



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 21st January 2025 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); T Casey; K Gill; J Jimba; J Lock; J Lowery; T Lock; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; R White; A Wilkes and D Woan.

In Attendance (virtually): Cllrs J Cabell and J Snell.

In Attendance (in person): A Card (Town Clerk); H Ferdinand (Deputy Town Clerk); Rev D Crouch (Mayor's Chaplain); Christine Thomas (Yeovil Street Pastor Co-ordinator) and Mary Irwin (Yeovil Street Pastor Team Leader)

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

Public Comment

Christine Thomas (Street Pastor Co-ordinator) gave a presentation about their work. They are on duty once a month on a Saturday evening between 10pm and 3:30am. They help people (without judgement) to stay safe whilst they are out in Yeovil at night, providing flip flops, water and foil blankets. The Street Pastors are on Radio Link with communications with pubs, the police and Bridgwater Cameras.

The Council thanked the Street Pastors for their presentation and their work.

7:55 pm The representatives from the Yeovil Street Pastors left and did not return.

7:56 pm The meeting commenced.

11/229 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); K Fieldsend (personal reasons); K Hussain ((work commitments); J Snell* (personal reasons) and H Stonier (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.

11/230 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		

Cllr E Potts-Jones declared an interest in 11/233 Correspondence, in that the correspondence received was from her employer.

11/221 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous Town Council Meetings held on 3rd December 2024.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the previous Town Council Meeting held on 3rd December 2024 be agreed and signed as correct.

11/232 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.

11/233 CORRESPONDENCE

Council considered the correspondence received from Adam Dance MP regarding the planned closure of Yeovil District Hospital’s Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU).

RESOLVED: to note the letter.

OTHER MEETINGS

Planning Committee – 16th December 2024

Presented by Cllr G Oakes. An update of planning applications discussed at the meetings held were given to Council. There were no questions.

Leisure & Environment Committee – 6th January 2025

Presented by Cllr R Spinner. He gave an update of the discussions held at the meeting which included an update from the Director of Leisure & Environment Committee regarding tree planting at Milford Park, Lower Milford Park and Yew Tree Park (to be funded by the Urban Tree Challenge); devolution tranche 2; and 'good news stories' from Yeovil Recreation Centre. A Councillor informed Council of the recent passing of Robin Mackay (former Chair of the Friends of Yeovil Country Park) and asked that condolences be sent to the family on behalf of Yeovil Town Council. There were no other questions.

Culture, Events & Promotions Committee – 13th January 2025

Presented by Cllr D Woan. He provided an update of the discussions held at the meeting which included a verbal report from Yeovil Art Space; and the dates of Yeovil Town Council events. There were no questions.

Infrastructure (Property & Assets) Committee – 7th January 2025

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. He gave an update of what was discussed at the meeting which included a police update; a defibrillator update; the bus shelter removal due to damage on Preston Road; and the removal of asbestos guttering at Westlands Entertainment Venue. A question was asked whether the asbestos had been removed and the Deputy Town Clerk (HF) confirmed that it has been removed.

Finance & Policy Executive – 14th January

Presented by Cllr R Stickland. He gave an update of what was discussed at the meeting which included Youth Services at Westfield; grant awards to Youth Adventure Trust (£1,377.55) and Citizens Advice Somerset (£2,325); the budget monitoring report; Internal Auditor's report, Insurance 2025/26 and the draft budget for 2025/26 which was agreed to be recommended to Full Council. 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.

11/235 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 – 8th January 2025 (minutes previously circulated).

- Westfield Community Association – Cllr E Potts-Jones informed Council of the “Westfield Winter Warm-Up Day” that was taking place on 25th January 2025, 1:30pm - 3:30pm.

Cllrs G Oakes, T Lock and H Stonier were nominated as additional representative to Octagon Project Board.

RESOLVED: to note the above reports.

11/236 BUDGET 2025/26

Members considered the budget for 2025/26.

The Chief Executive/Town Clerk circulated a summary of budgeted expenditure for 2025/26. She commented that 85.3% of the dwelling were below a Band D. She stated that the budgets had all gone through the Committees and was now recommended by the Finance & Policy Committee to be agreed by Town Council.

One Councillors asked information regarding where Yeovil Town Council’s Band D stood in relation to other Somerset Towns and Parishes be brought to a future meeting.

One Councillor challenged the underspend and the estimated spend for 2025/26; and raised his concerns over the principles of budget setting, another Councillor supported this.

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.

It was proposed by Cllr A Soughton and seconded by Cllr R Stickland that the budget as shown within the agenda is agreed.

RESOLVED: (1) to note the report; (2) to approve Yeovil Town Council’s budget of £3,296,939 for the financial year 2025/26 (*voting: 14 for; 2 against; and 1 abstention*)*¹; (3) to approve Yeovil Town Council’s precept of £3,296,939 for the financial year 2025/26 (*voting: 14 for; 2 against; and 1 abstention*)*²; and (4) that the Chief Executive/Town Clerk notify Somerset Council by completion of the Precept Request 2025/26. *Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 41) - Parish/Town/City Council Precepts*

**1&2 For (Cllrs A Kendall; T Lock; K Gill; J Jimba; J Lock; J Lowery; G Oakes; E Potts-Jones; W Read; A Richards; A Soughton; R Spinner; R Stickland; and D Woan); Against (Cllrs T Casey; and A Wilkes); Abstention Cllr R White).*

The meeting closed at 8:28 pm.

Signed:

Date: