



# Yeovil Without Parish Council

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## Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 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*).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Appleby'.

Barbara Appleby - YWPC Clerk - 13/2/26

**ALL MEMBERS OF YEOVIL WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL ARE  
SUMMOND TO ATTEND THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS DETAILED  
ABOVE.**

*Yeovil Without Parish Council will be discussing all the items listed on page 3 onwards*

*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)*

For further information on the items to be discussed, please contact  
[clerk@yeovilwithoutparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yeovilwithoutparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The information is also available on our website: [www.yeovilwithoutparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.yeovilwithoutparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Yeovil Without Parish Councillors and Ward representatives

### 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  
Vacancy  
Cllr John Orchard  
Cllr Rani Panesar  
Cllr Sarah Nutland  
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.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (15 minutes)**

### **OUTSIDE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

- Police/PCSO
- Somerset Councillors
- Outside bodies

## **AGENDA**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - to receive apologies for absence

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – to receive declarations of interest from councillors

*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).*

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – to agree and sign the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 21 January 2026

**4. CHAIRS REPORT** – to receive and note report from the chair

**5. PARISH CLERKS REPORT** - to receive an update from the Clerk  
Defib use Greenwood Road, MUGA area update, presentation reminder Brympton Development 6pm 18 March meeting.

**6. PLANNING**

6.1 Planning applications received after the publication of the agenda

## **7. ONGOING MATTERS/REVIEWS/GOVERNANCE**

**7.1 GENERAL RISK ASSESSEMENT REVIEW** – To review and adopt YWPC risk assessment

**7.2 COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION** – To NOTE the resignation from Cllr Simon Hodder  
Public notice expiry date 25 Feb 26

## **8. FINANCE**

**8.1 PAYMENTS AND RECEIPTS** – to consider and NOTE the payments paid under delegation and any receipts received this month – to be sent out separately prior to the meeting.

**8.2** To APPROVE payments above the scheme of delegation threshold (£5,000)  
Cemetery Deficit - £12,016

**8.3 GRANTS** – to consider recommendations from the Grant Steering Group  
Recommendations page 5

**8.4 INVESTMENT OF CREMATORIUM RESERVES** - This report seeks Council approval to reinvest £250,000 of Crematorium Reserves funds following the maturity of the previous two-year fixed deposit. As no capital expenditure is planned in the short to medium term and cremator replacement not anticipated for at least ten years, the funds are not required for immediate use.

A market comparison demonstrates that a two-year fixed rate bond at 4.15% AER would generate approximately £1,800 more than a rolling one-year fixed deposit and approximately £7,000 more than a 90-day notice account over the same period. The recommended option therefore maximises return while maintaining capital security and aligns with the Council's Investment Strategy.

Council is asked to approve the transfer required to bring the investment total to £250,000 and to approve the recommended two-year fixed rate.

**Report pages 6 - 9**

**8.5 PLAYGROUND INSPECTIONS** – To consider the appointment of a contractor to undertake weekly playground inspections at Johnson Park (and the Wyndham Park MUGA area once operational) and to approve the associated expenditure.  
**Report page 10**

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

### 9.1 LEONARDO NMH CONTRACT - COMBINED PARISH RESPONSE

To **NOTE** the combined Parish response to the proposed Leonardo UK NMH contract, due to be submitted to the Secretary of State for Defence, subject to confirmation of the surrounding parishes wishing to countersign the letter.

The letter has been circulated to Yeovil LCN parishes and will be amended to include additional parishes upon confirmation from each respective Parish Council. **Pg 11-12**

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

**10. NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting will take place on 18th March 2026 and will commence upon the conclusion of the presentation by John Bishop of Brimsmore Development, scheduled to begin at 6:00pm.

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## REPORTS

### 8.3 GRANTS – Grant budget £3,000 - recommendations from Grant Steering Group

| Organisation                                 | Grant amount                          | Project  | Recommendation  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Project Dance Charity Foundation             | 2,000                                 | Funds will be used to provide Yeovil schools with a free dance workshop, as well as free tickets for students to attend the production at Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil. YWPC 2 schools out of 17 schools listed | 500   |
| Yeovil Street Pastors                        | 1,000 (or any amount up to 1,000)     | To pay for refresher training for the existing Street Pastors (£250) -subsidise training and uniform for new Street Pastors (£360) -towards organisational fees to Ascension Trust (£390)                                | 300   |
| Yeovil Opportunities Group                   | 2,000                                 | We are seeking funding <b>towards the delivery costs</b> of our <b>Family Support Project</b> for families of children aged 18 months–5 years with complex disabilities living in and around the YWPC                    | 2,000   |
| Crimestoppers                                | 200                                   | To promote our charity call to action into our parishes across the South West to help people speak up about crime with a 100% guarantee of anonymity to help keep their communities safe.                                | 200   |
| Octagon's Arts Engagement & Outreach service | SLA - £5,000 - £1,000 given last year | Annual outreach programmes and activities in YWPC and surrounding area   | Recommend 3-year SLA for £1,000 depending on further info being received about activities and SLA details |

## 8.4 Investment of Crematorium Reserve Funds (£250,000)

### Purpose of Report

To consider the reinvestment of Crematorium Reserve funds following the maturity of the previous investment in a two-year fixed term deposit and to approve an appropriate investment arrangement in line with the Council's Investment Strategy.

### Background

An initial investment of £200,000 was made from the Crematorium Reserve in a two-year fixed rate bond. Following the maturity of this investment, the Crematorium Reserve balance now stands at £220,828.49, reflecting interest earned over the investment period.

There are currently no capital expenditure works identified within the medium-term financial plan, and the replacement of cremators is not anticipated for at least ten years. The funds are therefore not required in the short to medium term.

### Current Financial Position

| Description                             | Amount (£)        |
|---|-------------------|
| Crematorium Reserve balance on maturity | 220,828.49        |
| Unallocated Crematorium reserves        | 275,007.23        |
| Proposed transfer to investment reserve | 29,171.51         |
| <b>Proposed investment total</b>        | <b>250,000.00</b> |
| Unallocated reserves (post-transfer)    | 245,835.72        |

It is proposed that £29,171.51 be transferred from the unallocated Crematorium reserves to increase the investment sum to £250,000, thereby maximising returns while retaining sufficient unallocated reserves for operational flexibility.

### Investment Options Considered

#### Option 1: Unity Trust Bank

Unity Trust Bank is a well-established provider of banking and investment services to the public sector. Investment with Unity Trust Bank would offer a secure and ethical banking option suitable for local authority funds. Specific rates and terms would be subject to confirmation at the time of investment.

#### Key considerations:

- Suitable for public sector bodies
- Strong focus on security and ethical investment
- Rates subject to prevailing market conditions

## Option 2: Redwood Bank – 2 Year Fixed Rate Bond

Redwood Bank offers a two-year fixed rate bond with a guaranteed return.

### Key features:

- Fixed term: 2 years
- Guaranteed return of 4.15% AER (gross)
- Minimum investment: £10,000 (maximum £1m)
- No withdrawals permitted during the fixed term
- Suitable for surplus funds not required in the short term

### Key considerations:

- Higher fixed return
- Lack of liquidity for the duration of the term
- Appropriate only if funds are not anticipated to be required during the two-year period

## Option 3: Hinckley & Rugby Building Society – Local Council Accounts

A range of deposit accounts specifically designed for local councils, providing varying degrees of liquidity.

### Available options include:

- **90 Day Notice Deposit**
  - Rate: 2.80% gross/AER
  - Withdrawals subject to 90 days' notice
- **45 Day Notice Deposit**
  - Rate: 2.10% gross/AER
  - Withdrawals subject to 45 days' notice
- **Easy Access Deposit**
  - Rate: 1.65% gross/AER
  - Withdrawals available at any time

### Key considerations:

- High level of security
- Flexible access depending on account chosen
- Lower returns compared with fixed-term options

## Market Comparison and Financial Benefit Analysis

As the Crematorium Reserve funds will not be required within the next two years, it is appropriate to compare the projected returns of a two-year fixed investment against shorter-term alternatives.

For comparison purposes, the following indicative rates have been used:

- **2-Year Fixed Rate Bond (Redwood Bank): 4.15% AER**
- **1-Year Fixed Deposit (market estimate): 3.80% AER**
- **90-Day Notice Account: 2.80% AER**

### Projected Returns on £250,000

#### Option A – 2-Year Fixed at 4.15% AER

$£250,000 \times (1.0415)^2 = £271,179$

Total interest earned: **£21,179**

#### Option B – 1-Year Fixed at 3.80% AER (assumed reinvestment at same rate for year two)

$£250,000 \times (1.038)^2 = £269,367$

Total interest earned: **£19,367**

#### Additional income from 2-year fixed:

**£1,812**

#### Option C – 90-Day Notice Account at 2.80% AER (assumed constant for two years)

$£250,000 \times (1.028)^2 = £264,196$

Total interest earned: **£14,196**

#### Additional income from 2-year fixed:

**£6,983**

### Financial Implications

Over a two-year period:

- The two-year fixed bond generates approximately **£1,800 more** than a rolling one-year fixed deposit.
- It generates approximately **£7,000 more** than retaining funds in a 90-day notice account.
- The fixed rate removes reinvestment risk should interest rates fall after year one.
- Given the absence of liquidity requirements, the additional return is achieved without materially increasing risk to capital (subject to institutional credit risk considerations).

### Financial and Risk Considerations

In determining the most appropriate investment option, Council should consider:

- **Security of capital** – priority given the purpose of the reserve
- **Liquidity requirements** – availability of funds for planned or unforeseen expenditure
- **Yield** – balancing return against security and access
- **Compliance with the Council's Investment Strategy and statutory guidance**

## Recommendation

Council is requested to:

1. Approve the transfer of £29,171.51 from the unallocated Crematorium reserves to top up the Crematorium Reserve to a total of £250,000.
  2. Note the investment options available for the reinvestment of £250,000 of Crematorium Reserve funds.
  3. Approve one or a combination of the above investment options, having regard to security, liquidity, and yield, to ensure the long-term adequacy of the Crematorium Reserve.
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## Officer Recommendation

Approve the investment of the full £250,000 in a two-year fixed rate bond with Redwood Bank at 4.15% AER.

## Rationale

- There are no capital expenditure works currently planned, and cremator replacement is not anticipated for at least ten years; the funds are therefore not required in the short to medium term.
- The two-year fixed rate bond offers a guaranteed return of 4.15% AER, exceeding current notice account rates and typical one-year fixed rates, thereby maximising income while maintaining capital security.
- The fixed-term investment aligns with the Council's Investment Strategy, appropriately balancing yield, security, and liquidity relative to future obligations.

## **8.5. Provision of Weekly Playground Inspections**

Weekly playground inspections at Johnson Park have historically been undertaken by Somerset Council (previously SSDC). Written weekly reports were received up until March 2025, when the grounds staff transferred from Somerset Council to the Town Council.

Since that time, weekly inspections have continued; however, written reports ceased and were due to be provided on a quarterly basis unless urgent matters arose. Despite follow-up requests, no reports have been received. Therefore, alternative provision has been explored.

**Somerset Council Quotation for 2026/27 is £723.32**

Routine inspections would be invoiced twice yearly:

- September 2026 (Quarters 1 & 2: April–September 2026)
- January 2027 (Quarters 3 & 4: October 2026–March 2027)

An alternative proposal has been received from Yeovil Town Council. They have trained staff available to undertake the inspections, including the individual who previously carried out inspections at Johnson Park on behalf of Somerset Council and is therefore familiar with the site.

### **Yeovil Town Council – Proposal**

- Weekly inspections
- Written records provided monthly
- Same-day notification of any urgent faults or repairs (method of contact to be confirmed)
- Cost: £25 per month (£300 per annum)
- Invoiced six-monthly, subject to confirmation of a yearly arrangement
- Willing to include the Wyndham Park MUGA area once opened (anticipated April), with additional costs to be confirmed upon completion of the site

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Yeovil Town Council be appointed to provide weekly playground inspections for the Johnson Park play area, with the addition of the Wyndham Park MUGA area once the site becomes operational.

## **9.1 LEONARDO NMH CONTRACT - COMBINED PARISH RESPONSE**

Dear Secretary of State,

We write on behalf of the residents of Yeovil and the surrounding parishes to urge the Government to award the New Medium Helicopter (NMH) contract to Leonardo in Yeovil without further delay. We ask that the NMH contract be decoupled from the Defence Investment Plan and awarded now, to secure UK jobs, protect national security, and safeguard sovereign helicopter manufacturing capability.

This letter is submitted as a collective response from **Yeovil Town Council, Yeovil Without Parish Council, Brympton Parish Council and West Coker Parish Council**. It is written in full support of the recent correspondence from Adam Dance MP, Member of Parliament for Yeovil. We also formally endorse the concerns and position set out in Yeovil Town Council's letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 regarding the urgent need for clarity and decisive action.

Our residents have lived with prolonged uncertainty for far too long. Despite repeated assurances that clarity would be delivered through the Defence Investment Plan (DIP), continued delay has placed the future of Leonardo Helicopters UK in Yeovil – and with it the UK's sovereign helicopter manufacturing capability – at serious risk.

Loss of the Yeovil facility, and its UK supply chain, would result in the United Kingdom losing its ability to produce crewed and uncrewed helicopters at a time of increasing global fracture and conflict. Long-standing allies are now regarded with greater caution, and the strategic environment is less predictable than at any point in recent decades. The need for secure, onshore defence manufacturing capability has never been more acute. UK defence procurement policy must place greater value on sovereign capability and economic resilience. Now is the time to secure UK jobs, strengthen the UK economy, and maintain national security by awarding the NMH contract to Leonardo in Yeovil.

We remain deeply concerned that the NMH contract is still tied to the Defence Investment Plan, despite Leonardo having been the sole remaining bidder for over a year. This indecision now threatens the closure of the Yeovil site, with the loss of more than 3,000 highly skilled jobs locally, support for over 12,000 jobs across the regional supply chain, and the removal of approximately £320 million per year from the local economy.

The consequences would extend far beyond immediate job losses. Yeovil's helicopter manufacturing heritage has sustained a unique and highly skilled workforce for generations. The loss of the NMH programme would accelerate the erosion of specialist engineering skills, apprenticeships, and training pathways that cannot be easily rebuilt once dismantled. Leonardo's significant and long-standing investment in skills, education, and apprenticeships – including sustained funding and partnership working that directly benefits Yeovil and the wider area – would be lost.

This skills ecosystem underpins the future of our town. Without a thriving high-value manufacturing employer, the incentive to attract and retain highly skilled professionals to Yeovil will diminish. This will in turn impact demand for new housing, weaken local development prospects, and undermine the long-term sustainability of our communities. The ability to plan for growth — economically and socially — depends on the continued presence of skilled employment.

For many residents, Leonardo is not simply an employer. For decades, the construction of helicopters in Yeovil has been a defining feature of the town and a major reason people have chosen to live, work, and raise families here. Almost every household has a direct connection to the site — past or present — or includes someone who aspires to work there in the future. Leonardo is widely regarded as the most sought-after employer in the area, offering stable, skilled, and meaningful work.

The loss of this capability would therefore represent far more than the closure of a manufacturing facility. It would risk the loss of Yeovil's industrial identity and the dismantling of a community built around skills, innovation, and contribution to the nation's defence.

Beyond the local impact, the national implications remain stark. Leonardo Yeovil is the UK's last remaining end-to-end military helicopter manufacturer. At a time of increasing geopolitical uncertainty, the UK cannot afford to become more reliant on overseas supply chains or external powers for critical defence capabilities. The ability to design, build, maintain, and upgrade helicopters onshore is essential to national security, operational resilience, and strategic independence.

We therefore ask plainly and directly: will the Government commit to supporting a British-built medium lift helicopter capability and award the NMH contract to Leonardo in Yeovil now?

We join Adam Dance MP in calling for the immediate decoupling of the NMH contract from the Defence Investment Plan and for a clear and decisive award to be made. Our residents deserve certainty, our workforce deserves commitment, and the country requires secure, sovereign capability.

The strength of feeling across our parishes cannot be overstated. We urge you to act now to protect skilled employment, apprenticeships, sovereign capability, and the identity of a town that has supported Britain's defence needs for generations.

We look forward to your urgent response and stand ready to engage constructively to secure the future of our communities and the UK's defence capability.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of:

YWPC, BPC, YTC, WCPC (all council names will be written in full on the final letter)