



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 5th March 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; T Casey; K Gill; K Hussain; T Lock; S Lowery; J Lowery; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Stickland; H Stonier; A Wilkes and D Woan.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); and S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk).

In Attendance (virtually): Cllr E Hopkins (Yeovil College); and Cllr H Stonier (Yeovil Westlands Ward).

There were 5 members of the public present in person. There were 5 members of the public and 1 member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

A member of the public referred to the minutes of the previous meeting where it was stated by the Leader of the Council, that the Town Council had enough information to set the budget allowing for Yeovil Town Council to take on services, including the South Somerset Heritage Collection. She raised a question regarding agenda item 11/153 Devolution of Assets and Services where the report identified that the Lufton Depot could now be sold and that the costs of an alternative location had not been factored into the budget. She claimed that valuable information was not made available before the budget setting. She felt that more information could be provided to the public and should not be kept in confidential.

She also asked for the Planning Committee to discuss in further detail the potential planning approval of Denners and the building on the corner of Princes Street and the High Street for conversion to flats, as she felt that the public were concerned about the number and types of shops coming into Yeovil.

She also asked what would happen to the sub-lease on Westlands Entertainment Venue if Somerset Council submitted a Section 114 notice.

The Leader of the Council responded, saying that the Council had to make decisions on the information that was available at the time, which he felt was sufficient. He stated that with regards to the lease, it would depend how far Yeovil Town Council were along in the process. The Town Clerk was asked by the Chair to respond and she commented that she had some updates to give on the agenda item Devolution of Assets and Services. The Chair of Planning reminded the public that Yeovil Town Council were just consultees. She also stated that anyone who has concerns should contact Somerset Council or post on the planning portal.

The next two speakers spoke about the closure of the bus station toilets and waiting room were to be closed with effect from 31st March 2024. They spoke about the impact it would have on several groups of people who needed access to the toilets. They felt that the lack of facilities could prevent people from coming into town. They have asked for Yeovil Town Council to help keep the facilities open.

7:44 pm The meeting commenced.

11/146 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 E Hopkins (personal reasons*); K Fieldsend (work commitments); W Read (conflicting engagement); R Spinner (personal reasons); and H Stonier (personal reasons*).

**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.*

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/147 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

Cllr S Lowery declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11/153 – Devolution of Assets and Services Update as she was an employee of the Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue.

Cllr J Lowery declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/153 – Devolution of Assets and Services Update in that her daughter was an employee of the Octagon Theatre and Westlands Entertainment Venue.

Cllr R Stickland declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/153 – Devolution of Assets and Services Update as he was the Chair of Yeovil Without Parish Council who was mentioned in the report. He stated that it was the Vice Chair that was partaking in discussions with Yeovil Town Council.

Cllr A Richards declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/154 – Motion from Cllr G Oakes as he had been involved in the steering group

Cllr A Soughton declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/154 – Motion from Cllr G Oakes as his wife works for Dorset Health Care.

Cllr B Boyton declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/154 – Motion from Cllr G Oakes as his wife works for NHS.

Cllr A Kendall declared a personal interest in agenda item 11/154 – Motion from Cllr G Oakes as he has received stroke care following his stroke.

11/148 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meetings held on 30th January 2024.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 30th January 2024 be agreed.

11/149 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.

11/150 CORRESPONDENCE

The Town Clerk read an email from a representative from South West Transport Network which raised concerns about the closure of the Bus Station Toilets and Waiting Room. He suggested that the Town Council take over the service.

Discussions were held about what the Council could do to help, if anything.

RESOLVED: that information be sought from Somerset Council and discussed by the Devolution and Organisation working party at its next meeting to see if there was anything the Council could do directly or indirectly to help the situation.

11/151 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.

- LCN Yeovil – 25th January 2024 (minutes previously circulated).

The following Outside Bodies seeks another representative from Yeovil Town Council:

- Woborns Almshouse (meets quarterly during the day)

There were no other reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the minutes of the Outside Bodies as mentioned above; (2) to note that Cllr H Stonier will represent the Council on the Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee; and (3) to note that Cllrs H Stonier and A Wilkes will represent the Council on Yeovil Recreation Charity.

11/152 MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Town Council.

8:03pm Two members of the public left the room and did not return.

8:03pm Cllr S Lowery left the room.

11/153 DEVOLUTION OF ASSETS AND SERVICES UPDATE

The Council considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding the devolution of assets and services.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal update about the latest situation with the Lufton Depot. She had now received assurances that it would not be sold in the near future. The Town Council will be looking to secure a licence or lease with Somerset Council, so that the collection may remain in the depot.

The Town Clerk is working closely with Somerset Council to ensure that if a Section 114 notice is given that the assets and the Town Council are safeguarded.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

8:11pm Cllr S Lowery returned to the room.

11/154 MOTION FROM CLLR G OAKES

Council considered the motion from Cllr G Oakes

RESOLVED: to agree that “This council notes with concern the decision of the Integrated Care Board to centralise Stroke Services in Taunton. The consequence of this decision is lengthened travel time for Yeovil and surrounding area residents during the crucial hours after they have had a Stroke. This Council is opposed to the decision to reduce Stroke Services at

Yeovil District Hospital and calls on the Secretary of State to call in the decision to centralise Stroke services in Taunton.”

Public Comment

A member of the public asked for an update on the Octagon Theatre, she asked if it would go back to its original state or would be refurbished. The Town Clerk responded by stating that at this stage it is not known. This is because the outcome of the £10 million grant application from DCMS would dictate what would happen next. If the grant is awarded then the Octagon Theatre would be refurbished but not to the extent defined in the original business case.

Meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Signed:

Date: