



Yeovil Town Council

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Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA21 1PQ and by video-conference using Zoom meeting software.

Committee Members Present (in person): Cllrs R Spinner (Chairman); T Casey; E Jayne-Hopkins; A Kendall; J Lock; and A Richards.

Committee Members Present (virtually): Cllrs T Lock; and J Snell.

Also Present (in person): Cllr A Wilkes (Abbey Manor South Ward); and Mr M Roper.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk) and S Barnes (Locality Team Leader, Somerset Council).

Public Comment. There was one member of the press (virtually) and one member of the public present.

The member of the public explained that a resident was having issues with a tree on the corner of West Street, Yeovil. The Somerset Councillor for the area would be informed of the problem.

7.00pm – Meeting Commenced.

11/163. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Soughton (personal reasons). Apologies for absence were also received from Cllrs T Lock (personal reasons) and J Snell (personal reasons), although both Councillors were present virtually. (*LGA 1972 s85(1)*).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/164. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr M Roper declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/170 Feedback from Co-opted Non-Voting Member and 11/172 Milford Dip Allotment Site Sheds Correspondence due to his allotment tenancies with the Town Council.

No other declarations of interest were made at this time.

RESOLVED: that the declarations of interest be noted.

11/165. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th January 2024.

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on 8th January 2024 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

11/166. PLAY AREA REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENT REPORT

The Committee considered the report by the Locality Team Leader (Somerset Council). Steve Barnes also explained that the play area at Ninesprings had recently been refurbished and would be opening in the next few days. Steve highlighted that the fencing had been replaced at St John's play area and the fencing at Howard Road play area needed to be completely replaced. In answer to a query Steve explained that play equipment was being repaired in accordance with the safety inspections.

Concern was raised with regard to low retaining timber walls at Preston Park play area and it was confirmed that the matter would be investigated as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that Preston Park play area be checked as soon as possible.

7.14pm – Cllr J Lock left the meeting.

7.14pm – Mr S Barnes left the meeting and did not return.

7.16pm – Cllr J Lock returned to the meeting.

11/167. UPDATE ON REMOVAL OF SHELTER AT ROSEBERY AVENUE

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk and it was agreed that the situation be reviewed again in six months so that the impact over the summer months can also be assessed.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that the situation be reviewed again in a further six months.

11/168. ALLOTMENT LETTING/AVAILABILITY REPORT

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

11/169. FEEDBACK FROM YEOVIL ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Spinner explained that he had unfortunately not been able to attend the last meeting of the Yeovil Allotment Association, and that there was no meeting in March but that he would be attending the next one.

RESOLVED: that the matter be noted.

11/170. FEEDBACK FROM CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER

The Co-opted Non-voting member referred to the demolition of the sheds at Milford Dip Allotment site and requested that the area left be turned into car parking for the allotment tenants.

RESOLVED: that the feedback be noted.

11/171. ST GEORGE'S ALLOTMENT SITE TRACKWAY CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk and correspondence from a site tenant. The Chair explained that he had carried out a site visit with the Deputy Town Clerk and the condition of the trackway had been noted.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report and the correspondence be noted; and (2) that the trackway be monitored.

11/172. MILFORD ALLOTMENT SITE SHEDS CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk and the correspondence from site tenants. It was noted that the site was not suitable to be cultivated without further work and the Deputy Town Clerk was asked to confirm to the Committee members via email whether removal of the hardcore was included in the contract.

RESOLVED: (1) that the report and correspondence be noted; and (2) that the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee.

11/173. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – DECEMBER 2023 AND JANUARY 2024

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1st December 2023 to 31st January 2024.

RESOLVED: (1) that the Financial Statement for the period 1st December 2023 to 31st January 2024 be approved.

Public Comment. There were no comments from members of the press.

Mr M Roper, Co-opted, Non-Voting member explained that he felt that his comments had not been listened to and therefore resigned from his role on the Committee with immediate effect.

The member of the public explained that she had hoped the Committee would have supported the allotment holders. She added that they had been ignored the first time (removal of sheds) and felt that their requests for a skip and parking area should be supported.

Cllr Wilkes added that he had tried to get the Committee to see sense with regard to the sheds at Milford Dip and all he had done was support the residents and tenants.

7.33pm – Mr M Roper and the member of the public left the meeting and did not return.

7.33pmm – the member of the press left the meeting (virtually) and did not return.

11/174. 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 11/175 – 11/178 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

11/175. SUNNINGDALE DOORSTEP GREEN PATHWAY (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the report. The Deputy Town Clerk explained the situation with regard to the pathway and the Town Clerk reminded the Committee of the obligation to monitor as indicated by the insurance company.

7.54pmm – Cllr J Snell left the meeting (virtually) and did not return.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; and (2) that the Planning Authority and Building Control be asked to investigate the erection of a nearby building in the back garden of a Rosebery Avenue property to ascertain the impact the water run-off from the roof could have on the pathway; and (3) to erect signs alerting pedestrians of the uneven surface.

11/176. SUNNINGDALE DOORSTEP GREEN LIGHTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) to arrange for the faulty light to be repaired; and (3) to take no action on the rest of the lights.

11/177. TREE AT GOLDCROFT (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

11/178. GOLDCROFT MAINTENANCE (CONFIDENTIAL)

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) to take the tree down to stump level and remove any fence attached to it; and (3) to take no action on the remainder of the fence.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Signed: (Chairman)

Date: