



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
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Mayor: Cllr A Kendall, Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), FCPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Buildings & Civic Matters Committee 15th January 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); K Gill; A Kendall; T Lock; W Read; A Richards; and A Soughton.

Present (virtual): Cllr E Potts-Jones (Grove Avenue Ward).

In Attendance (in person): Cllr A Wilkes (Abbey Manor South); A Card (Town Clerk); and H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk).

There was one member of the public present in person and one member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

The Town Clerk read out a statement from Inspector Rachel Clark:

“The team have welcomed several new staff of late which is a welcome start to the new year. Sergeant Joshua Rutter has replaced Daniel Crawford who has moved to work in Keynsham custody. Two new beat managers have also joined us from patrol, Matt Whelan (a former Yeovil PCSO) and Connor Davidson. Towards the end of last year, we also welcomed Chelsea Smalling to the PCSO team. Our numbers have increased (in our neighbourhood team) which gives us greater capability to focus on our engagement and problem solving, two key pillars of neighbourhood policing.

As Dan previously discussed, in November last year we had sufficient resources to trial a 12 week focus team concentrating on the demands in the town centre to try and reduce public order, violence, and theft and restore public confidence. Unfortunately, by Christmas, due to sickness, we had to pause our trial. I’m delighted to say that we are now able to continue again with the trial to best achieve our aims and objectives”

The member of the press asked what impact the removal of the CCTV cameras would have on policing.

7:06pm – The meeting commenced.

11/131 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies were received from Cllrs T Casey (unwell), N Gage (conflicting engagement); E Hopkins (family commitment) and J Snell (unwell).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations at this time.

11/133 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2023.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meetings held on 21st November 2023..

11/134 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – OCTOBER 2023 / NOVEMBER 2023

Members considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st October 2023 to 30th November 2023.

RESOLVED: that the Financial Statement for the period 1st October 2023 to 30th November 2023.

11/135 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding the defibrillator project.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that she would be giving a talk at a Tea Party hosted by Holy Trinity church.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/136 FINGERPOST RESORATION UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk regarding the restoration of the fingerpost on Dorchester Road. The Town Clerk commented that there had been positive feedback on social media regarding the post.

A question was raised concerning the finial at the top of the finger post which had SCC. The Town Clerk stated that they had requested that this be changed to YTC but the costs to cast this would be very expensive, especially since there was only one finger post in the parish of Yeovil.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/137 BLUE PLAQUE REQUEST

Members considered the report of the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) regarding a request for a blue plaque.

Members were reminded that the existing blue plaques were part of a project to commemorate the millennium.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) respond to the request stating that the original blue plaques were part of a project to commemorate the millennium and that there was no current project that required the identification of further site of historic interest.

11/138 NOTICEBOARDS UPDATE

Members considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk regarding the installation of the new noticeboards around the community and the noticeboard at Town House.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/139 MONMOUTH HALL SITE NOTICEBOARD INCIDENT

Members considered the report of the Assistant Town Clerk regarding the vandalism of the noticeboard on the Monmouth Hall site just one week after it was installed.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to an alternative material should the glass be vandalised again.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11/140 MACEBEARER

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the Macebearer had resigned. He had, however, agreed to continue volunteering at Town Council events.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the verbal report; and (2) to thank the Macebearer for his commitment to the role.

11/141 DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25

The Committee considered the draft budget for 2024/25. They recognised that there may be some changes as a result of the devolution of assets and services from Somerset Council.

RESOLVED: to agree and recommend the draft budget 2024/25 to Policy, Resources and Finance Committee, noting that there may be some amendments required as a result of the devolution of assets and service from Somerset Council.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7:32pm – the member of the public left the meeting and did not return.

11/142 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 11/143 to 11/145 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

11/143 COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS (CONFIDENTIAL)

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding the recruitment of two Community Ambassadors.

The key purposes of these roles will be:

- to assist in the delivery of the Community Safety functions and help promote the vibrancy of the town to visitors, engaging with the local businesses and community in Yeovil;
- to engage with local businesses, visitors, residents and partner agencies to identify issues and concerns in the area providing information and advice where necessary; and
- to work with partners (for example Yeovil Crime Reduction Team, police, housing, social care) and to problem solve, enforce and engage to find solutions to issues that reduce footfall and improve the perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour within the town of Yeovil.

The Town Clerk had written to the Police Crime Commissioner to enquire about further funding. A suggestion was made to write to Crime Stoppers for additional funding.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that the Town Clerk proceed with the recruitment of these two posts.

11/144 YEOVIL CRIME REDUCTION TEAM BRIEFING (CONFIDENTIAL)

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding a Members' briefing by Yeovil Crime Reduction Team and some "walk alongs" to join the Co-ordinator on patrol and experience daily patrols first hand.

It was suggested that although all members of the Council would be invited, that members of this Committee be given priority.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) to agree to a Members’ briefing and “walkalongs” for all Councillors, but Members of this Committee be given priority

11/145 CCTV IN YEOVIL (CONFIDENTIAL)

Members considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding CCTV in Yeovil.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that more investigation be carried out regarding the various options discussed

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Signed:

Dated: