances at present and not just of passenger apathy!

However, this week another serious announcement has been made by Somerset Council (*please see below*) of 4 further services under threat.. these have been given a life line by Somerset Council by using the BSIP + monies until March 2024. and they desperate need for passengers to increase or these will be lost!

Two of the four routes highlighted are major bus routes in Yeovil.. The 54, Yeovil to Taunton, and The 58 Yeovil to Wincanton.. These are crucial to the connectivity and employment of this town and the ability to travel. Taunton is the county town it is vital that this town is connected for so many reasons the hospital being just one reason, Whilst Wincanton is dependant on this town being the main connection to YDH and employment, and it serves many smaller villages who depend on this to get to local Drs, food supply's as well as the college and education.

To top this off I also want to raise that i have very high concerns that given the closure of the Bridgwater Depot and previously Southampton depot (also run under the same management team), for the future of Yeovil's, and if these routes are undertreat they will pull out completely! I wish i could say there is no evidence behind these concerns but sadly there is, Which is why i am writing to you and the Council Now .. So that you are aware of the situation and so that you can help me speak out to protect this town and its people.

We are the Second largest Town in Somerset and to be in this position of having our buses taken away is horrifying and if so we really will have a major crisis on our hands as a town.. Employment, Job Prospects, Education, Hospital and Health care, Social welfare, and the Growth and economy of this town.. We will have a Yeovil Refresh but no one will be able to enjoy it.. and the value of this town will depreciate due to poor public transport and connectivity.

Amanda, this is really really worrying news:, I have been campaigning for over a year for better services and the towns folk want Sundays evening and better frequency, we are being dealt the opposite and loosing more and more. We need to be addressing this now to safe guard the buses future and i appeal to the town council for Support and help in using the elected power within this town to emphase the urgency and seriousness of loosing these routes and the depot at Somerset county level!

On behalf of Bus Passenger of this town and surrounding areas please help!

The Kindest Regard

Linda Snelling
Lead of Yeovil Bus Users Group
Member of Somerset Bus Partnership



Somerset
Council

Press release

For immediate release

Council stop gap to protect key bus routes in Somerset

Four bus services in the county are to be subsidised by Somerset Council to safeguard their future until spring.

The Council is stepping in to ensure bus services with low passenger numbers can continue as they are until the end of March.

The following services all require additional financial support, which the Council can provide temporarily thanks to the Government's Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus funding (BSIP Plus).

- 54 Yeovil to Taunton
- 58/58a Yeovil to Wincanton
- 25 Taunton to Dulverton
- 28 Taunton to Minehead

Somerset Council will be working with bus operator First South to encourage more passengers to use the routes as part of its ongoing Bus It campaign, with the aim of making the routes financially viable. First South has signalled it will review the routes later in the year, taking into account new data on passenger uptake.

Somerset Council's Lead Member for Transport and Digital, Councillor Mike Rigby said: "We want to get the message to people that using the bus for commuting or leisure can save you money and hassle – the 54 is your service from Yeovil to Taunton, and it costs just £2 each way. That's incredible value when you compare making the same journey by car – think of the savings you could make just by using it a couple of days a week.

“All these routes link key towns and many village communities in between, but simply not enough people are using them. Unless more people bus it, it is unlikely any commercial operator will be able to run these services without subsidy.

“The unfortunate reality is that in the current financial climate the council will not be able to subsidise them indefinitely and that inevitably means people need to use their buses or lose them.

“We’ve shown we can get more people onto buses on key routes if we get the message out there, and that is what we will continue to do.

“Whether you’re heading to Minehead for a day, commuting from Watchet to Taunton or travelling from Yeovil to Wincanton, it has to be worth your while to think about the savings you can make, and the convenience of not having to use your car.

“It’s close to a 50-mile round trip from Taunton to Minehead for just £4 on the 28. What else can you buy for £4 these days that offers that kind of value?

“We’ll be drumming home that message over the coming months and trying to persuade more people to Bus It on these routes and across Somerset.”

Somerset Council and the Somerset Bus Partnership launched the ‘Bus It’ campaign last summer to try and encourage more people to ‘Bus It’. You can find out more about it here, along with the various initiatives: [Bus it – You know it makes sense \(somerset.gov.uk\)](http://somerset.gov.uk).

Figures show that bus use has increased by 14 per cent across the county in the last year and 24 per cent in Taunton thanks to initiatives such as fare capping and the Bus It campaign.

To plan your journey on these and all Somerset bus routes visit our Think Travel portal: [Think Travel : Homepage](#)

Roads Minister Richard Holden said: “People up and down the country deserve a clean, reliable, and affordable public transport system. That is why we have provided Somerset Council with over £12 million to boost and retain its bus services.

“Supporting the Council to retain these vital services is fantastic for local residents, who will be able to continue get to work, attend medical appointments and visit loved ones for less and more easily.”

Sir,

I notice with interest that Hull has just granted the Freedom of the City to all Falklands Veterans that live in the city.

With RNAS Yeovilton nearby, there are many Fleet Air Arm Falklands Veterans that live nearby. Do you not think that it was be fitting for these fine folk (myself included) to be granted the Freedom of Yeovil?

Many thanks.

Phil Thornton
(Resident at BA21 3UJ)

11/107

MOTION FROM CLLR D WOAN

Notice of motion received from Cllr D Woan on 1st August 2023. Standing Order s9:

As a Yeovil born and raised businessperson, and between 2015 and 2022 as the business representative for Yeovil, as well as chair of Love Yeovil from 2017 to 2022, I have been directly involved in promoting Yeovil, and in particular its' economic development and business community out across the South Somerset area. In 2022 I stood down from these roles and became an elected member at Town and County level. These new positions, and particularly, my Economic Development responsibilities at Somerset Council Economic, allows me to proudly continue championing Yeovil; to create and deliver employment and commercial opportunity for the town.

Over the years and in my daily, formal, and informal dialogues with stakeholders across the town, I am aware that the Town Council lacks a formal engagement process with commercial stakeholders in the town. If it were not for the businesspeople who set up here, Yeovil would still be a village. My experience has shown that a holistic whole-town mindset, and joined-up, open conversations are key to delivering longer-term prosperity - in any town. We as a Town Council, must recognise these facts. As stewards of Yeovil, and as such, a key stakeholder in the town, the Town Council needs to become more progressive and pro-active with the commercial and business community, for the mutual benefit of all who live and work in Yeovil.

In my weekly travels across the County, in my Economic Development role, I am witnessing first-hand the benefits of all the stakeholders in a town pulling together. To seize opportunity such as I am witnessing in Taunton and Bridgwater, Yeovil Town Council needs to reach out and work with those engaged in trade and commerce, who help our town grow and prosper. Indeed it was Alderman Mitchelmore, who in January 1920 proposed and oversaw the formation of Yeovil Chamber of Commerce, and as their President I oversaw the 2020 centenary celebration. Therefore, and to take the legacy of Alderman Mitchelmore and secure the future prosperity of Yeovil to the next level, I am proposing that Yeovil Town Council calls for, and participates in, a new town centre group, to engage and work with commercial stakeholders in the town, and with business representative bodies (initially: Town Council, Quedam, Chamber, Love Yeovil, College*), located across and covering the Yeovil Town Council geographical area of responsibility.

**Yeovil College represents the skill/apprenticeship training for 300+ local employers and is a key stakeholder in employment delivery and business engagement across the town.*

Date	Item
3 rd October 2023	Reserve Date
17 th October 2023	Budget Setting Workshop
7 th November 2023	Reports and Recommendations from Council's Committees: Planning – 18 th September 2023 / 16 th October 2023 Grounds and General Maintenance – 11 th September 2023 Promotions and Activities – 12 th September 2023 Buildings and Civic Matters – 19 th September 2023 Policy, Resources and Finance – 26 th September 2023
12 th November 2023	Remembrance Sunday
5 th December 2023	Draft Budget 2024/25 Reports and Recommendations from Council's Committees: Planning – 20 th November 2023 Grounds and General Maintenance – 13 th November 2023 Promotions and Activities – 14 th November 2023 Buildings and Civic Matters – 21 st November 2023 Policy, Resources and Finance – 28 th November 2023
23 rd January 2024	Budget 2024/25 Risk Strategy Programme of Meeting 2024/25 Mayor Elect/Deputy Mayor Elect Reports and Recommendations from Council's Committees: Planning – 11 th December 2023 Grounds and General Maintenance – 8 th January 2024 Promotions and Activities – 9 th January 2024 Buildings and Civic Matters – 15 th January 2024 Policy, Resources and Finance – 16 th January 2024
5 th March 2024	Reserve Date
2 nd April 2024	Mayor Elect/Deputy Mayor Elect Reports and Recommendations from Council's Committees: Planning – 22 nd January 2024 / 12 th February 2024 / 18 th March 2024 Grounds and General Maintenance – 11 th March 2024 Promotions and Activities – 12 th March 2024 Buildings and Civic Matters – 19 th March 2024 Policy, Resources and Finance – 26 th March 2024

Members have requested presentations from:

- Ambulance Service
- Fire Brigade

We are awaiting responses from these organisations.