



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr A Kendall, Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), FCPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7:30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present: Cllrs A Kendall (in the chair); B Boyton; J Cabell; T Casey; K Gill; E Hopkins; T Lock; J Lock; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; A Wilkes and D Woan.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); L Ryder (Assistant Town Clerk); Cllr R White (Yeovil Westlands Ward); and Rev D Crouch.

There were 6 members of the public present in person. There were 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

Rev D Crouch gave his reflections.

A minute's silence was held for Robert Jones, who had sadly died. Mr Jones was a past Town Clerk of Yeovil Town Council.

The Mayor welcomed Cllr R White to the meeting.

A member of the public raised a question regarding who adopted the prior approval for planning. She enquired why the Town Council did not use the redaction process in the confidential meetings.

A Councillor suggested that all questions be submitted prior to the meeting. The Clerk confirmed that there was a Public Participation Policy and that policy would need to be reviewed.

A member of the public who represented South West Transport Network raised concerns about Somerset Council and the closure of the Bus Station toilets. He spoke of the responsibility of Somerset Council and the Bus Service Improvement Plan for which Somerset Council received funding.

The member of the press raised a query regarding the devolution of assets and the transfer of equipment to the Town Council. He also asked if any progress had been made with discussions with neighbouring councils. The Town Clerk provided a response.

7:25 pm The meeting commenced.

11/155 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

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

Apologies were received from Cllrs K Fieldsend (work commitments); S Lowery (conflicting engagement); and J Lowery (conflicting engagement).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/156 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).

Councillor	Reason	Interest
Cllr A Kendall Cllr T Lock Cllr G Oakes Cllr E Potts-Jones Cllr W Read Cllr J Snell Cllr A Soughton Cllr D Woan	Member of: Somerset Council	Personal

There were no other declarations at this time.

11/157 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meetings held on 5th March 2024.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 5th March 2024 be agreed.

11/158 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AND FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOLVED: to note the Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's recent and forthcoming appointments and engagements.

11/159 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

11/160 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 12th February 2024 / 18th March 2024

Presented by Cllr Evie Potts-Jones. The meeting held on 12th February 2024 was cancelled due to a lack of business to transact. An update of planning applications discussed at the meeting held on 18th March 2024 was given to Council. There were no questions.

Promotions and Activities Committee – 11th March 2024

Presented by Cllr Evie Potts-Jones. The Committee had received an update from Yeovil Art Space and agreed to renew the Service Level Agreement for a further 3 years. Cllr E Potts-Jones spoke of the two Super Saturdays (6th July and 21st September). She informed Councillors that the Eat:Festival would take place on 31st May, 21st September and 22nd November. Discussions had been held regarding the D Day Commemoration Beacon Lighting event which would take place on 6th June. Consideration was given to other events. There were no questions.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 12th March 2024

Presented by Cllr Royston Spinner. He reported that 96% of allotments were let. Reference was made to the Play Area report and the removal of the shelter at Roseberry Avenue which would reduce anti-social behaviour. Council were informed that the co-opted non-voting member had resigned. There were no questions.

8:00pm – Cllr J Lock left the meeting

8:04pm – Cllr J Lock returned to the meeting

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 19th March 2024

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. An update was given on defibrillators, parking issues in Yeovil and the recruitment of the Community Ambassadors. There were no further questions

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 26th March 2024

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. He spoke of the grant awards to Somerset Bus Partnership and Ron Homer (Yeovil Bowls Club). A presentation had been received from Yeovil4Families who had approached Yeovil Town Council for financial support, leading to the committee agreeing in principle to a Service Level Agreement. Cllr G Oakes spoke of the plans to increase the investment with CCLA. He also referred to the Devolution project and the appointment of Porter Dodson. Council were told that would be a separate Annual Town Meeting to enable the public to ask questions. The Committee had agreed to not take on the responsibility for

the Bus Station toilets but had agreed to contribute to the CCTV provision. A Councillor asked for further information regarding the investment. There were no other questions.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above Committees be noted together with any resolutions and recommendations contained therein to be ratified.

11/161 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Members who represent the Town Council on Outside Bodies were invited to take the opportunity to report on any matters of interest.

The Mayor, Cllr A Kendall spoke of a recent Yeovil Twinning Association meeting and that there would be a visit from Taunusstein, Yeovil's twin in Germany.

There were no other reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED: (1) to note that Cllr A Wilkes will represent the Council on Woborns Almshouse; and (2) to note the verbal report regarding Yeovil Twinning Association.

11/162 MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Council considered nominations for the office of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

It was proposed by Cllr E Potts, seconded by Cllr E Hopkins that Cllr A Kendall be nominated for the office of Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25. It was proposed by Cllr J Cabell, seconded by Cllr K Gill and that Cllr J Snell be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

The election of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council which will be held on 7th May 2024.

RESOLVED: that Cllr A Kendall be nominated for the office of Town Mayor and that Cllr J Snell be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

11/163 MATTERS ARISING FROM POLICY, RESOURCES AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

A Special Policy, Resources and Finance Committee will be held on 23rd April 2024 at 7pm.

RESOLVED: to note the update.

Public Comment

A member of the public asked if Yeovil Town Council would fund a judicial review from published financial reserves to challenge the reduction of stroke services in Yeovil. He also asked if the Council would consider the reintroducing the pressure jetting of the gulleys and drains on Mudford Road and Ilchester Road to deal with the pooling of water on the Fiveways Roundabout

A member of the public gave an update on the Integrated Care Board (ICB) meeting held last Thursday which lasted 11 minutes for the Yeovil Hyperacute Stroke Unit (HASU) to be closed by May 2025. He questioned how the Council would consider whether or not to consider a judicial review. He provided some statistics to the Council.

A Councillor raised that Cllr A Dance at Somerset Council had asked the Health Secretary to review the decision.

The member of the press asked if the Council would like members of the public to submit a written question prior to the Annual Town Meeting. The Town Clerk stated that this would be helpful if they wished to have an answer on the evening.

8:29pm – The members of the public and the member of the press left the meeting and did not return.

11/164 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 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

11/165 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The Council received a briefing from the Town Clerk regarding confidential items.

RESOLVED: to note the briefing.

Meeting closed at 8:53 pm.

Signed:

Date: