

MINUTES of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Community Centre, Fakenham on **Wednesday 23rd June 2021** at 7.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: G. Foortse (Chairman), V Joslin, M Dutton, J Holdom, J Griffiths, J Rockett, D Andrews, T Duffy, D Hunter and A Glynn

District Councillors: C. Cushing

County Councillor: None

Press: A McMillan (EDP)

Police: PC R. Dawson and PC A Kettel

Town Clerk: L. Jennings

Deputy Town Clerk: A. Kerrison

Speakers: None

Public: 0 members of the Public

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and made introductions.

2 NOTICE CONVENING MEETING

The Clerk read the Notice convening the Meeting.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th May 2019 were on the proposition of Cllr Foortse , seconded by Cllr , APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman started her report by saying that there had been no Town Assembly meeting in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Until recently, all Town Council meetings had taken place remotely via Zoom. She thanked the office staff for quickly adapting to working from home and carrying on with Council business. Because of continuing restrictions on numbers of people allowed to meet in doors, this meeting had to be much smaller and scaled down than usual. Legally the Town Assembly must be held before the end of June. A much bigger meeting is planned for later in the year, when hopefully restrictions should be lifted. This will be advertised on the Council website and invitations will be sent to the local MP, Police and Crime Commissioner, local businesses etc. The community volunteers award, which is usually presented at the Town Assembly, will be presented at the meeting later in the year when more people can be present. The award is to be given to Fakenham Medical Practice COVID vaccination programme volunteers for their fantastic work with helping with the roll out of the vaccination programme. There is also a commemorative tree to be planted in the grounds of the surgery.

The Chairman then went on to thank her fellow Councillors for their enthusiasm and commitment. including getting to grips with virtual meetings. She felt that they were a good team. She also thanked the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Groundsman for their work during a difficult year.

5 TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES

Marina Watters, from Stephenson Smart accountants, presented the accounts for the year 2020-21. These will be available for inspection by the public from 1st July to 11th August 2021 by appointment only, to be booked through the office. The Chairman thanked her for all her hard work, in difficult circumstances, over the last year.

6 REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE

PC Rich Dawson introduced himself as beat manager for the Fakenham station, and his colleague PC Alan Kettel. He reported that the last 12 months have been a challenge. As with many other organisations, remote meetings and home working had been employed. The type of crime that is being dealt with has changed. There has been COVID restriction breaches and an increase in domestic abuse. SNAPS meetings have resumed following the easing of the COVID lockdown and are being held remotely. The recruitment drive goes on and there is a new Inspector at Fakenham, Terri Cooper-Barnes. Fakenham police have been involved in drone work linked to illegal betting at Racecourses. This is a National Investigation but has included Fakenham Racecourse. Current issues include antisocial behaviour. Reports of youngsters on top of buildings, riding bikes through the middle of Town etc. PC Dawson said that he is working with the Academy on this and asked members of the public to report incidences to try and get on top of this before someone gets hurt.

PC Dawson was thanked for the work with the Racecourse. Cllr Holdom asked if there was any reported Antisocial behaviour going on at Millennium Park, particularly at the skatepark. PC Dawson said that Millennium Park was not a major problem. He had not witnessed or had any reports from fellow officers regarding any concerning behaviour. PC Dawson was thanked for helping to get the speeding problems in Oak Street improved. Cllr Foortse passed on the Councils thanks for the work carried out by the police over the last year.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO ANY PUBLIC MATTER OF A PROCHIAL NATURE

There was no further business

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.
The meeting closed at 7.35pm.

CONFIRMED this

day of

2022.

CHAIRMAN