



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr E Potts-Jones, Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), CPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7:30pm held by video-conference using Zoom meeting software; and in the Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil BA20 1PQ.

Present: Cllrs E Potts-Jones (Mayor); A Kendall; T Casey; N Gage; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussain; T Lock; P Lock; J Lock; J Lowery; S Lowery; G Oakes; W Read; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; L Watts and D Woan.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk); Rev J Pearce (Mayor's Chaplain); Helen Haxell (External Communications Manager – Leonardo); John Stevenson (Head of Media Relations UK - Leonardo) and Charlea Boucher (Project Officer – Leonardo).

In Attendance (virtually): Cllrs A Richards (Wyndham Ward); and J Snell (Westlands Ward).

There was 1 member of the public present in person and 1 member of the public and 1 member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

Peter Travis - Chair of SCC's Bus User and Stakeholder Group, a group set up by Somerset County Council. He commented that Tony Reese of the Bus Partnership had written to the Council which was a later agenda item. He raised his concerns about the bus services and the need to receive support from Yeovil Town Council. Encouraging a shift from private cars to buses will reduce our carbon footprint. With the cost-of-living crisis buses are a cheaper way of travelling. In January, bus fares will be reduced to the "£2 flat fare" for 3 months. He commented that the last bus from Taunton would now be leaving Taunton at 6:10pm. He stated that there was a real threat to buses in Yeovil, across the County and also the across the Country as the bus recovery grant is set to end in March 2023. Bus companies have had many challenges: COVID, cost of diesel and the trend to work from home. There is a need for the grant to be extended so that we do not see drastic cuts across the bus services. He asked for Yeovil Town Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport as well as the local MP – Marcus Fysh to extend the grant.

Helen Haxell (External Communications Manager); John Stevenson (Head of Media Relations UK) and Charlea Boucher (Project Officer) from Leonardo gave a presentation regarding Yeovil’s status as “The Home of British Helicopters”. This will support bringing in high value UK government work into the town. There is a lot of heritage in Yeovil regarding the helicopters which began with the Petters family, who were engine manufacturers who became involved in building aircraft for the Great War. Westlands Aircraft works from 1947 began to produce helicopters. Leonardo are the UK’s only onshore helicopter, providing an end-to-end capability. Since 1947 they have built 3,000 helicopters. They recognised that Leonardo were not the only aerospace and defence company in Yeovil. They believed that declaring that that Yeovil as the Home of British Helicopters as a fantastic PR opportunity for the town through official signage through out the entry points to Yeovil. They asked for Yeovil Town Council’s support to recognise this. There was a unanimous consensus to support this.

8:21 pm Helen Haxell, John Stevenson and Charlea Boucher left the meeting and did not return and the meeting commenced.

11/045 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 B Boyton (work commitments); J Cabell (work commitments); A Richards (transportation issues); J Snell (family commitments) and A Soughton (conflicting engagement).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/046 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 W Read Cllr J Snell Cllr A Soughton	Member of: Somerset County Council South Somerset District Council	Personal
Cllr K Gill Cllr P Lock Cllr R Stickland	Member of: South Somerset District Council	Personal
Cllr E Potts-Jones Cllr D Woan	Member of: Somerset County Council	Personal

There were no other declarations at this time.

RESOLVED: to note the declarations.

11/047 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 1st November 2022.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 1st November 2022.

11/048 CORRESPONDENCE

It was proposed that the correspondence from the Somerset Bus Partnership would be considered at the next meeting of Buildings and Civic Matters.

RESOLVED: that the correspondence from the Somerset Bus Partnership would be considered at the next meeting of Buildings and Civic Matters.

11/049 MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AN FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor, Cllr E Potts-Jones wished the volunteer who fell ill on the way the Mayor's Charity Ball, good wishes and to get well soon.

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

11/050 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 14th November 2022

The minutes had been previously circulated and Members who may have questions were asked to send them to the Chair.

Promotions and Activities Committee –8th November 2022

Present by Cllr Sarah Lowery. She updated Council that Super Santa Saturday was taking place on 10th December 2022. A two-day event (Yeovil Celebrates...The New King" will be held on 27th/28th May 2023 at Yeovil Recreation Ground. A Christmas Lights Working Group Meeting

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 7th November 2022

Presented by Cllr E Potts-Jones. She informed Council that following the allotment rent review, charges per square metre would increase to 49p m². There were no questions.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 15th November 2022

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. He gave an update on the frequency each of the defibrillators had been accessed. He stated that the Community Hall charges had gone up in line with inflation.

8:29 pm The member of the public who had joined the meeting virtually, left the meeting and did not return.

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 22nd November 2022

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. There were 2 grant applications – Home Start Blackmore Vale was awarded £1,000 and the Good Fellowship Club for £2,000. He spoke of the Service Level Agreement for the Youth Drop in at Westfield which was for £15,000 per year for 3 years. The Committee also agreed to advertise where the local warm spaces were. A Councillor raised a question about whether a meeting between Westfield or YMCA Brunel had yet taken place, this will take place in the new year.

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

11/051 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.

Notes from the Westfield Community Association held on 4th November 2022 had previously been circulated. Cllr J Lowery stated that at the meeting held the previous evening Westfield Community Association thanked Yeovil own Council for their support of the Youth Drop In. There were no questions.

Minutes from the South Somerset Countryside Steering Group held on 18th October 2022 had previously been circulated.

RESOLVED: to note the reports.

11/052 SOMERSET EMERGENCY COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Councillors considered the correspondence from the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit regarding emergency points of contact when there is an emergency happening in the area.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk and the Mayor will be the emergency points of contact should there be an emergency in the area.

11/053 DRAFT BUDGET

It was proposed by Cllr G Oakes and seconded by Cllr R Stickland that the draft budget as within the agenda

Cllr N Gage raised that the cost of living would have a significant impact on Council Taxpayers and how could Yeovil Town Council help. He stated that the Council Tax could be kept as low as possible. He proposed that the predicted underspend for 2022/23 of £51,796 and that half should go to reserves and the other half should be used to fund last years budget. This was seconded by Cllr T Casey.

There was a named votes for the both the amendment as proposed by Cllr N Gage, and the original motion by Cllr G Oakes.

RESOLVED: (1) that the amendment submitted by Cllr N Gage failed (*Voting: 2 for; and 17 against*)*¹; and (2) to approve the draft budget for the financial year 2022/23 (subject to receiving the tax base from South Somerset District Council for 2022/23; and the Crematorium and Cemetery Committee final budget); (*Voting: 17 for; and 2 against*)*².

**¹ For (Cllrs T Casey and N Gage); Against (Cllrs E Potts-Jones; A Kendall; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussain; T Lock; P Lock; J Lock; S Lowery; J Lowery; G Oakes; W Read; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; L Watts and D Woan);*

**² For (Cllrs E Potts-Jones; A Kendall; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussain; T Lock; P Lock; J Lock; S Lowery; J Lowery; G Oakes; W Read; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; L Watts and D Woan); Against (Cllrs T Casey and N Gage).*

11/054 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED: to approve the forward plan as detailed within the agenda with the inclusion of a presentation about CCTV.

Public Comment

The Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr E Potts-Jones congratulated Steve Sowden, Yeovil Press for being awarded Community Champion 2022 at the Yeovil Chamber Business Awards.

Meeting closed at 8:29 pm.

Signed:

Date: