

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday 29th April 2025 at 7 pm
Held in the Guild Hall, Shaftesbury Town Hall

Members Summoned and Present: Councillors Chase (Chair), Edwyn-Jones (Vice), Barratt, Dibben, Elmendorff, Hollingshead, Philpott and Smith

Absent: Councillors Brown, Heritage, Loader (due to being unwell), Salkeld, Wild, Williams and Yeo

Officers Present: Brie Logan (Town Clerk), Sybille Maddock (Assistant Town Clerk), Harriet Green (Pool Manager)

In attendance: Press (1) and Members of the public (16)

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and drew attention to the purpose of the meeting; to share the work of the council and what has been delivered in the past 12 months, to hear from the electorate and learn more about how the hard work of the volunteers that do so much to support the local organisations that deliver so much great work within the community.

He presented the Mayor's Charity with a cheque for all the monies raised throughout the year and thanked them for their hard work.

Cllr Chase also spoke about the privilege of being able to attend some of the events he attended as Mayor.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were not received

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 23rd April 2024

The minutes were signed by Cllr Chase.

4. To receive the Shaftesbury Town Council Annual Report 2024/25

The Mayor of Shaftesbury, Cllr Chase highlighted the key elements of the report and presented a recap of the past years activities as a council and the progress made as per the [presentation](#).

5. To receive questions from members of the public

- Who manages the verge at the end of the High Street, by Bleke Street towards Gillingham. It requires strimming.
- Barton Hill Recreation Ground / Victoria Mews, an extension was put on the wall, however balls are still coming over hitting his car. Can the MUGA been moved?
The Town Clerk responded that it would cost around £20k to move this piece of equipment. It is prudent to include this in the play masterplan. Can look at making the current fence higher.
- What is happening with signage in the town as visitors do not know where attractions are.
The Town Clerk spoke about the Navigational Signage project.
- What can be done to empty shops and what can the council do? Cllr Edwyn-Jones, as Chair of the Chamber of Commerce, advised that these buildings are privately owned and agreed that the situation is very frustrating.
- Has the council had any information as to what is happening with the TIC as it seems the current plan has fallen through. The Town Clerk reported that a meeting is happening next

week where she will receive a further update.

6. To receive an update on the Town Council's Advisory Committees and community organisations

6.1 Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Edwyn-Jones gave an overview of what a Neighbourhood Plan is and advised that STC is currently reviewing its plan.

6.2 Shaftesbury Swimming Advisory Committee

The Pool Manager reflected on the events in the past year and the Chair of the Committee and member of Friends of Shaftesbury Swimming Stuart Edwards spoke about the current renovations at the Lido and the fund raising achieved. The Pool Manager gave an update on the planned season and thanked everyone for their support.

6.3 Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee

Richard Thomas gave an update about SuSAC, whose motto is 'Think Global, Act Local'. He spoke about the declaration to become the first Nature Friendly Town. Also reminded everyone that Shaftesbury is an Orchard town. The group is looking at developing a developer free Green Ring around Shaftesbury.

6.4 Shaftesbury Wellness

Kirsty Elliot (Yoga and Wellness event organiser), Rachael (Fitness) and Justine (Jazzercise) Kirsty reported that 1600 participants attended last year and reported that the feedback said that 100% of people attended felt that it benefitted their mental health. She then read out some feedback comments.

Rachael spoke about the benefits of fitness. This was echoed by Justine who spoke about Jazzercise and its benefits.

780 spaces have been booked already for this year's Shaftesbury Wellness.

6.5 Shaftesbury Youth Club

Yvonne and Christopher Sykes spoke about the youth club, which runs every Monday night. They have about 90 children and teach them basic life skills like cooking.

Little Giants is running on a Saturday.

Thanks to the Town Council grant the hall is being painted this coming weekend.

All the users of the hall support the hall and it is a great asset to the town. The Youth Club have a Fun Day coming up on 24th May.

In general it was noted that the Club is looking for more Trustees and Committee members.

6.6 Shaftesbury Bowling Club

[Report received](#).

7. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and praised the wonderful work of the Shaftesbury volunteers.

In light of the Town Clerk's resignation the Mayor thanked her for all her hard work and commitment over the recent years.

The Town Clerk thanked the community and everyone for their support.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.27pm.