

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday 8th April 2019 at 7pm

held at the Civic Centre

The Town Council Chairman
Councillor Tony Nicklin in the Chair

Present:

Councillors: D Brett, A Davis, S Fraser, S Jeffries, P Macfarlane, T Nicklin, P Ridout and C Robbins

Officers: F Fox, T Dommett and J Halls

Public and press: 24 members of the public and 2 members of the press.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr P Batchelor, Cllr R Doyle Cllr R Fryer and Cllr G Jolley.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held at the Civic Centre on 9th April 2018 were accepted and signed as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

From the Chair, Cllr Nicklin presented the Annual Report which also contained the Financial Report. This was circulated to those present. *(Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Civic Centre, Community Hub, Library and the Warminster Town Council Website.)*

4. Town Crier

Mr Phil Seddon gave a presentation about the role of a Town Crier in Warminster. Mr Seddon said it was a privileged to have been Town Crier for the last 19 years. He recalled some of the many organisations he had supported at events and parades he had led. He explained how he represented Warminster at Town Crier competitions far and wide, winning many prizes and how Town Criers would support each other's events. He told of some of the usual requests he had had, from appearing in a nude charity calendar to cycling round the Lake on a tandem. He demonstrated the 'Home Town Shout' for Warminster and said he was delighted that so many children referred to his as "The Town Pirate".

5. Grant Recipients

2017–2018 Grant Recipients

5.1 Inspire: Mike Heaton

- Inspire is a live music event in the Lake Pleasure Grounds, it is free, and features acts almost solely from Warminster. The aim is to encourage people to take up music and musical instruments.
- The Town Council gives a grant of £3.5K which is spent on hiring the PA, security, first aid cover, securing equipment, toilet provision, band expenses and securing a headline act.
- Despite being a very hot day, 2018 was a fantastic success with loads of people visiting during the event.
- The increase insurance and VAT are likely to push cost up for 2019 by £700.

5.2 Highbury Youth Football Club: Nick Savva

- The club was in its 35th year of giving children of all abilities a chance to play football.
- The town council had given a grant of £2K, £1,800 of which had gone towards installing a disabled toilet and extra male and female toilets and new flooring.

5.3 Warminster Carnival: Sandra Major

- The town council gives an annual grant of £3k.
- The grant is used for marshals, first aid cover, appearance money for floats, prize money, bands, majorettes and visiting town criers.
- The Committee themselves raise around £4,500 a year, which with the grant is just short of what is needed to run the carnival, insurance alone costs £1,200.

5.4 Copheap Volunteers: Nigel Linge

- Called Copheap volunteers but also do work at other places e.g. Smallbrook Meadows
- £300 spent on a new leaf blower – one person can now clear in 15 mins what previously took 4 people 45 mins.
- The overgrown main path has been restored, a mile of broken fence replaced, and over 300 bottles and cans removed.
- £500+ VAT spent on two tree poppers – which allows for removal of small trees with their roots. This has allowed much thinning of trees that were growing too close together and improved the view.
- The group has given 560 volunteer hours to date.
- Will be bidding this year for a new chainsaw and long-life nest boxes.

5.5 Warminster Wobble: Colin French

- The Wobble is in its eleventh year. It had a great turn out on Saturday and approximately 150 cyclists came for the Sunday rides at the 2018 Wobble.
- The town council gives an annual grant of £3K which largely goes towards the entertainment at the Wobble. In addition, there is a lot of volunteer work, donations and gifts in kind that make the event possible.
- The group also works all year round to develop cycle routes in the town and promote cycling.

5.6 Alzheimer's Support: Stephany Bardzil

- The Old Silk Works day club opened in May 2018. It has gone from strength to strength. It has space for 13 members each day and follows their trademark formula of small group activities, a relaxed informal atmosphere and high staff ratios allowing everyone to follow their own preferences. There is an indoor garden and therapy whippets.
- The memory café allows people and their families to have an enjoyable evening and get support in a light manner.
- Dementia advisors are based in the centre but can go out to visit people in their homes.
- There has been fantastic support from the community such as donations, equipment and volunteer helpers, however, ongoing costs are high.
- They are holding fundraising "Walk to remember" on 22nd June 2019. Starting in the Lake Pleasure Grounds and going around Battlebury Hill Fort (8 ½ miles) or 1 mile around the Lake. At the same time there will be a 'fun day' event in the Lake Pleasure Grounds.

5.7 Warminster Flers Twinning Association: Edward Moore

- Started in 1973 because Flers wanted a link with a place associated with the 11th Armoured Division that had liberated Flers in 1944.
- Twinning is largely self-funding, and in these times, it is important to maintain these links.
- The grant from the town council goes towards the general fund, the major expense of which is the cost of hosting visitors from Flers.

5.8 Warminster United Church: Hilary Reynolds

- In 2016 applied for £1000 for new chairs for use in the school room, but by the time they had got the grant, they had raised other funds to pay for the chairs.
- So instead they brought a shed to store equipment in and made a garden in the back yard.

5.9 Athenaeum Trust: Cllr Tony Jackson

- The £1K grant from the town council had been used to replace old lighting with LED lighting which is not only superior but also uses less electricity.
- Over the last year, the Athenaeum has put on 13 shows, with eight theatre companies with over 3,500 attendees.
- It all helps maintain a significant building in the heart of the town.

5.10 Warminster Town Football Club: Peter Russell

- The football club lots of teams. The under 18 side is the best in the county. The £2K grant from the town council helps pay for ground improvements which are needed because so many sides use the ground.
- The first team plays in level 6 football, and having floodlights is a requirement to play in that league. There are 24 floodlights. Replacement bulbs are £70 and ignitors £35.

Cllr Nicklin thanked those who had reported on how they had spent their grants and noted that you could feel the passion for organisations, the long hours of voluntary work and the large wealth of passion and love for organisations and Warminster. He thanked the Clerk, staff and fellow councillors for working together to create a wonderful place to live and noted that soon there would be many more houses and people joining the community of Warminster.

6. Forum

Councillor Nicklin invited questions from the members of the public on any subject related to the town or town council.

Mr Len Turner said that if Wiltshire Council issued a repair notice on No3 the High Street and the owner fails to comply, then Wiltshire Council can carry out repairs and that Historic England would look sympathetically on a grant application to reimburse the cost of the work.

Mr Len Turner also praised the work of the town council staff who organise the community litter pick on a voluntary basis and the many volunteers who attend. Momentum is building behind this initiative and hopefully building a culture where people will hesitate to drop litter. **Cllr Nickin** said the issue of No3 High Street may appear on an agenda in the near future.

Mr Colin French said that the men's shed/community shed group was still looking for a premise to use. They needed a minimum of 50 sq metres. If anyone had any ideas, please get in touch. They had a committee, a constitution, a bank account, some funds and had held 8 meetings. There were 400+ men's sheds in the country, including ones at Westbury, Melksham and Frome. It was aimed as a place for older men to meet and make things. Older men had been identified as the group most likely to be isolated and lonely.

Mr Dave Pullin Asked if double yellow lines could be put on the road by St Georges School as people were parking exactly opposite the Dean which was increasing the risk of an accident. **Cllr Andrew Davis** responded that the Town Development Committee would consider the issue.

Mr Gordon Davis said that the pathways and hedges in the Bartholomew Lane/Avenue School area were being poorly managed. **Cllr Denis Brett** responded that he would investigate the issue.

Mr Mike Heaton asked if anything could be done to stop people parking on pavements. **Cllr Pip Ridout** responded that PCSO's can issue polite notices.

Mr Andrew Robinson asked (tongue in cheek) when the Warminster Campus would be built, and would it be sited at No3 the High Street. **Cllr Nicklin** responded that there were no plans to build a Warminster Campus at the moment.

Cllr Nicklin reported that the town council budget was the better part of £1 million a year. The increase in responsibility meant it was more than just a parish council. As Warminster had a Neighbourhood Plan it gets 25% of any money raised by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) compared to just 15% given to parishes without a Neighbourhood Plan. This would bring substantial sums of money to Warminster.

Cllr Andrew Davis reported that while electric cars were set to become the norm with no new petrol cars from 2025, Wiltshire Council would be working to accommodate them, but not funding them. It was expected that petrol suppliers would convert their businesses to facilitate electric vehicles.

Meeting closed 8.20pm