

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7:00pm in the Guildhall, High Street, Shaftesbury

Present:

Councillor Brown (Chair)
Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Perkins
Councillor Austin

Councillor Proctor
Councillor Cook
Councillor Kirton
Councillor Jackson

In attendance:

Claire Commons, Town Clerk
Brie Logan, Business Manager
Zoe Moxham, Office Administrator
1 member of the press
39 members of the public

MINUTES

1. Chairman / Town Mayor's Opening Remarks

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and drew attention to the purpose of the meeting to hear from the electorate and local organisations about how the Council can work together to achieve objectives together.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Town Councillors Lewer, Loader, Todd and Hall

3. To receive the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16th May 2017

The minutes were received and adopted as a correct record.

4. Shaftesbury Town Council Annual Report 2017/18

(a) The Deputy Mayor of Shaftesbury, Councillor Piers Brown highlighted the key elements of his report and presented a brief recap of the past years activities as a Council and the positive progress made.

(b) Representatives of the following Town Council Committees also presented their reports:-

- Councillor Cook, Chair of the General Management Committee, summarised the work completed in the past year and outlining projects that support the strategic plan such as the installation of a hearing loop system in the Town Hall and the appointment of the Business Manager, Brie Logan. Councillor Cook expressed how happy he was to be working so positively both with the team on the Council that and with groups within the community.
- Councillor Brown, Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee spoke on the work of the Committee in the past year, mentioning the successful application

for double yellow lines along Lions Walk and installing extra bins along the high street. Councillor Brown touched on the fact that the Council has been pushing for local developers to complete the unmade roads on the eastern development which has finally been started. One of the more enjoyable projects for the Planning and Highway Committee was picking new names for new roads built in Shaftesbury.

- Councillor Kirton, Vice Chair of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee spoke about some of the larger projects undertaken over the past year including the path at St James, new equipment at Wincombe recreation ground, including the installation of another bench. He also discussed some of work done to set up big projects for the coming year, including replacing Jubilee railings and working collaboratively with the Rotary Club on their plans for a cycle speedway.
- Councillor Perkins, Chair of the Human Resources Committee spoke about the remit of the committee and highlighted what a positive year of dynamic change it had been internally for the Council, thanking both Councillors and Officers for their hard work. Councillor Perkins expressed his pride in the 'Principles of Belief' document that has been signed by all members of the Council, saying that he 'hopes it outlives all of us!'

Note: The Annual Report contains the full text of the above reports and is available on request from the Town Hall Offices.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

No reports were received.

6. Feedback from Local Organisations in Receipt of Grants and Support from Shaftesbury Town Council:

Cedars Castle Hill - Sara Jacson, trustee of Cedars Castle Hill briefly described how the residential care home was set up and what it has achieved. Condolences were expressed for the passing of Dr Tapper who was the driving force behind Cedars Castle Hill being set up and was president of the organisation.

Shaftesbury Abbey Museum and Gardens – Peter Ryley, trustee at Shaftesbury Abbey, spoke about the Abbey SAVED project and the future projects planned with a number of archaeologists and historians to discover what lays beneath the surface of the Abbey and other open spaces in Shaftesbury. Surveys will be carried out with state of the art laser scanning and ground penetrating radar equipment.

Shaftesbury Arts Centre – Jenny Parker spoke about how the Arts Centre is run by volunteers and highlighted the fact that they are in need of more funding and space for their projects.

Shaftesbury Community Choir - Julia Markus spoke about the choir and its inclusivity and variety of music. More members were encouraged although the group was already 80 strong.

Swans Trust – Anna McDowell, trustee at Swans Trust spoke about how they are enabling many projects in Shaftesbury including a community website, Swans Yard and the Snowdrop group, providing both administrative back up and support for ongoing projects.

Read Easy – Gary Walker gave a brief description of what the group achieved and how they are helping many local individuals both in Shaftesbury and Gillingham.

Shaftesbury Rotary Club – Wynn Harvey, member of the Rotary Club spoke about the various fundraising activities being planned such as the Gold Hill Cycle Ride and golf tournament.

Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group - John Parker, chair of the Open Spaces Group described some of the ongoing projects to enhance and maintain Shaftesbury's open spaces. He highlighted that Shaftesbury has one of the biggest collections of historical sites in Dorset.

7. Questions from the Floor

Q. An update on the co-op site was requested.

A. This land is privately owned and the Council has no information.

Q. Pedestrian Crossings along Grosvenor Road and Bleke Street were requested.

A. This matter will be discussed by the Planning and Highways committee meeting.

Q. Concern was expressed regarding Japanese Knotweed on Breach Common.

A. This is not an area that Shaftesbury Town Council look after, but the relevant organisation will be informed.

Q. A request for a by-law to be looked in regarding pavement clearance responsibilities.

A. This will be researched.

Q. What Traffic calming measures are planned for Mampitts Lane?

A. Dorset County Council is working on the plans to install a Bus Gate, and Shaftesbury Town Council is working closely with all relevant authorities.

Q. What can be done regarding the dog waste problem on the eastern development estates?

A. The Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment committee will discuss this issue.

Q. What can be done to improve the condition of the footpath from the eastern estate out to the country?

A. The Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment committee will discuss this issue, working with the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group.

Q. Who is looking into the potential use of land for the Cattle market site?

A. The Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee is looking at all projects in Shaftesbury including community assets and opportunities.

Q. An overgrown bramble hedge backing on to Barton Hill needs cutting back.

A. The Shaftesbury Town Council grounds team will be informed.

Q. Does the Council have any idea what life will be like when North Dorset District Council becomes part of a unitary Council?

A. Although we do not have a 'crystal ball' theoretically there should be no change on a service level.

The Deputy Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

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