



Yeovil Without Parish Council

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Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 25 June 2025

Commencing at 6.30pm

**Yeovil Sports and Social Club, Johnson Park, Coronation Ave,
Yeovil, BA21 3DY** *(in the large function room, the entrance is to the left of the main building).*

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact
clerk@yeovilwithoutparishcouncil.gov.uk

Barbara Appleby - YWPC Clerk
20 June 25

The information is also available on our website: www.yeovilwithoutparishcouncil.gov.uk

To all members of Yeovil Without Parish Council are summoned to attend:

SUMMERLANDS (3)

Cllr Kevin Brown
Cllr Iris Coton
Cllr Colin Rose – Vice Chair

BRIMSMORE (2)

Cllr Howard Ashton
Cllr David Knight

COMBE (3)

Cllr Mike Lock
Cllr John Snell
Cllr Kate Stevenson

LYDE WARD (7)

Cllr Vyvyenne Burt
Cllr Rani Panesar
Cllr Simon Hodder
Cllr Sarah Nutland
Cllr John Orchard
Cllr Mary Snell
Cllr Rob Stickland – Chair

Equality Act 2010

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, and any disability), Gender Equality, Crime & Disorder, Biodiversity, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Recording of Council Meetings

The Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 allows both the public and press to take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on all public meetings (including on social media).

Any member of the public wishing to record or film proceedings must let the Chairman of the meeting know prior to, or at the start of, the meeting and the recording must be overt (i.e., clearly visible to anyone at the meeting), but non-disruptive. This permission does not extend to private meetings or parts of meetings which are not open to the public.

Members of the public exercising their right to speak during the time allocated for Public Comment who do not wish to be recorded or filmed, need to inform the Chairman who will instruct those taking a recording or filming to cease doing so while they speak.

Public Comment

This section (at the Chairman's discretion may last up to 15 minutes) is not part of the formal meeting of the Council and minutes will not be produced. Public Bodies (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 s 1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s 100.

Yeovil Without Parish Council will be discussing all the items listed overleaf:

The agenda specifies the business that it is proposed to transact (Local Government Act 1972 Sch.12 para 10 (2)(b)) and the Council cannot lawfully decide any matter which is not specified in the agenda (Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)

PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)

OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- Police/PCSO
- Somerset Councillors – apologies received & report/updates.
- Outside Bodies

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 To receive apologies for absence

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) and any personal interests (and whether or not such personal interests are also "prejudicial") that they may have in agenda items that accord with the Yeovil Without Parish Council's Code of Conduct, and to consider any requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 S33 (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

- 2.1 To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1 To **AGREE** and sign the minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on 21 May 25.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 4.1 To receive and note a report from the Chair

5. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

- 5.1 To receive an update from the Clerk with items to note: Bleed kit locations – Johnson Park fire,

5.2 Defibrillator Usage Report

Last Reported: 19 May 2025

Location: Yeovil Marsh Church Hall

- **Incident:** Pads were used during a recent emergency response.
- **Defibrillator Status:**
 - Both the Marsh Lane and Yeovil Marsh Church defibrillators had pads that expired on 31 May 2025.
 - The expired pads have since been replaced.
- **Additional Supplies:**
 - One spare set of pads has been provided for each location to ensure readiness in case of another emergency.

6. PLANNING

6.1 Planning Applications received for consideration:

Application No.	Proposal	Location	Ward
25/01416/S73A	S73A Application to vary condition 03 (external surfaces) to use brick instead of tile for the front-facing second-storey wall relating to planning consent 23/01341/S73A; S73A Application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow changes to design, layout and roof in relation to planning approval 20/02438/HOU for Erection of a two storey extension with flat roof garage to side of dwelling	56 Elliotts Drive BA21 3NW	Summerlands

6.2 To **NOTE** planning applications considered under SO 15b xvi prior to this meeting to comply with planning officer deadlines: **NONE**

6.3 Planning applications received after the publication of the agenda:

6.4 Planning decisions and observations to NOTE:

Application No/ proposal	Location	Decision	YWPC Recommendation
25/01071/HOU – proposed porch and internal alterations and erection of front boundary fence	274 Mudford Rd	Approved	Support

6.5 Planning Correspondence: **NONE**

7. ONGOING MATTERS/REVIEWS/GOVERNANCE

7.1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 24/25 (AGAR)

a. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 24/25

To agree and approve Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement

b. ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 24/25

To agree and approve Section 2 – Accounting Statements

7.2 EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS

To announce and note the period for the exercise of public rights (to include the first 10 working days of July 2025) - Public rights period Tuesday 1 July – Monday 11 August 2025

7.3 INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT 24/25

To consider and note the internal auditors report

8. FINANCE

8.1 PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS

- To consider and **NOTE** the payments, paid under delegation and any receipts received. – payments will be circulated prior to the meeting
- The council to approve payments above the scheme of delegation threshold (£5,000)

8.2 WYNDHAM PARK HUB – REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Background:

On 27th September 2016, YWPC resolved (Minute No. 234/16c) to contribute up to £5,000 per year for the duration of the Wyndham Park project. This financial commitment was intended to support the development and sustainability of the Wyndham Park Hub, which serves as a valuable community resource. – *circulated separately with agenda email*

Request

Members are asked to review the financial accounts submitted. The aim is to assess the current financial standing of the project and consider further contributions from YWPC to sustain the Wyndham Park Hub, a key asset for the local community.

8.3 WESTFIELD YOUTH SERVICES

a. **Westfield Youth Drop in Report** – *circulated separately with agenda email*

b. **Members are asked to consider the request for the extension of the Service Level Agreement (SLA)** – *request, pages 9 -12*

8.4 GRANT APPLICATIONS

To consider the recommendations of the Grant Steering Committee

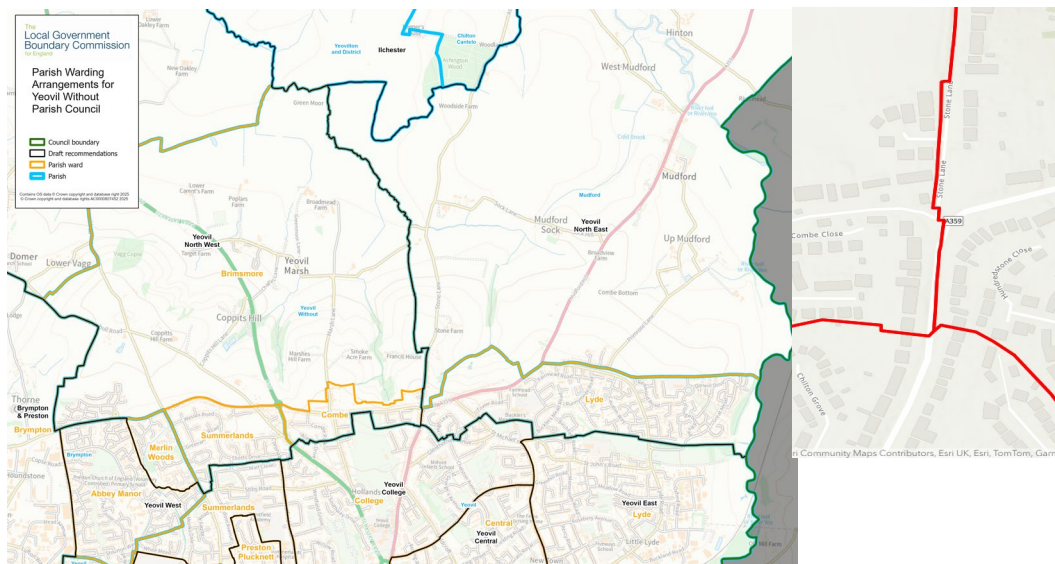
9. CORRESPONDENCE

9. 1 DRAFT BOUNDARY REVIEW - Response deadline: 11th August 2025

Background:

Members are invited to consider the draft recommendations presented in the Boundary Review for Somerset Council.

Draft Recommendations:



- **Somerset Council:**

- The two proposed wards in Yeovil:
 - **Yeovil North West** (1 councillor)
 - **Yeovil North East** (1 councillor)
- The dividing line for these wards is set along the Combe Street Lane/Stone Lane/Mudford Road junction.

- Current Somerset Councillor representation is 6 councillors, which will be reduced to 2 councillors primarily representing the rural areas surrounding Yeovil.
- The shift of residents from Yeovil to a rural classification does not seem to reflect the current demographic and social characteristics of the area. This reclassification needs to be reconsidered to ensure fair and accurate representation for these residents.
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- **Yeovil Without:**
 - No changes are proposed for the ward names or the number of councillors. However, there is concern regarding the inconsistencies in the number of councillors allocated to the various wards, as outlined below.

Existing vs Draft Recommendations for Ward Councillors:

Ward	Existing Number of Councillors	Draft Recommendations
Summerlands	3	3
Brimsmore	2	2
Combe	3	1
Lyde	7	9

Key Concerns:

1. **Combe Ward:**
 - The proposed reduction of councillors from 3 to 1 does not reflect the demographic growth and needs of the area. The ward has a large population and geographical area that requires appropriate representation. A reduction to a single councillor seems unreasonable given the existing demands.
2. **Lyde Ward:**
 - The proposed increase in councillors from 7 to 9 raises concerns about proportionality. If the size of the ward remains unchanged, the allocation of more councillors could result in a misalignment of resources and an inflated representation that lacks clear justification.
 - There is also confusion regarding the dual use of the "Lyde" name, with both Yeovil Town Council and Somerset Council using this term. This overlap creates confusion among residents, particularly when it comes to representation.
3. **Brimsmore Ward:**
 - While there is no proposed change in the number of councillors, it is worth noting that the **Brimsmore Development** is within this ward and is expected to continue growing. The existing two councillors may no longer provide sufficient representation for this expanding area, and the council should consider increasing the number of councillors to adequately address these growing needs.
4. **Summerlands Ward:**
 - The existing allocation of 3 councillors does not adequately represent the needs of the ward. It would be more suitable to reduce the number to 2 councillors, given the current scope and scale of the area.
 - Additionally, **Yeovil Town Council** already has a **Summerlands**

ward, which causes confusion for residents. A better solution may be to revert to the previous ward structure, where **Brimsmore** and **Summerlands** were amalgamated with 5 councillors representing both areas.

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- 5. **Contested Elections and Costs:**
 - The allocation of a single councillor to some wards increases the risk of contested elections, leading to higher costs for the parish and potential representation gaps. This could create additional challenges and inefficiencies in the election process.
- 6. **Yeovil Without:**
 - The wards of **Brimsmore**, **Combe**, and **Lyde** have existed in their current form since 2019, with **Summerlands** being the only new ward. However, this fragmented structure does not provide a better representation of the area than if **Yeovil Without** were one unified ward.
 - Allowing all 15 councillors to be allocated their areas of representation would be more effective and align better with local knowledge, ensuring a stronger and more cohesive representation.
- 7. **General Power of Competence (GPC) Concerns:**
 - Yeovil Without Parish Council (YWPC) does not currently meet the criteria for the **General Power of Competence (GPC)**, which requires that 2/3 of councillors must be elected.
 - Creating numerous wards may risk some wards being contested while others may not have enough standing candidates. This would lead to a situation where less than 2/3 of councillors are elected, thereby preventing YWPC from meeting the GPC criteria.

Possible Options to Consider:

1. **No Wards:**
 - The best chance of achieving GPC would be to eliminate wards entirely, allowing all 15 councillors to be elected. This would ensure that every councillor is directly accountable to their constituents, and the local council would have more flexibility in addressing the needs of the community.
2. **Two Wards:**
 - If the two proposed Somerset Council wards (Yeovil North West and Yeovil North East) are agreed, it would be possible to adopt a similar division at the parish level, creating two wards:
 - **Yeovil Without North West** (7 councillors)
 - **Yeovil Without North East** (8 councillors)
3. **Reverting to Brimsmore, Combe, and Lyde:**
 - If all else fails, it would be better to revert to the previous structure of **Brimsmore**, **Combe**, and **Lyde** wards. However, **Lyde** should be renamed **Lyde North East** to differentiate it from the **Yeovil Town Council Lyde** ward. The proposed allocation would be:
 - **Brimsmore:** 5 councillors
 - **Combe:** 3 councillors
 - **Lyde North East:** 7 councillors

Next Steps:

- Review the draft recommendations in detail.
- Prepare a formal response addressing the discrepancies in councillor numbers and ward boundaries.
- Submit the response by the deadline: **11th August 2025**.
- Members are encouraged to individually reply expressing their own views on to the draft recommendations

9.2 Closure of Yeovil Maternity Unit response

9.3 Any further correspondence received since preparation of the agenda which does not require a financial decision

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 @ 6.30pm

End of Agenda

Application for renewal of Service Level Agreement for Youth Work based at St Peters Community Centre Westfield.

1. Introduction

St Peters Community Centre in the Westfield estate was built and opened in 2019, with the help of funding from the Town Council and Yeovil Without Parish Council, among others. It replaced the dilapidated St Peters Hall, and was built to provide a versatile, high quality space for the local community. It has 3 hireable spaces, along with an open plan foyer/café area which is used as a drop in throughout the week. The Centre has around 25 regular user groups and activities, and also hosts Westfield Warm Hub, the Westfield Community Pantry, and recently started 'Westfield Fresh' to redistribute unsold food from local supermarkets.

The Centre is run by a partnership of St Peters Church, Westfield Community Association and Abri Housing, along with representatives from user groups.

2. Westfield Youth Project

Westfield has high levels of deprivation, particularly affecting children and young people, and a relatively high proportion of young residents (26% 0-15s according to the 2021 census, compared to an average of 19% across South Somerset). In 2022, high levels of anti-social behaviour by young people on Westfield, including vandalism, and harassment of Centre users, became a priority issue for Yeovil police (<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/yeovil-town/priorities/>).

At the time there was no open-access youth work in the area. A youth worker employed by St Peters church was running a girls-only group one evening a week, alongside work at St James church and local secondary schools, and the nearest open-access group was a YMCA group on Mudford Rec (from which several of the most difficult young people were banned). Several of these young people had long-standing relationships with St Peters, and had been in and out of various of our groups (e.g. Messy Church) over the years.

We ran a pilot youth drop in for 5 weeks in the summer of 2022, with over 40 young people attending at least 1 session. With donations from the church, the drop-in continued during the autumn, and then with help from Yeovil Town Council and Yeovil Without Parish Council, we have been able to fully fund the work for 2023-25. This has enabled us to extend the hours of our church youth worker, and employ a youth work assistant alongside her.

The original proposal was for a weekly youth drop-in, supplemented by detached youth work, and mentoring work based in Westfield school. Alongside the paid youth workers, we aimed to recruit volunteers from the church and local community to provide the necessary staffing levels at each youth group. The aim was to provide a safe and positive space for the young people, to build good relationships, engage with their families, work in partnership with the local police and residents to create a more positive environment for young people and reduce the anti-social behaviour.

3. The Youth Project in Practice, 2023-2025

The regular Thursday evening Drop In continued into 2023, catering mainly for an older group of youth (15+) so to engage with children from a younger age, 'The Hangout' began on a Weds evening, with 2 sessions, one focused on school years 4-7, the other on years 7-11. Between them, the groups have engaged with 100-150 young people each year, and have been supplemented by activity sessions in the school holidays, which have also been well supported.

We trialled detached youth work around Westfield, but actually found it makes more sense to deliver youth work from the Community Centre. Detached work is by nature hit and miss, and we have found that most of the young people are either at home, at school, or at a set activity, very few tended to gather 'on the streets' or in the local park. For the children we were trying to reach, it soon became obvious that the best tactic was to deliver a range of drop-in youth options from the Centre.

The groups have met all of our initial aims, including:

- To build positive relationships with the young people.
- To give young people a safe and consistent place to be themselves, with people who will listen to them and engage with them.

- Provide a positive environment and activities for young people, to help them feel valued, improve mental health, and improve their behaviour and access to education.
- To engage with the families of the young people, and provide support where needed.
- To work with the police and local residents to build positive relationships with the young people, and reduce anti-social behaviour on Westfield.
- Preventative work with years 5 and 6 through local schools to engage them earlier and divert them away from unhealthy and destructive behaviours.

Some examples:

- Working with Westfield Community Association to grow veg in the new Community Garden
- A growing and positive relationship with the local PCSOs, who are regular visitors to the youth groups.
- Taking 20 young people to a weekend summer camp – for many the first time away from home, and the only holiday they had in the year.
- Seeing some of the older children move into work, and good relationships across the age range, with older and younger children mixing well.
- A child struggling at school, but who was a gifted artist, bringing her artwork every week and talking over it with the group leaders
- Outside organisations coming in to run sessions (e.g. Wildlife Trust, a local dance charity) or running sessions offsite (e.g. at Ninesprings with the park rangers)
- Young people fundraising for the summer camp (raised £200 with a stall at a community fete) and getting involved in community events (e.g. making mince pies at an Abri-led Christmas event)

We have tracked the anti-social behaviour data released monthly by Yeovil police. In 2023 there was a drop of 60% from the high levels reported in 2022, and this has been maintained in 2024 and 2025 so far. So the big goal which the group was initially started for has been hit, and sustained.

It is also apparent that for many of our young people, the group is a valued and unique safe space for them. A group who attend the older Wednesday Hangout session (6pm start) come to the Centre straight from school and wait for over 2 hours outside the Centre, preferring to be with us than to be at home, and valuing time engaging with the group leaders.

As a result of the youth work, relationships between the community and local youth have significantly improved, with several local people volunteering as helpers, and a significant amount of money donated by church members to enable our group members to attend the summer camp, which otherwise they could not afford. There are now positive relationships with the local PCSOs, and Westfield Community Association, which did not exist before.

A fuller review of the Youth Project, including a number of stories of individuals we have been able to support, and more details and background to our strategy and actions, can be found in the Project Report to the Council dated May 2025.

4. Our Goals For 2026-2028

- We would, subject to funding, like to continue and develop the Westfield Youth Project over the next 3 years. The core 'offer' will be
 - Three open-access youth sessions per week during school term time, catering for ages 9-18, offering both unstructured and structured activities, run both by our youth team and by outside providers.
 - Two open-access sessions during most weeks of the school holidays
 - A group of up to 25 taken to the 'Spree' summer camp
 - Continued contact and partnership with community organisations, to give the young people a sense of pride in their Westfield neighbourhood.
 - Supplementary work in both local secondary schools, currently funded by the church. In one school our youth worker runs a lunchtime club, in the other she does detached work for one lunch hour a week, with a focus on students who are struggling with school.
 - Continue to recruit volunteers from the local community to help deliver the youth work.

5. Who Will Benefit?

- Young people on Westfield: we began this project with around 50 on the books, we now have over 200 contacts through the youth work and schools.
- Local families, providing a safe space for their children/teenagers to go, make friends, find support, and do positive activities.
- The Westfield community, with continued lower anti-social behaviour levels, and young people playing a constructive, rather than a destructive, part in local community life.

6. Budget for 3 years from January 2026

(we have assumed inflation of 5% per year)

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Youth worker salary (10hpw x£16.50ph)	8800	9240	9702	27742
Employment costs	957	1043	1132	3133
Assistant youth worker (5hpw x£12.70)	4110	4315	4531	12956
Youth work and Volunteer expenses	630	662	695	1987
Use of community centre (6.5 hrs pw x £40 for 48 weeks)	12480	13104	13759	39343
Outside trainers for special sessions	360	378	397	1135
Outings and Equipment	300	315	335	950
Refreshments	525	551	579	1655
Training	315	331	347	993
Other running costs	200	210	221	631
Total	28,677	30,110	31,615	90,402

Line management, safeguarding, training, volunteer help and admin support will be provided by St Peters Church and Community Centre at no extra cost to the project.

We are aware this is a significant increase from the support we received in 2023-25. The key factors in this are:

- In our budgeting for 2023-25, we based this on the hours of the initial pilot drop-in, which was 2 hours a week during term time. We initially envisaged more detached youth work, but found very quickly that running groups from the Centre worked much better. There is therefore a higher provision for hire of the Community Centre.
- Expanding from term-time only to all-year round youth provision, covering most weeks of the school holidays.
- Inflation has added 12-15% to our project costs. For salaries we follow the official JNC pay scale for youth and community workers.

If Yeovil Town Council are able to continue to provide support, that would be great news for us and for young people locally. We have approached Yeovil Without Parish Council for funding also.

- £25,000 pa for three years (matched by £5,000 from YWPC) would enable us to run the full suite of youth programmes all year round
- £22,000 pa for 3 years (matched by £4,000 from YPCC) would enable us to run all of our term-time youth sessions, without the holiday activities.

We are limited in other funding we can apply for as we are drawing on grants for so many other projects at the Centre for the benefit of the local community, and it has been extremely helpful to have simplicity of working with 1 major funding partner.

7. How Will We Measure the Impact?

We will continue to monitor the following indicators:

- Level of engagement with the youth club and activities.
- Improved engagement in education (e.g. reduced absenteeism, improved engagement and learning in school/PRU), or engagement in work for older members.
- Behaviour/attitude of the young people in the club, and in education
- Sustaining the reduction in local anti-social behaviour
- Increased engagement in positive community activities – e.g. community garden, youth club leadership, peer mentoring

We believe this project has delivered positive benefits to the lives of many young people on Westfield, and also to the Westfield community as a whole. We are immensely grateful for your support so far, and hope you will be able to continue this. Thankyou very much indeed for your time and consideration.

David Keen, Chair St. Peters Community Centre & Vicar of St. Peters Church. 21st May 2025