



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr A Kendall, Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), CPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 7th November 2023 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); J Cabell; T Casey; K Fieldsend; N Gage; K Gill; E Hopkins; T Lock; J Lock; J Lowery; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier and D Woan.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); L Ryder (Assistant Town Clerk); Rev D Crouch and A Locke (Mace Bearer).

In Attendance (virtually): Cllr J Snell (Westlands Ward).

There was 7 members of the public and 1 member of the press present in person. There was 2 members of the public and 2 members of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

Council gave the Mayor of Yeovil, Cllr A Kendall a round of applause to welcome him back following his illness.

The Mayor asked all those present to remain standing and to join him in a minute's silence following the death of former Mayor, Julian Freke.

Rev D Crouch gave his reflections.

The first public speaker raised concerns about the proposed demolition of the Nautilus Works site at Reckleford. He stated that it was a building of historical importance. He argued that it would be better to repurpose the existing structure rather than demolish it to protect its heritage and for environmental purposes.

The second speaker highlighted the issues about the lack of disabled parking within the town centre due to the refresh work. She stated that the Peter Street car park did not make town very accessible as the slope back to the car park made it very difficult returning from the shops. She argued that car parking should be made easier for disabled people.

The third speaker was a representative of the South West Transport Network. He mentioned the closure of the First Bus depot. First Bus will need to invest in facilities within the town which

would include maintenance, cleaning, washing and servicing. It is vital that the bus service remain in Yeovil along with those service provided by South West Coaches. He said that Yeovil Town Council needed be working closely with Somerset Council (as the Transport Authority) and with First Group to protect the services within the town and wider community. He spoke of the importance to maintain the bus station. He also spoke about a bid for lifts at Yeovil Junction and Yeovil Pen Mill.

The following speaker was the founder of the Somerset Bus Partnership. He spoke of the 54 bus to Taunton and the 58 bus to Wellington. He stated that First Buses could not afford to run the buses based on the current usage. Somerset Council has stepped in until March 2024 to provide some short-term funding. More people need to be using the buses. He asked for each Councillor to get on a bus and take a picture of themselves sat on the bus and support the local bus service. He said that bus usage was obviously more environmentally friendly rather than cars. He wanted anyone who had a website or a Facebook page to be sharing posters and messages.

The final speaker was the editor of the Leveller. He asked a procedural question regarding the deferred meeting due to be held on 3rd October 2023.

8:02 pm *The meeting commenced.*

11/113 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 (conflicting engagement); K Hussain (conflicting engagement); and S Lowery (unwell).

RESOLVED: to accept the apologies with the reasons given.

11/114 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.

11/115 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meetings held on 10th October 2023.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meetings held on 10th October 2023.

11/116 **MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR'S RECENT AN FORTHCOMING ENGAGEMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

11/117 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Six items of correspondence had been received.

A letter had been received by a member of the public who had concerns regarding disabled parking within Yeovil Town Centre.

A letter had been received by a member of the public regarding a decision and comments made by Councillors at a previous Town Council meeting about financially contributing towards the Octagon Theatre.

Correspondence had been received from both Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society and Somerset Industrial Archaeological Society regarding the proposed demolition of former Nautilus Works, Reckleford (redundant First Bus depot).

Two emails had been received from a representative of the South West Transport Network raising concerns about public transport.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk respond to each item of correspondence in accordance with direction given from the Council.

8:04pm Cllr J Lowery left the meeting

8:06pm Cllr J Lowery returned to the meeting

8:17pm The member of public left the meeting and did not return.

11/118 **REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS**

Planning Committee – 18th September 2023 / 16th October 2023

Presented by Cllr Evie Potts-Jones. An update of planning applications was given to Council. There were no questions.

Promotions and Activities Committee –12th September 2023

Presented by Cllr Evie Potts-Jones. She spoke of Super Saturday, the Eats Festival and Yeovil Celebrates. She confirmed that the next Eats Festival would be held on 9th December 2023. There were no questions.

Grounds and General Maintenance Committee – 11th September 2023

Presented by Cllr Royston Spinner. He reported on discussions held regarding the Schools Out programme, the youth shelter at Rosebery Avenue, the pathway works at Elizabeth Flats allotment site, the 93% of allotments let, the Milford Dip sheds and the tree audit that had been carried out at allotments. There were no questions.

Buildings and Civic Matters Committee – 19th September 2023

Presented by Cllr Rob Stickland. He reported on the defibrillator project stating that the latest defibrillator had been installed at Southville Elim Church in memory of former Mayor Phil Chandler. He reported that the defibrillators had been accessed 30 times. He spoke of the Finger Post restorations which would be restored on a case-by-case basis. He stated that a portrait of King Charles III would be purchased as soon as it was available. Cllr Stickland responded to a question regarding the number of defibrillators that had been commissioned by the Town Council, stating there were 12. It was confirmed that the portrait of the late Queen Elizabeth II would remain in the Council Chamber following the purchase of King Charles III portrait. Cllr Kendall confirmed that the then Somerset County Council had passed responsibility to towns and parishes for finger posts as was demonstrated in Yeovil Without Parish Council.

At this time Cllr R Stickland declared an interest in that he was Chairman of Yeovil Without Parish Council.

There were no further questions

Policy, Resources and Finance Committee – 25th September 2023

Presented by Cllr Graham Oakes. He spoke of a letter received from Yeovil Rivers Community Trust. He announced the grant awarded to Yeovil Tennis Club for £1,000. The usual financial reports were considered and 2 policies were reviewed. There were no questions.

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

11/119 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.

Cllr Lowery reported that Westfield Community Association would now be meeting every other month. The next meeting of the Westfield Community Association is Thursday 14th December 2023 at 7:30 pm at St Peter's Community Centre. She announced that there would be an

indoor car boot sale on 18th November 2023 from 10:30am until 2pm at St Peter's Community Centre.

Cllr E Potts-Jones reported that she had attended the Yeovil Twinning Association AGM. She encouraged members to become part of the Twinning Association and to assist in hosting.

Following the resignation of a Councillor, Yeovil Recreation Charity sought another representative from Yeovil Town Council. It was suggested that this be deferred until a new councillor had been elected.

There were no other reports from representatives on Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the reports given; and (2) to defer the appointment of a representation to Yeovil Recreation Charity until a new councillor had been elected to the Council.

11/120 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2022/23

The Town Clerk introduced the report and highlighted that the external auditor had concluded that that the AGAR had been completed in accordance with proper practices and that there were no matters that had come to their attention that had caused any concerns. They did highlight some other matters that did not affect their opinion. This related to the timeliness of Town Council agreeing the risk assessment and the demonstration that the publications had been available on the website for the required period.

The Town Clerk highlighted that the External Auditors opinion had been received too late to be able to comply with the publication requirements.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) to note the opinion given by the external auditor and to note other matters not affecting the auditor's opinion; and (3) to note that the publication date of the Notice of Conclusion of audit was not met.

11/121 FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED: to approve the forward plan as detailed within the agenda with the inclusion of Transport Representatives at a future meeting.

Public Comment

There were no further comments.

Meeting closed at 8:42 pm.

Signed:

Date: