



Yeovil Town Council

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Mayor: Cllr A Kendall,
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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Buildings & Civic Matters Committee 10th September 2024 at 7.00pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present (in person): Cllrs R Stickland (Chair); T Casey; K Gill; A Kendall; T Lock; J Lowery; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Soughton and H Stonier.

In Attendance (in person): Cllrs A Wilkes (Abbey Manor South Ward) and D Woan (Yeovil College Ward); A Card (Chief Executive / Town Clerk); H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk); C Bray (Community Ambassador) and D Fahey (Community Ambassador).

In Attendance (virtually): Cllr A Richards (Wyndham Hill Ward).

There was one member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

Sergeant Josh Rutter attended the meeting and gave an update regarding the Yeovil Neighbourhood team. The team had been present in the town centre that day, engaging with the retail premises and offering advice around anti-social behaviour and crime reporting. The Community Ambassadors had supported this. There are now QR codes which businesses can use to report incidents of shop lifting and anti-social behaviour, and how to provide CCTV evidence. This will enable the police to have a more accurate view of the crime that is in the town. *The QR code information has since been distributed to the Councillors.* In addition, the day of action led to one arrest, some dispersals and some ASB letters being issued.

The issue of PSPOs (Public Spaces Protection Orders) was raised. Sergeant Rutter's understanding was that the onus of enforcement was on the Council whilst the police could assist in enforcement. The Chair commented that the PSPOs were put in place by the former South Somerset District Council, and Somerset Council would not have the resources to enforce and he would hope that the police would be able to assist in the enforcement and use the PSPOs to their advantage. Sergeant Rutter said that decision would need to be made by someone more superior, but he would take that back for clarification.

Some specific issues were raised with Sergeant Rutter and he said that he was happy for the Councillors to contact him direct. *His contact details have been distributed to Councillors.*

Cllr A Wilkes raised concerns with the timescales required to hire out Milford Hall. Further consideration will be given to the process in due course.

7:22pm – The meeting commenced.

11/175 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Cllr A Richards (personal)*

**Legislation requires that Councillors need to be physically present at the meeting to be shown as present. If a Councillor is unable to attend in person but can attend virtually, then apologies for absence should be given.*

11/176 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Lowery declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/184 – Westlands Entertainment Venue Temporary Fire Escape (Confidential), in that her daughter was an employee of Westlands Entertainment Venue.

11/177 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 14th May 2024 and 21st May 2024.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings held on 14th May 2024 and 21st May 2024 by the Chair as a correct record.

11/178 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

The Town Clerk announced that the 15th defibrillator situated at Yeovil Recreation Centre had been transferred in the devolution package. The defibrillators have now been accessed 59 times.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/179 COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

The Chair stated that a Community Ambassador update would be a regular agenda item for this Committee and he introduced Claire Bray and David Fahey. The Committee considered the report of the Community Ambassadors regarding their role, progress and actions carried out to date. The reported also highlighted the aims of the roles going forward.

Councillors asked some questions of the Community Ambassadors to which they answered. The Community Ambassadors explained that they would also be working with the various communities outside of the town centre to assist in preventative measures which supported a proactive approach. It was confirmed that the Community Ambassadors were not there to duplicate services but to signpost the community to the various agencies. They have both undertaken some youth engagement training to be able to work and support the youth provisions which are funded by the Town Council. Excellent relationships have also been developed with the police.

The Chair thanked the Community Ambassadors for their report and their attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

7:42pm – Cllr W Read left the room.

7:42pm – The Community Ambassadors left the meeting and did not return.

7:44pm – Cllr W Read returned to the meeting.

11/180 ASHFORD GROVE SIGN

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) regarding the sign at Ashford Grove.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/181 PARKING IN YEOVIL

The Committee considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) regarding parking in Yeovil.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

7:48pm – The member of the press left the meeting and did not return.

11/182 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that publicity of agenda items 11/183 to 11/185 would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s3

11/183 CCTV INVOICE AND UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL)

Members considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) regarding the invoice for CCTV and Service Level Agreement for CCTV.

The Councillors thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her work on CCTV.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

**11/184 WESTLANDS ENTERTAINMENT VENUE TEMPORARY FIRE ESCAPE
(CONFIDENTIAL)**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) regarding the temporary fire escape at Westlands Entertainment Venue.

Discussions were held regarding the option of a permanent structure.

At this point, Cllr A Kendall; E Potts-Jones; W Read; and A Soughton declared a personal interest in the item as they were also Councillors at Somerset Council, since Yeovil Town Council sub-leased Westlands Entertainment Venue from Somerset Council.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) to investigate further and bring an update to a future Committee meeting.

7:59pm – Cllr J Lowery left the room.

8:01pm – Cllr J Lowery returned to the meeting.

11/185 COMMUNITY SAFETY (CONFIDENTIAL)

Members considered the verbal report of the Chief Executive / Town Clerk regarding the Community Ambassadors.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

The meeting closed at 8:38pm.

Signed:

Dated: