

**Minutes of Yeovilton Parish Council held on Tuesday February 8th 2022
at St. Peter's Church, Podimore at 7.30pm.**

Present:, Chairman, Mr. A. Hickman, Mr. P. Browncey, Mr. D. Board, Mrs. R. S. Jones, Mr. R. Luck, Mr. M. Lewis, County Councillor, Mr. A. Capozzoli, District Councillor, Commander (Air) Mark Scott, Mr. R. Graydon, CRO, and Mr. P. Horsington, Clerk.
Five members of the public also attended.

97. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. B. Barlow, Mr. A. Elliott, Mr. James Scott & Mr. Freddie Stotesbury, Limington, Rev. B. Faulkner, Mr. C. Hull, District Councillor, Mr. P. Rowsell, District Councillor, RNAS, PC. Stefan Edwards and PCSO Megan Day.

The Chairman welcomed Commander (Air) Mark Scott to the meeting.

98. Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 11th having been circulated, were signed as correct.

99. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

100. Future Clerk for the new Council

The Council discussed details reference the appointment later in the year, for a new Clerk to the new Council Yeovilton & District Parish Council. It was agreed to obtain the latest salary scale for Clerks, and obtain a template setting out the job description, these with a salary being offered, to be agreed at the next meeting. It was noted that Limington representatives are being kept fully informed.

101. Open Session & County & District Councillors' reports

Mr. Lewis, County Councillor informed the meeting that the details for the May elections, both to the new Somerset Council and Parish Councils have just been published. It was agreed once received by the Clerk, this information will be sent to all members.

Mr. Lewis reported that the Local Government Review meetings so far have been constructive and the members for the new Authority will be elected on May 5th with the District Councillors shadowing them.

Mr. Lewis reported that the sluice gates project at Dunball, Bridgwater is to now proceed. This will control the tidal flow on the river Parrett.

Mr. Capozzoli, District Councillor reported that the Phosphate issues will be discussed at the next SSDC Area East Committee. It was noted that there has been a recent presentation on this, which has been circulated to members.

Mrs. Hickman highlighted the closed bridges issue and stated that some hedges within Limington were in need of being trimmed back.

102. RNAS matters, Police, Community & Church matters

Mr. Graydon, CRO, RNAS, introduced Commander Scott, who updated the meeting on RNAS matters, which are attached at the end of the meeting.

Commander Scott stated that RNAS will continue to allow access for residents of Yeovilton village via the Crash Gates in extreme flood conditions, through RNAS Yeovilton, but did state that this does create a lot of clearing / cleaning work afterwards to ensure safety within the Base.

In the absence of the Police, no matters were reported.

In the absence of Rev. Faulkner, there were no Church matters reported.

Mr. Luck reported that there is a Street party being considered within Limington to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

103. Limington update

The Council noted that SSDC will formally approve the creation of the new Council at a meeting to be held on February 28th 2022.

104. Planning matters

The Council noted that there was no decision for application 20/02512/OUT on Land adjoining Pilgrims, Weir Lane Outline application with all matters reserved apart from access for the erection of 2 No. detached dwellings.

The Council discussed and supported application 22/00100/HOU at Beaton House, Weir Lane, Yeovilton for the erection of a new front porch & loft conversion.

The Council discussed and supported application 22/00103/LBC at St. Bartholomew's Church, Yeovilton for proposed repairs and decoration to rainwater goods and internal finishes.

105. Financial matters

The Council noted that the balances as at 31/01/22 were in the Current A/c £1,656.50p and £5,007.05p in the B/P Account.

Payments received – nil

Payments made - nil

It was noted that the donation of £100 to FAA Memorial Church Fund has now been paid.

106. Highway matters

Mr. Luck reported that the VAS device has just been put up in Bridgehampton.

The Council noted that the request for an extra Dog bin at the Weir area in Yeovilton village, is still under review by SSDC Street Scene, as to whether they can add this to their list of collections.

The Council noted that the request for a Grit bin in Yeovilton village is still to be agreed, as it will have to be supplied and paid for by the Parish Council.

There was still concern reference overgrown footpaths both in Bineham & Weir Lane, Yeovilton.

The request for 'Horse signs' within Yeovilton village is still ongoing.

Mr. Board reported a blocked drain at Little Yeovilton from Stockwitch Cross back towards Podimore. It was agreed to inform County Highways.

Mr. Browney reported that there are empty Chip oil containers on the slip road into Podimore from off the A.303. It was agreed to inform SSDC Street Scene.

107. Flooding issues

The Council noted that there has been no recent flooding issues.

108. Tree matters

Mr. Luck stated that there were no issues to report.

109. Rights of Way.

The Council noted that the two bridges on Rights of Way within the Parish, are still closed, and the comments made earlier were noted.

110. Correspondence

The Council noted the Somerset Waste Partnership newsletters, which have been circulated.

111. Items for report, or for the agenda of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be held on Tuesday March 8th 2022 at St. Bartholomew's Church, Yeovilton, at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.53pm.

Signed:

Date:

Commander Mark Scott, Commander Air & Training, attended the meeting. He thanked the PC for the opportunity to be present and to meet some new faces amongst those friendly faces I already know. On behalf of the Commanding Officer, Cdre Niall Griffin, he extended thanks for the continued support of the local community with their understanding of the flying conducted at Yeovilton. He briefed the meeting on current activity, including separate unit training disciplines, with the Army Air Corps conducting essential low level and night flying using night vision goggles in the Mk1 Wildcat; distinguishable only to the most avid aircraft enthusiast by the missing under chin Radar unit. They have been deployed for quite a lot of the last 12 months with support to various NATO exercises around Europe. The Commando Helicopter Force has been busy learning to fly their new Mk4 Merlin helicopters which will allow them to conduct their troop support role more efficiently and safely. The 'Junglies', as they are affectionately known, have had a large contingent deployed on the global Carrier Strike Group and have now returned to the UK. Therefore, flying from Yeovilton is likely to increase as crews are supported in remaining current, safe and ready to conduct operations at short notice.

He mentioned the Royal Navy Wildcat Maritime Force which flies the Wildcat helicopter with the Radar dome under its chin. Most of their flying is in the low level environment over the sea in the English Channel. Many of these helicopters, with supporting aircrew and engineers, are assigned to Frigates and Destroyers deployed around the world on operations in support of Defence.

Much of the training conducted is now done using the latest in simulation. Aircrew get to grips with the basics in a benign environment before they go out and do it for real where there is no substitution for real flying in real weather! As much routine circuit flying training is conducted at Merryfield, not only to share out the noise and not concentrate in one area but also to reduce the intensity of flying and thereby increasing safety.

The future of Yeovilton airfield is unknown at the moment but it will be at the vanguard of technology development and it is likely that we may eventually see more use of drones, as is the case at RNAS Culdrose.

He closed by reassuring the meeting that the Air Station would continue efforts to be a good neighbour. Essential flying ONLY is conducted and sometimes that might be at night in the summer.