

HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD IN
THE SALISBURY ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD ON THURSDAY, 23
MARCH 2017 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor Dr Linda Radford, in the Chair

Councillors P Boyle, S Cousins, R Deering, Mrs S Dunkley, Mrs B Haddock, Mrs S N Newton,

Mr J Whelan – Town Clerk
Ms P L Carpenter – Civic Administration Manger
3 members of the public

1. THE MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 23rd March 2016 were approved as a correct record and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

2. INTRODUCTION BY THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DR LINDA RADFORD

The Mayor, Councillor Dr Linda Radford welcomed members and the members of the public who were present to the meeting and introduced the Leader, Cllr Sally Newton.

3. REPORT FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF HERTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Mrs Sally Newton gave an update of the work of Hertford Town Council during the past year. The report is attached at Appendix A.

4. HERTFORD TOWN CENTRE URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Cllr Bob Deering, the Chairman of the Hertford Urban Design Strategy Steering Group, advised those present of proposed improvements to the Town Centre and in particular to Maidenhead Street, where real momentum in the project was growing. The Council was working with both Hertfordshire County Council and East Herts Council and had invested £300,000 in the project, and along with significant investment from East Herts Council there was a project fund of £1m. The immediate

aspirations included improvements to pedestrianisation in Maidenhead Street and the physical fabric of the street, along with improvements to the crossing at The Wash and provision of disabled parking at Bull Plain.

An exhibition, launching the consultation is taking place on Friday, Saturday and Monday this week at the Town and Tourist Information Centre.

Question

Mr John Barnes requested that the exhibition should remain on display for longer than the three days detailed.

Cllr Deering confirmed that the exhibition would be on display longer term in the library to ensure as many people as possible had the opportunity to comment on the detail of the proposals.

5. SELE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Steve Cousins, the Chairman of the Sele Neighbourhood Plan Working Group, provided an update of the progress of the formulation of the plan.

In April last year the first public meeting was held in Sele Ward with around 120 local residents present. The meeting generated lots of enthusiasm from members of the public and over 75 individuals volunteered to become involved.

The public meeting was followed by a working group, where 50 people present worked together to capture items for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan.

A public survey also generated a good response from people on the estate and all the findings of the survey have now been collated. The Working Group will meeting again on 29th March to work to develop the plan and it is hoped the draft will be in place in September, ready for consultation with the public.

The plan will be concluded and ready for publication later this year.

6. ADOPT A STREET LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE

Cllr Bob Deering, the Chairman of the Finance, Policy and Administration Committee provided information regarding the litter picking scheme.

The Scheme was launched in early January whereby volunteers agree to adopt a street or an area of land in their neighbourhood. The Council provides volunteers with a litter picker, gloves, a fluorescent vest and rubbish sacks. The rubbish is then disposed of within the normal household wheelie bins.

The scheme, whilst in its initial stages is going well and there is a very good take up in the Hornsmill area of the town, but also in Tamworth Road, Fordwich Rise, Mitre Court and Foxholes Avenue.

Question

A member of the public advised that he had not seen any publicity on the scheme and asked for information as to where it was advertised.

Cllr Deering responded that the scheme was advertised on the Council's social media accounts and notice boards around the town. A press release had been issued but unfortunately the Mercury had not published the article. The Council would continue with regular social media and website updates to publicise the scheme.

Comment

Mr Barnes commented that such a scheme would not be required if the public refrained from littering in the first place and if prosecutions took place against litter offenders.

A member of the public advised that she had recently moved in to an apartment in the town centre but had no facility for disposing of cardboard and packaging and was disappointed that the Council did not run a pick up collection service of large items.

Cllr Cousins advised that East Herts Council did run such a service for a small fee and collections occur on a regular basis.

It was suggested that the District Council liaise with developers and/or estate agents to provide new residents with detailed information on such services. District Cllrs present agreed to take this matter up with the East Herts Council.

7. ACCOUNTS OF PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

The accounts of the parochial charities, The Newton Exhibition Foundation and the Ancient Charities of Hertford, were available at the meeting and no queries were raised concerning these documents.

8. OPEN FORUM AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Barnes advised the Council of three footpath issues that he was currently liaising with the County Council about.

The pathway along the side of Millmead School had become more and more obstructed over the previous winter but he had established that the County, District or Town Council had no maintenance responsibilities for the path. The County Council had however recently closed the path to remove a tall tree.

The footway on the B158 Hornsmill Estate to Essenden is currently very overgrown. The County Council has agreed to add it to the list of work to be carried out but had advised Mr Barnes that it was not a priority because it had low usage.

Public Right of Way 51 from Wilton Crescent alongside Morgans School now had poor visibility because the hedges were very high. Members considered that the hedges had been allowed to grow tall to afford privacy to the school.

There being no further matters to discuss the Mayor, Councillor Dr Linda Radford closed the meeting at 20.30