

MINUTES of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Community Centre, Fakenham on **Wednesday 29th May 2024** at 7.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: A Glynn (Chairman), M Campbell, V Joslin, J Holdom, J Rockett, I Ponton, G Acheson, P Bucknell.

District Councillors: L Vickers

County Councillor: T Fitzpatrick

Press: Danielle Champ - EDP

Police: PC J Elliott

Town Clerk: L Meanley

Deputy Town Clerk: A Kerrison

Admin Assistant: K Lindsay

Speaker: Squadron Leader Ken Delve (Retired) Veterans Central, West Raynham Airfield

Public: 20 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 MINUTES

This item was omitted.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Glynn gave an overview of the events of the previous year. Four new Councillors have joined the Council. All Councillors are volunteers that give up their time which amounts to approx.200 hours per year. She thanked the Council staff for their hard work on getting on top of projects. New bus services have been introduced and authorities are working on finding a better place for the buses to stop. There have been several complaints about pavement parking. This is not in the jurisdiction of Fakenham Town Council. Cllr Glynn urged people to be considerate to pedestrians when parking. Problems with the Newman building in Norwich Street are ongoing. District Councillor Vickers is pursuing a resolution. In the meantime, NNDC are looking to alter the scaffolding do that pedestrians can walk underneath instead of having to walk in the road. A grant of £9.8m has been allocated to build a swimming pool at Trap Lane. There will also be a Multi Use Games Area. Work is due to start on the pool in October 2024 and completed in March 2026. There has been a hold up with the Northern Development of the Town due to Nutrient Neutrality which relates to all overnight accommodation. There is now a fund of money that developers can apply to to mitigate the expense of Nutrient Neutrality.

5 TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES

Apologies were received from the chair of the Finance Committee who was unable to attend the meeting.

Copies of the unaudited accounts were provided to the meeting. A question was asked regarding the Market Tolls accounts. A resident wanted to know what the running costs included and why staff salaries were not included. An explanation was offered, and they were advised to contact the office for further clarification.

6 GUEST SPEAKERS

Cllr Glynn introduced Squadron Leader Ken Delve (Retired) Veteran's Central, West Raynham airfield. He gave an explanation of where the centre is, what it does and a bit of the history behind it.

7 A REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE

PC Jessica Elliott introduced herself as the new beat manager for Fakenham. She gave a brief report of reported crime figures for the last year.

A resident asked what was being done about the underage drinking and smoking in Millennium Park. PC Elliott said that targeted patrols were taking place in the market place and Millennium Park. They also rely on information coming from members of the public.

A resident also asked about the violent crime figures as they felt that these did not reflect what the public were aware of. PC Elliott said that they could only report on crimes that had been reported to them. Reports should be on 999 if urgent, otherwise 101 or online via the Police website. Beat patrols are dependent on numbers of staff available. SNAPS (Safer neighbourhood action meetings) are open to the public. This is where concerns can be reported, and priorities set.

8 QUESTIONS

A resident said that they damaged their car on a pothole. Cllr Fitzpatrick said they may be able to claim for this from Norfolk County Council.

Holt Road was re-surfaced and the zebra crossing has not been reinstated. Cllr Fitzpatrick said that this should be done quickly.

A resident asked why the Town Councils part of the council tax had gone up so much. Cllr Glynn explained that costs have risen, and there is a lot of work to be done on the estate.

A resident asked why the stop at Highfield Road was no longer a designated bus stop. Cllr Fitzpatrick will investigate.

A resident reported that the footpath from Grove Lane to the bypass is blocked. Cllr Fitzpatrick will report it to the Highways Engineer.

A complaint was raised about the standard of grass cutting at Creake Road cemetery. This is being addressed with the contractors.

A complaint was raised about the zebra crossing outside salvation army building being blocked by the buses. There is no safer place to move this too, and it was a condition of the planning permission for Tesco.

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 8.35pm.

CONFIRMED this

day of

2024.

CHAIRMAN