

**MINUTES** of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Community Centre, Fakenham on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at 7.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: A Glynn (Chairman), M Dutton, V Joslin, R Mallett and J Holdom.

District Councillors: C. Cushing and E Vickers

County Councillor: T Fitzpatrick

Press: None

Police: PC R Dawson and Insp. M Reavey

Town Clerk: L Meanley

Deputy Town Clerk: A Kerrison

Speakers: Prof. D Harper formerly of Water Science at University of Leicester.

Public: 15 members of the Public

**1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and made introductions.

**2 NOTICE CONVENING MEETING**

The Clerk read the Notice Convening the Meeting.

**3 REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE**

Inspector Reavey introduced herself as she is new to the area.

PC Dawson gave a report on what has happened over the last year.

The unauthorised encampment on Aldiss Park last summer caused some concern. The Police, Town Council and other landowners have met to try and prevent a recurrence this year.

The police are working with the academy and EP Youth to try and stop the antisocial behaviour and shop lifting being carried out by some young people.

A pub watch group and a shop watch group have been set up in Town with the police to give early warning amongst business owners of any trouble. This has been working well.

Police have received complaints about 20MPH speed limits in town being ignored by motorists. PC Dawson said the Town Councils flashing speeding signs have helped, but suggested a community speed watch group could be set up.

PC Dawson informed the meeting that he is stepping down as the local beat manager to take up a new post within the police. He will be staying in post until the new beat manager arrives. Cllr Glynn thanked him for his work in Fakenham.

**4 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 had been approved at Full Council on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022. On the proposition of Cllr Joslin, seconded by Cllr Dutton these were accepted.

**5 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Glynn noted the significant events that have happened over the last year. Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, The death of her majesty and the Coronation of King Charles. Various events were held to mark these occasions. Since then, former Cllr Foortse organised a successful fashion show for charity.

The Town has welcomed a new Rector, Tracey Jessop, who is doing lots for the community. The church has also won an Eco award.

The Chamber of Trade in the Town has been resurrected and is now up and running.

The Town Council has been collaborating with the District Councillors and have secured funding for a multi-use games area at Trap Lane. They have also been working with NNDC regarding access to

the Shared prosperity fund. One of the things that that this would be used towards would be a Community Orchard.

Cllr David Hunter has put in a lot of work with various agencies such as the River Board and the Environment Agency towards the restoration of the River Wensum and the walk beside it.

There has been an increase in antisocial behaviour in the Town. The Council have been asked about youth clubs for young people to occupy their time. The Council has given money to EP Youth who work with the Town's young people to help them before they get into trouble.

## **6 TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES**

Cllr Dutton introduced himself as chair of the Council's finance committee. He paid tribute to Marina Watters who worked on the Council's finances on behalf of Stephenson Smart, who passed away earlier this year, and thanked her 2 colleagues who have stepped up to produce the year end reports. Cllr Dutton explained the structure of the accounts for both the Town Council and Market Tolls and for the Fakenham recreation Ground Charity. Copies of the unaudited year end accounts were made available to everyone. Cllr Dutton went through the accounts and explained any anomalies, such as the large expenditure for the recreation ground charity which was as a result of purchasing an item of new play equipment for Millennium Park. The full recreation Ground Charity accounts will be made available once they have been accepted by the Trustees.

A resident asked why the accounts for the Market Tolls showed more expenditure than income. Cllr Dutton explained that the income is from Market rents and the expenditure is grants that have been paid out. Some money would have been carried over from the previous year.

## **7 GUEST SPEAKERS**

Cllr Glynn introduced Professor David Harper, formerly of water science at the University of Leicester. Professor Harper gave a background about the history and life of the river Wensum, what has affected it over the years, and what work needs to be done.

A resident asked if it was safe to swim in the river. The answer was yes.

Another question was asked about nutrient neutrality and how that affects the river. The answer was that this is ongoing and it is not clear what will happen.

A resident asked why the level of the river is lower now than several years ago. The answer is it could be down to the weir, or the work carried out by the Environment agency further upstream.

Sara Hopkins, services manager at SENDAT sent her apologies, as she was no longer able to attend the meeting.

## **8 PRESENTATION OF MAYORS CADET AWARD**

Cadet Sgt Phoebe Harris of 2534 (Fakenham) Sqn Royal Air Force Cadets was unable to attend the meeting. She will receive the Mayors Cadet Award for 2023-24. She will accompany the Town Mayor at any civic events.

## **9 QUESTIONS**

A resident wanted to know if Gilly Foortse would continue to write an article for the Beacon now that she is no longer a Councillor. This will continue.

Questions were asked about grass not being cut at Grove Lane. It was explained that there have been problems with the contractors, but this should soon be resolved. It was also noted that some road name signs at Oak Street and Water moor Lane were missing and needed replacing. County Cllr Fitzpatrick will look into this.

Another resident raised concerns about the speed that traffic was travelling through the Town and suggested rumble strips maybe the answer. Cllr Fitzpatrick said that these had been used in another Town but complaints from residents about the noise these generated led to them

being removed. He suggested that police speed checks were the best way to deal with the problem.

The meeting was asked what is going to happen to Highfield House now that the College had vacated the premises. Cllr Fitzpatrick said that this had not been decided, but it is likely that it will be sold off for housing.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO ANY PUBLIC MATTER OF A PAROCHIAL NATURE**

There was no further business.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**CONFIRMED** this

day of

2023.

**CHAIRMAN**