

ATM 2017

27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting for the Parish of Royal Wootton Bassett held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00pm in the Sacred Heart Church Hall, High Street, Royal Wootton Bassett.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mary Champion, Mike Leighfield, Janet Georgiou, Mike Farrow, Marion Sweet, Linda Frost, Sue Doyle, Paul Heaphy, Steve Watts, John Wilks.

Wiltshire Councillors: Mary Champion (as above)

Electors of the Parish: Louise Chivers, Robert Anstee, David Bowler, Gabriel Sexton, Lyn Ellis, Steve Walls, Colin Sweet, James Shannon, Simon Hodgkinson, Helen Sessions.

Others in attendance: Owen Gibbs (Elector of Brinkworth Parish)

Officers in attendance: Johnathan Bourne, Town Clerk, Michelle Temple, Administrative Services Manager, Emily Maiden, Administrative Assistant and Committee Clerk.

In the Chair: Councillor Mary Champion

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Steve Bucknell, Stephan Jarvis, Michael Page, Chris Wannell and Audrey Wannell.

## **2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED to confirm and sign Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

## **3. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor, Councillor Mary Champion, presented her report which included an overview of the work of the Town Council over the past 12 months, as well as examples of events she has attended as a representative of the town.

Councillor Champion thanked her fellow Councillors, as well as Town Council staff and residents of the town for all the support she has received throughout her Mayoral year.

The following items were included within the report: -

- The Boroughfields public toilets have been taken on by the Town Council after Wiltshire Council closed the facility, and are currently undergoing a complete refurbishment
- The stairs to the Town Hall are currently being renovated to include LED safety lighting
- The Town Council purchased Merchant House on the High Street as an investment. Work has been done to bring the building into good order; this will be a useful asset for the town for years to come.
- The Town Council is working in partnership with Wiltshire Council to modernise the Library facility. The Town Council has invested in this project as the Library is a well-used and supported amenity within the town.

- The Town Council's Corporate Governance documents have been recently updated, which was a massive undertaking with a lot of work involved.
- This year saw a Royal visit to the town, when Princess Anne attended the Stone Poppy dedication ceremony.
- The campaign for a railway station for Royal Wootton Bassett is ongoing, with members of the Town Council involved in ongoing discussions on the matter.
- The Town Council has invested in an upgrade of the CCTV suite, including a new server, recording equipment and furniture for the volunteers who man the cameras. Two new cameras are due to be installed at Marlowe Way and in the vicinity of Boroughfields public toilets. The work of the CCTV volunteers continues to be of great importance to the safety of residents and visitors alike, and is highly valued by members of the Town Council.
- This year the Town Council presented Civic Awards to Chris Elias, Mark Wightman and Paul Harrison for the work they have done with their respective sports clubs.
- The Mayor attended 105 events and Mayoral functions throughout the Civic year, and thanked the various clubs and organisations who have supported her in her role as Mayor of Royal Wootton Bassett. There are 9 events forthcoming, therefore the total number of functions attended by the Mayor as representative of Royal Wootton Bassett during the Civic year will be 114.
- The Mayor thanked her fellow Councillors and the Chairs of the standing committees for the work that has been undertaken over the past twelve months. The grounds maintenance team and office staff also received thanks.

RESOLVED that the report be adopted.

#### **4. QUESTION TIME**

Members of the public were invited to ask questions of Councillors and Representatives, including charities, in respect of the reports submitted.

Copies of the reports were circulated at the meeting, outlining the activities of the various organisations over the past 12 months.

Mr Steve Walls of 5 Sheridan Drive asked about the timetable for the refurbishment of the Boroughfields toilets, and whether alternative provision would be available for the Carnival.

It was explained that the refurbishment works are expected to take 10 weeks; at present two of these weeks have passed. Whilst the Carnival Committee have been made aware of the situation, it is thought that no specific arrangements have been made for alternative provision, although local businesses are working in conjunction with the Carnival Committee and may be able to assist where possible.

*The meeting closed at 7.09pm*