

# Yeovil Without Parish Council Annual Reports 2011 - 2012

## Chairman's Annual Report March 2011 – February 2012

Last year's report began with the effects of the weather. This year Winter was kinder. Even so, we completed our programme of installing grit boxes total (21) and in addition we brought 80 bags of grit. Some are in store, others held by parishioners to be sure bins can be topped up.

Following the Parish elections we have five new Councillors, of these three are also District Councillors and we now have two who are also Yeovil Town Councillors. In July there was a training evening for all Councillors. More is to come when the new Localism Bill comes into force, which will cause many changes, especially concerning planning regulations.

Planning applications continue to occupy much of our time. During the past year more building continues on the Key Site East of Lyde Road, and recently the application for the final parcel of houses has been received, yet to be finalised by District Council. Alongside this we have been investigating the provision of a place to benefit the growing community there until a more permanent solution is found. It is a slow process, The first section of the Key Site North of Thorne Lane has been passed, but building has yet to commence. We regret the change in the main road layout and fear later it will prove to add to our traffic problems. Another long running matter is the now granted development of part of the "Mudford Rec" to become an all weather hockey pitch. It involves changes to football pitches and the public footpath. This has been a source of peoples' unhappiness. Although our boundary borders it, many of our parishioners are affected by it. We have asked for a crossing on Combe Street Lane particularly for children going across the Rec to school. So far without success. Again it takes time.

We continue to maintain the Allotments, not helped by the theft of two of the galvanised water tanks in November. It was decided to replace all five with plastic ones, about to be arranged, but expensive. In January we approved our precept for 2012-13 of £26,400, the same as last year, making the approximate average Band D charge £20.32. This year the Cemetery deficit is £24,331 to be added to our precept. We are mindful that as District and County Council reduce their financial support more calls will be made on parish councils. At the same meeting we decided our annual grants allocations. St Margarets' Hospice and Air Ambulance each received £1,000; Alzheimer's Society £500, Oddments Theatre Company £400, Westfield Community Association £150; Age Uk St Johns Ambulance and Great Lyde Scouts £100 each; and Holiday at Home, Care and Share Time and Friendship Group £50 each. In total £3,500 plus £500 to Citizens Advice Bureau under section 142. We are now producing a new application form which will standardise grant applications and make consideration simpler. Also this year we have spent almost £1,000 refurbishing the Johnson Park play area.

Our Clerk continues to work hard on our behalf and always so cheerful. My thanks to Alf Hill for another year of support and advice as always.

**Barbara J Strong**

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## Somerset Association of Local Councils – March 2011 – 2012

Looking back over the quarterly meetings they were all about forthcoming changes in legislation. The Localism Bill, National Planning Policy Framework, changes to the Code of Conduct, abolition of the Standards Board and the Audit Commission – all of these have yet to become effective. At the AGM we were addressed by Mr Heath M.P, but he could not be tempted to explain the National Planning Policy. So from this it will be realised the coming changes will require much more training. In addition to myself these meetings are also attended by either Mrs Coton or Mr Wilding.

**Barbara J Strong**

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## **Yeovil Crematorium and Cemetery Committee March 2011 – 2012**

At the June AGM a new Chairman, Alan Smith was elected with Mr Ricardo as Vice Chairman. We went through the work plans for both sites, looked at the Crematorium under repair and then on to the Cemetery to see the completed work at the Lodge and the Chapel, with more to be done there. Throughout the year we look at the budgets and 10 year plans, constantly adjusted as something more urgent has to be done. In January we agreed the 2012-13 budgets resulting in the Cemetery deficit of £24,331 which will be added to our parish precept, an increase of approximately £1,000. Over the years that I have attended these meetings the standard of maintenance on both sites has improved to a high standard, but the work is constant.

A persistent problem has been the safe entry into the Crematorium from the Preston Road roundabout. At last this may be resolved and signs are due to be installed to send traffic round the Bluebell roundabout, entering with a left turn. Alf Hill attends these meetings with me.

**Barbara J Strong**

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## **Abbey Community Association March 2011 – 2012**

These meetings are monthly and I only miss when it clashes with the "Burial" Committee meetings, as will happen next month. As with other meetings things take a long time to resolve and maintenance is constant. At last we are changing the utility supplier, having been tied into a contract. The bills have been very high, so from April we hope for savings. The AGM had to be postponed due to lack of a quorum, so the Constitution was amended and at the meeting Peter Seib was elected Chairman. Together with Councillor Richardson they are working towards making the building more efficient, looking for grants towards this. Apart from repairs, the maintenance has to conform with Safety Regulations, which is costly. The meetings are not well attended and one constant problem is fundraising. The booking secretary wants to resign after years of voluntary work, but finding a replacement is difficult. Lately an additional problem is lead flashing being stolen twice, before the previous insurance claim has been passed. On the brighter side is the early repayment of the bank loan which was for upgrading of the Hall.

**Barbara J Strong**

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## **John Nowes Exhibition Foundation 2011 – 2012**

I attended the annual meeting of this foundation at a meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November as the YWPC representative.

The current function of the foundation is to provide educational grants to students who reside in Yeovil Town and the surrounding area. The awards are made to candidates between the ages of 16 and 25 who have a household income of less than £33,000 per annum.

Grants are made under the following headings:-

The award of Scholarships, Bursaries or Maintenance Allowances for any school, university or other place of learning.

Financial assistance for clothing, equipment or books

The award of Scholarships or Maintenance Allowances to enable beneficiaries to travel abroad to pursue their education

Financial assistance to study music or other arts

Financial assistance not normally provided by the local authority for recreation, social and physical training, including coaching in athletics, sports and games for those still in full time education.

Advertisements were placed in the spring of this year. Applicants were considered and eight students were given grants ranging from £200 to £350. Of these, three were residents of Yeovil Without parish.

Next year, the foundation is going to circulate information to the relevant parish clerks and it is hoped that each parish will advertise the fund on its parish boards.

It was interesting to discover that the foundation owns land within this parish.

**Iris Coton****Woburn Almshouse 2011 - 2012**

One resident moved from flat 2 to 4 . One gent – he was duly interviewed and will make an excellent resident. The two flats had to be decorated. The Mayor and myself visited Woburn to give the residents their Christmas card and gift. We had to get a new gardener. He's fitted in very well. The garden is looking very nice.

**Marie Botham**

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**Birchfield Community Association 2011 - 2012**

Attended by Geoff & Di Bugler

Income during 2011 appears to have improved and making good progress towards the target set of £10,000 for the Capital Reserve.

The treasurer reported that due to the current level of funds there will be no increase in hiring charges for 2012; given the climate we are in this is good news indeed.

A substantial amount of money was spent during 2010/11 upgrading equipment and boilers, including decorating both halls. This can only lead to increased bookings for the future,

The expenditure for 2011 was less, however the roof was vandalised with the lead being stripped off, leading to expensive repairs. Smoke alarms had to be fitted to the Talbot Room these being the main expense. Long may this progress continue.

**Geoff Bugler**

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**Yeovil Sports Club Johnson Park 2011 – Mar 2012**

The club has finished most of the changes they planned over the past few years. They still have small value items to do. With the help of the trustees a loan to be repaid over a few years with no interest, also a donation by a deceased long term member, which allowed them to make improvements and a small surplus. They now have a platform to increase the surplus over the next years giving them a strong position to go forward, as they are a sports/social club they should survive the cuts better than many pubs and social clubs. The council delegates have attended the majority of the board meetings during the past year

**A J Hill**

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**Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group 2011 – Mar 2012**

Meetings of the Yeovil in Bloom Steering Group are held every two months at the Town House of Yeovil Town Council.

Yeovil has a very good record in the South West in Bloom Competition, having achieved Gold Awards in 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010 and now a slightly less satisfying Silver Gilt Award in 2011. Plans have now been agreed for the planting to be undertaken for the 2012 competition, concentrating on appropriate colours to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics.

The Steering Group is also responsible for organising the annual Flower and Gardeners Market in the centre of Yeovil, which was held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011, and was considered to be a great success. This year the market will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012.

One aspect of Yeovil in Bloom is the "Its Your Neighbourhood" competition between small neighbourhoods within the Yeovil area, and Yeovil Without Parish Council, in association with Yeovil in Bloom and Yarlington Housing Group, are endeavouring to get a small group formed in St Patricks Road - in the Brimsmore Ward of the parish, as a stepping stone to the formation of a community association. A meeting of organisers and local residents is being held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012.

**Maurice Lamb**

## Clerks Financial Report for Yeovil Without Parish Council 2011/2012

This financial year we received a 3% increase (£2,200) on the Crematorium Rent, at the time of setting the precept the Parish Council were not aware of this. It has impacted on the estimated surplus this year, which is likely to be around the £5,600 mark. It is anticipated payments for the water troughs and playground inspections will be paid in the financial year for 2012/2013. Election costs were lower than expected, an estimate of approx £1,500 had been given if all 3 wards had been contested. The majority of training cost this year was for Councillor training following the elections. It is anticipated training cost will be higher in the coming year, once legislation is finalised; this will result in training for The Clerk and Councillors. We go into next year with a balance of £ 115,824.99 approx of which £67,500 is earmarked expenditure from reserves.

**\* These figures are not the final figures for the year; this report was prepared mid March. Final figures will be reported after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.**

RECEIPTS	Last Year	This Year
	2010/2011	2011/2012
ALLOTMENTS	£ 576.40	£ 599.19
GENERAL PRECEPT	£ 25,600.00	£ 26,400.00
BURIAL PRECEPT	£ 22,926.87	£ 23,300.01
CREMATORIUM RENT	£ 7,150.00	£ 9,350.00
INTEREST & DIVIDENDS	£ 1,355.91	£ 1,420.11
VAT REPAYMENT	£ 702.73	£ 721.10
OTHER INCOME	£ -	£ -
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>£ 58,311.91</b>	<b>£ 61,790.41</b>

PAYMENTS	2010/2011	2011/2012
ALLOTMENTS	£ 327.90	£ 627.94
CEMETERY	£ 22,926.86	£ 23,300.00
PLAYAREA INSPECTIONS	£ 896.91	£ 564.51
PLAYAREA	£ -	£ 1,270.00
CLERKS SALARY	£ 12,218.82	£ 12,532.29
PAYE	£ 4,067.33	£ 3,537.91
OFFICE EXPENSES	£ 1,360.28	£ 892.32
MEETING ROOM	£ 327.00	£ 390.00
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	£ 159.36	£ 452.00
INSURANCES	£ 1,588.55	£ 1,594.20
SUBSCRIPTIONS	£ 1,238.15	£ 1,239.25
QUALITY PARISH TRAINING	£ -	£ -
TRAINING AND PUBLICATIONS	£ 135.00	£ 275.00
NATWEST BANK CHARGES	£ -	£ 35.00
AUDIT CHARGES	£ 589.00	£ 618.40
SECTION 137 GRANTS	£ 2,925.00	£ 5,530.00
GRANTS	£ 500.00	£ 500.00
MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS	£ -	£ 274.66
STREET FURNITURE	£ 2,364.00	£ 1,124.18
ELECTIONS	£ -	£ 823.21
NEWSLETTER	£ -	£ -
OTHER (CONTINGENCY)	£ -	£ -
VAT	£ 721.10	£ 551.38
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>£ 52,345.26</b>	<b>£ 56,132.25</b>

Balances	2010/2011	2011/2012
Surplus/Deficit	£ 5,966.65	£ 5,658.16
b/fwd balance	£ 104,200.18	£ 110,166.83
<b>c/fwd balance</b>	<b>£ 110,166.83</b>	<b>£ 115,824.99</b>