



Yeovil Town Council

Town House
19 Union Street
Yeovil
Somerset
BA20 1PQ

Mayor: Cllr A Kendall
Chief Executive / Town Clerk: Amanda Card BA (Hons), FCPFA, BSc (Open)
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Minutes of the meeting of Yeovil Town Council held on Tuesday 3rd December 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; K Hussain; J Jimba; J Lock; J Lowery; T Lock; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; R White; A Wilkes and D Woan.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); S Freemantle (Deputy Town Clerk) and Rev D Crouch (Mayor's Chaplain).

There were three members of the public present in person, one member of the public present virtually and one member of the press present virtually.

Public Comment

There was one public comment requesting information regarding Council Tax collection. He was directed to Somerset Council.

7:44 pm The meeting commenced.

11/219 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 Cllr K Fieldsend (work commitments).

**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.

11/220 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	Member of: Somerset Council	Personal
Cllr T Lock		
Cllr G Oakes		
Cllr E Potts-Jones		
Cllr W Read		
Cllr J Snell		
Cllr A Soughton		
Cllr D Woan		

11/221 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 5th November 2024 be agreed and signed as correct.

11/222 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.

11/223 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

11/224 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES AND OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 18th November 2024

Presented by Cllr G Oakes. An update of planning applications discussed at the meetings held were given to Council. Four new planning applications and two amended planning applications were considered. The Committee supported four of these applications and objected to two. There were no questions.

Leisure & Environment Committee – 11th November 2024

Presented by Cllr R Spinner. He gave an update of the discussions held at the meeting which included feedback from the Co-opted non-voting member, an update from the Director of

Leisure & Environment Committee regarding services which fell under this Committee, an update report on the transfer and future of Yeovil in Bloom and a proposed green infrastructure plan for Yeovil. There were no questions.

Culture, Events & Promotions Committee – 19th November 2024

Presented by Cllr D Woan. He provided an update of the discussions held at the meeting which included feedback from Super Saturday, the Christmas Lights Switch On event and the Remembrance Sunday ceremony and parade. The Committee also agreed a proposal regarding a Country Music Festival/ There were no questions.

Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee – 12th November 2024

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. He gave an update of what was discussed at the meeting which included a police update, a defibrillator update, requests for use of a telephone box and for a Speed Indicator Device on Preston Grove. Somerset Council had also consulted Yeovil Town Council on Hackney Carriage Ranks. There were no questions.

Finance & Policy Executive – 26th November 2024

Presented by Cllr A Soughton. He gave an update of what was discussed at the meeting which included the budget monitoring report, confidential meetings and virtual attendance; and the draft budget for 2025/26.. There were no questions.

11/225 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.

- Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery – 13th November 2024 (minutes previously circulated).
- Birchfield Community Association – 26th November 2024. Cllr E Hopkins gave an update to Council.
- Yeovil Twinning Association – 15th November 2024. Cllr E Potts-Jones gave an update to Council about the AGM. She encouraged Councillors to join as new members.

RESOLVED: to note the above reports.

11/226 DRAFT BUDGET 2025/26

Members considered the draft budget for 2025/26.

One Councillor questioned the process and the transparency of the draft budget. He challenged the underspend and the estimated spend for 2025/26.

Several Councillors spoke in favour of the budgets and the unknowns that the Council were dealing with and that the budget put forward was sensible and cautious for the current services and the services being gained in the future.

The Chief Executive / Town Clerk reminded Councillors that it was an iterative process and the budget was being amended each time new information became available.

It was proposed by Cllr A Soughton and seconded by Cllr R Stickland that the draft budget as shown within the agenda (subject to an amendment regarding open spaces) is agreed.

RESOLVED: to approve the draft budget of £3,199,815 for the financial year 2025/26 (subject to the necessary adjustments as Officers work on finalising and to receiving the tax base from Somerset Council for 2024/25; and the final Crematorium and Cemetery Committee budget).
(voting: 21 for; and 2 against)*¹

**¹ For (Cllrs A Kendall; T Lock; B Boyton; J Cabell; K Gill; E Hopkins; K Hussain; J Jimba; J Lock; J Lowery; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; J Snell; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; H Stonier; A Wilkes and D Woan); Against (Cllrs T Casey and R White).*

11/227 MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT

Council considered nominations for the office of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

It was proposed by Cllr E Potts-Jones, seconded by Cllr R Stickland that Cllr T Lock be nominated for the office of Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26. It was proposed by Cllr T Lock, seconded by Cllr A Soughton and that Cllr W Read be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

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 6th May 2025.

Cllr Lock informed Council that should he be elected Mayor of Yeovil that the Civic Service would be held on 15th June 2025 at St John's Church at 10am and that the Mayor's Ball will be held on 15th November 2025. His charities would be Yeovil Hospital Charity and Yeovil Freewheelers.

RESOLVED: that Cllr T Lock be nominated for the office of Town Mayor and that Cllr W Read be nominated for the office of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

11/228 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2025/26

Council considered the draft programme of meetings for 2025/26.

RESOLVED: to agree the programme of meetings for 2025/26.

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Signed:

Date: