

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 31st May 2022 at 7pm in the Guildhall, High Street, Shaftesbury

Present:

Councillor Brown (Chair)
Councillor Edwyn-Jones (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Lewer
Councillor Proctor
Councillor Langley

In attendance:

Brie Logan, Town Clerk
Sybille Maddock, Assistant Town Clerk
Jamie Fraser, Project Officer
Tracy Moxham, Finance Officer
Sarah Kirton, Administration Officer

1 member of the press
34 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 Chase, Hollingshead and Cook

3. To receive the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 12th March 2019

The minutes were adopted.

4. Shaftesbury Town Council Annual Report 2022/ 2022

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

- The Neighbourhood Plan (made in June 2021)
- Wildflower Verge Policy
- 3G all-weather pitch at Shaftesbury Football Club
- Development of the A30 allotments – now up and running with tenants in situ
- Shaftesbury Wellness 2021
- Temporary pedestrianisation (2020 – 2021)

Note: The Annual Report is available on request from the Town Hall Offices.

5. Reports from County and District Councillors

Councillor Beer provided an update on his approach to working with Dorset Council Highways and Public Transport. He shared the support he provides to those members of the community in need of guidance.

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

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| <p>Car Link Update by Martin and June Hull</p> | <p>When Martin and June originally took over car link there were 12 schemes operating in North Dorset. Since the pandemic, there are now only 7 schemes running Of these, only 3 provide wheelchair transport – their transport times are restricted and limited to their hospital or GP patients. Shaftesbury Car Link now has 3 wheelchair accessible vehicles.</p> |
| <p>Vale Pantry Update by Carole Jones</p> | <p>The Pantry provides food, resources and services to any individual or family facing food insecurity. The organisation values dignity of all individuals and works to strive to promote their independence. The Pantry is open to any household in North Dorset.</p> <p>Six hundred families have used The Vale Pantry since last November. However, 300 of those customers are now 'back on their feet, emphasising the budgetary advice and support given.</p> |
| <p>Rolt Millennium Green Update by Amber Harrison</p> | <p>The Rolt Millennium Green – Shaftesbury's beautiful and tranquil award-winning open space in St James. Owned by the whole community, and created and maintained by local volunteer</p> |
| <p>Shaftesbury Book Festival Update by Amber Harrison</p> | <p>The first Reading the Land festival took place in March 2022 and was a huge success with many events sold out. The aim of the festival was to share in the passion, experience and insight of our authors as we explore the best of nature writing.</p> <p>With much of the last 18 months spent adjusting to new limitations it has been a chance to reconnect with nature, while for others it has proven an opportunity to examine more closely the natural world around us.</p> |
| <p>Planet Shaftesbury Update by Rachel Bodle</p> | <p>Planet Shaftesbury is group of local people who share a concern about climate breakdown and the ecological emergency. They all feel driven to respond in our own way. Coming together we make up a network of diverse individuals willing to share skills and experience. Planet Shaftesbury</p> |

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| | <p>stands with anyone who cares about our planet. They seek changes that will contribute to nature's recovery and enable us to adopt more sustainable lifestyles for ourselves and across the Shaftesbury area.</p> <p>Planet Shaftesbury is not a membership organisation. Anyone who shares any part of our concerns is welcome. Their activities provide a catalyst for making productive connections. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and regular updates and news is circulated by email.</p> |
| Shaftesbury Home Grown Update by Antonia Eastman | Shaftesbury Home-Grown (SHG) is grateful to Shaftesbury Town Council for its £3,000 grant in FY 2021-22, which was key to SHG achieving its crowd-funding aim to buy, assemble and fit out a new poly-tunnel – now fully in operation, with raised beds and sprinklers: spring salads are already cropping. |
| Shaftesbury Community Choir Update by Julia Markus | This continues to be hugely popular and numbers of people are increasing week on week. Everyone is welcome and the choir meet on Wednesday evenings at the Town Hall at 7.30 pm. |
| Shaftesbury Abbey Update by Pete Ryley | <p>The prospects are very good and hopefully by next year the Abbey will have a fully functioning library, research and conference facility which will greatly enhance the resilience of the museum and add to the overall experience available at the museum.</p> <p>Visitor no longer pay an entry fee however donations have made up for this income. Visitor numbers are going from strength to strength.</p> <p>The gardens provide therapy and a place for the community to meet and enjoy the natural environment.</p> |
| Shaftesbury Tree Group Update by Bernard Ede | <p>Tree planting - Year 2 of Town Tree Plan and after care of the trees:</p> <p>Shaftesbury Tree Group have been working closely with the Town Council in preparing and implementing a 5-year Town Tree Plan. Needless to say things have been disrupted over the last two years, but we have carefully managed to achieve planting when it was safe to gather. Shaftesbury Homegrown have provided a haven/nursery for young trees whilst we waited for safer times.</p> <p>(see annual report for Tree Group full report)</p> |

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| Shaftesbury Bowling Club Update by Roger Alford | The Bowling club offer the visitor one of the best six 6-rink outdoor bowling green in the area. There are many success stories with the various teams winning various competitions. |
| Shaftesbury Football Club Update by Donna Lane | The 3G pitch is recognised as a fantastic facility with more and more clubs using the pitch. The youth teams have a membership of over 200 and the ladies teams are popular. The walking football has also proved popular and plans are in place to have an additional weekly session. |
| Gold Hill museum Update by Elaine Barrett | Gold Hill Museum is owned and managed by volunteers of The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society, a registered charity. The Shaftesbury & District Historical Society owns Gold Hill Museum. The Society is an entirely voluntary organisation and in normal years receives no public funding towards the running costs of the Museum. |

The Mayor updated the community about the project focus for 2022 and provided an overview on the:

- Shaftesbury Wellness event for 2022 plus funding to host the events for five years
- Long Stay Car Parks at Coppice Street
- Mampitts Green – community HUB project – noting a second application by a Community Interest Company had been submitted to Dorset Council for consideration.

7. Questions from the Floor

Q1: What is the timetable for the review of Shaftesbury's neighbourhood plan due this year?

A: An update is awaited from Dorset Council however we are working on the premise that updates to the plan will be undertaken by June 2023, 2 years from when it was made by Dorset Council.

Q2: Dorset Council's climate and ecological emergency strategy and action plan is not yet an intrinsic part of the emerging Dorset Local Plan and the council is under pressure from a number of Dorset organisations including Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) to make sure it is. Does STC support this move and will it ensure that effective and meaningful climate change, biodiversity and ecological sustainability policies are front and centre of its own neighbourhood plan review now due, including advocacy of the essential 2030 target date for net zero carbon emissions?

A: The Chair of Planning Committee and the Town Clerk attended the first engagement session hosted by Dorset Council on 27th May. More updates will be available as the development of the Dorset Local Plan progresses over the coming months.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

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