

South Somerset District Council

Minutes of a meeting of the **Area South Committee** held at the **Virtual Meeting - Virtual Meeting using Zoom meeting software on Wednesday 2 September 2020.**

(2.00 - 3.35 pm)

Present:

Members:

John Clark	David Recardo
Karl Gill	Gina Seaton
Andy Kendall	Peter Seib
Pauline Lock	Alan Smith
Tony Lock	Jeny Snell
Graham Oakes	Andy Soughton



Officers:

Jo Boucher	Case Officer (Strategy & Commissioning)
Tim Cook	Locality Team Manager
Joe Walsh	Specialist (Economic Development)
Johnathan Higman	Chief Executive, Yeovil District Hospital

NB: Where an executive or key decision is made, a reason will be noted immediately beneath the Committee's resolution.

186. Minutes of previous meeting (Agenda Item 1)

The minutes of the Area South Committee held on Wednesday 1st July 2020, copies of which had been circulated, were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman.

187. Apologies for absence (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Nicola Clark, David Gubbins, Peter Gubbins, Wes Read and Rob Stickland.

188. Declarations of Interest (Agenda Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

189. Public question time (Agenda Item 4)

A member of the public addressed the committee and raised concern regarding the Royal Marine Inn in Yeovil. As a resident of nearby Charlton Close, he reported that tables and chairs had been placed in the car park area and were creating a noise and smoke pollution issue to local residents. He acknowledged the pub had a beer garden and did not believe it was necessary to use the car park as an extra seating area. He confirmed that local Ward member Cllr Tony Lock and the Environmental Health team had been informed and that he would also address the Licensing Committee due to be held on 8th Sept regarding the same issue.

In response, the Chairman noted the concerns raised and fortunately being Chairman of the Licensing Committee would investigate the matter further and would update him on the situation at the Licensing Committee.

190. Chairman's announcements (Agenda Item 5)

There were no Chairman's announcements.

191. Reports from representatives on outside organisations (Agenda Item 6)

There were no reports from representatives on outside organisations.

192. Presentation on Yeovil District Hospital (Agenda Item 7)

Johnathan Higman Chief Executive of Yeovil District Hospital addressed the committee and gave a comprehensive presentation including:

- An overview of the hospital in numbers.
- The Hospital's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and plans for developing a 'new normal' in service provision.
- Plans for the future – developing the hospital site, workforce and the way they engage with local business.

A copy of the presentation will be sent to members separately.

In response to questions, he advised members of the following:

- Although elective surgery was beginning to re start, he acknowledged there was a backlog regarding this surgery. Diagnostic testing was currently running at around 80% capacity due to additional cleaning requirements, although it was hopeful this would become slicker over time. A mobile CT scanner would also be coming to the hospital within the next month.
- Some of the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is of multiple use. This equipment is procured nationally and is expected that more of this equipment would become reusable in time.
- The Hospital has a good working relationship with Yeovil College including supporting apprenticeships and health and care qualifications. Appreciated the need to work more collaboratively with local education providers. for
- Acknowledged the challenges regarding energy improvements and explained the focus around the replacement of windows to aid heat loss throughout the building.

- Satisfied that there was sufficient testing facilities in place should there be a spike with coronavirus cases, confirming all patients would be tested before returning to care homes.

Members thanked the Chief Executive for his very informative presentation. They appreciated the difficulties faced at this current time but voiced their full support to the hospital and congratulated him for the excellent service provided by the hospital and its staff.

NOTED

193. Area South - Area Chapter 20/20 Update & Finance Report (Executive Decision) (Agenda Item 8)

The Locality Manager presented the report and updated members that the request for £10,000 of capital funding from the Area South capital programmes budget to support Yeovil Recreation Pavilion Improvements as set out in the agenda report had been withdrawn.

He referred to an email received from the Leisure and Recreation Manager read out as follows:

'The Yeovil Recreation Centre pavilion improvement project continues to advance but has been impacted by the pandemic. Timescale's have slipped due to the sites closure and the staff teams re-deployed during lock down. This coupled with an increasingly tough grant financing landscape has shown a need to re-evaluate the projects timescales and financing. The budget gap for delivery now exceeds £10,000 and so an alternative way of completing the project budget, that still allows for some future grant applications towards the end of this year, is being progressed. Consequently the contribution from Area South is no longer required'.

In response to a member's question, the Locality Manager noted the comments regarding the adoption of public open space and village square at the Lufton key site and was happy to liaise with the appropriate officer regarding progression of this.

During discussion, members questioned the recommendation to support Love Yeovil and agreed that although they supported the idea of funding, a decision on the allocation be made when a detailed report is presented to Area South Committee.

There being no further debate it was then proposed and seconded that they agree the recommendation for the allocation of spend of £2,000 to support the development of a food and drink directory and supported the idea of funding to support Love Yeovil, but with a decision to be made, when a detailed report is presented to Area South Committee. On being put to the vote this was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That Area South Committee:

1. Noted the report
2. Agreed an allocation of spend of £2,000 from the Area Discretionary / Project

revenue budget to support the development of a food and drink directory.

3. Supported the idea of funding from the Area Discretionary / Project revenue budget to support Love Yeovil, but with a decision on the allocation to be made when a detailed report is presented to Area South Committee.

(Note: request was withdrawn for £10,000 from the Area South Capital Programme to support Yeovil Recreation Pavilion improvements as shown in the agenda report)

Reason: To consider allocating funding towards supporting the development of a food and drink directory.

(Voting: unanimous)

194. Dorcas Charitable Trust - Annual Report & Statements for the Year to 31st March 2020. (Agenda Item 9)

The Locality Manager presented the report to members. He explained that in order to comply with charity regulations the Area South Committee, as trustees, are asked to sign off these accounts and note the update of the annual report. He added that the Housing Specialist continues to look at options with any future report to be brought to committee.

During a short discussion, members were conscious that the authority were not delivering the aims of the charity and questioned whether the Area South Committee was the most appropriate way to progress this. It was suggested that an approach to the charity commission be made, to look to transfer across to another charity of similar aims and outside of this committee.

The Locality Manager noted these comments and appreciated this was an unusual situation. He agreed to take this forward with the Legal team regarding the governance arrangements and the housing team regarding the aims of the charity and would report back to committee as soon as possible.

On being put to the vote, members unanimously agreed to approve the annual accounts and to note the update in the annual report.

RESOLVED: that members approved the annual accounts for the Dorcas House Trust and noted the update in the annual report.

(voting: unanimous)

195. Area South Committee Forward Plan (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor David Recardo requested a report be brought to committee regarding the monitoring of Section 106 monies and raised concern regarding the expiration of these monies.

In response, the Locality Manager advised members that the Locality Team were responsible for the delivery of Section 106 projects and stressed that they were actively monitoring these projects. It was noted however that a request be made to the planning

team for a further detailed report regarding the monitoring of these Section 106 monies. However, due to the current staffing capacity believed this may be sometime before this could be brought forward.

There being no further requests, members noted the Area South forward plan.

196. Planning Appeals (For Information) (Agenda Item 11)

During a short discussion, members believed that the parking guidance given by Somerset County Council (SCC), to cover HMO's is unclear. They sought clarification on the current parking strategy and requested that updated guidance be brought to committee, as they understood SCC were due to update their guidance on this matter.

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Chairman

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Date