



# Yeovil Town Council

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**Minutes of the hybrid meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 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; A Kendall; J Lock; T Lock; A Richards; A Soughton and J Snell.

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

**In Attendance (in person):** S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk) and L Ryder (Assistant Town Clerk).

**Public Comment.** There were no members of the press or public present.

**7.00pm** – Meeting Commenced.

## **11/148. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr E Hopkins (personal reasons). (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

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

## **11/149. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr M Roper declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/160 Milford Dip Sheds due to his allotment tenancies with the Town Council, however as this was a confidential item, Mr Roper would not be present during that agenda item.

No other declarations of interest were made at this time.

**RESOLVED:** that the declarations of interest be noted.

### **11/150. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Committee approved as a correct record the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Grounds and General Maintenance Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **11/151. ALLOTMENT LETTING/AVAILABILITY REPORT**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk. The Assistant Town Clerk explained that since the report, one additional plot had become available at Goar Knap Allotment site, and that regular social media posts were helping to keep public interest high and that there were fewer vacant plots than this time last year.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be noted.

### **11/152. 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, but that he would be attending the next one on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

**RESOLVED:** that the matter be noted.

### **11/153. FEEDBACK FROM CO-OPTED NON-VOTING MEMBER**

The Co-opted Non-voting member referred to the decision to be taken regarding the sheds at Milford Dip Allotment site and explained that the tenants did not feel that it is the correct time to either refurbish or demolish the sheds due to the demands on resources at the current time. He added that, if the sheds were to be refurbished, the tenants would not be able to afford to rent them. He would prefer that the tenants be given the opportunity to take responsibility for the sheds and carry out any remedial work on them themselves.

**RESOLVED:** that the feedback be noted.

### **11/154. WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT OFFICER FORUM**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk who summarised the meeting and explained that future communication between the officers would take place by telephone call and email. The Assistant Town Clerk answered queries from Councillors regarding comparison of fees, inspections and administration processes.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be noted.

**11/155. STANDING ORDERS, PARAGRAPH 4D(XIV) URGENT BUSINESS: TREE ADJACENT 19 PORTREEVE DRIVE**

The Committee considered the report by the Deputy Town Clerk and reported that unfortunately, due to the bad weather, the tree had not yet been taken down but the arborists had been contacted to make it a priority.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be noted.

**11/156. LARKHILL WATER**

The Committee considered the report by the Assistant Town Clerk who explained that she had persevered with the dispute with Water2business as it was apparent that the water usage was not in keeping with the previous bill, or the water usage from the previous year.

**RESOLVED:** (1) that the report be noted; and (2) that the Assistant Town Clerk be thanked for pursuing the matter and obtaining a refund.

**11/157. FINANCIAL STATEMENT – OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2023**

The Committee considered the Financial Statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**RESOLVED:** (1) that the Financial Statement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved; and (2) that it be recommended to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee that further payments to Somerset Council for Open Spaces: General, Open Spaces: Play Park Programme; Open Spaces: Country Park, Play and Landscape Officer, Play Area Enhancements and Community Heritage Officer should be assessed to ensure that the service being funded by Yeovil Town Council has been supplied.

**11/158. DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25**

The Committee considered the draft budget and as there was no further information regarding devolution available, no changes were made.

**RESOLVED:** that the draft Grounds and General Maintenance Budget be supported and referred to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee.

**Public Comment.** There were no members of the press or public present.

*7.39pm – Mr M Roper left the meeting and did not return.*

**11/159. 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 11/160 – 11/162 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

**11/160. MILFORD DIP SHEDS (CONFIDENTIAL)**

The Committee considered the confidential report by the Assistant Town Clerk and the letter received from the allotment tenants. Discussion then took place regarding the information outlined in the report and suggestions from Councillors.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the report; (2) that the sheds be demolished by Weaver Demolition as the chosen contractor; and (3) that the works be funded via underspend within the Grounds and General Maintenance budget if sufficient, and referred to the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee only if insufficient underspend can be found.

**11/161. BEST VALUE – OPEN SPACES (CONFIDENTIAL)**

No information from Somerset Council had been provided.

**11/162. SUNNINGDALE DOORSTEP GREEN PATHWAY (CONFIDENTIAL)**

The Deputy Town Clerk explained the situation with regard to the pathway.

**RESOLVED:** (1) to note the report; and (2) that further investigations by a surveyor be approved.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....