

**HARPENDEN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**HELD IN PARK HALL,
ON MONDAY 27 MARCH 2017**

Present: Councillors Mrs Linacre (Town Mayor), Callé, Canfield, Chichester-Miles, Cooley, Ellis, Farmer, Gilham, Heritage, James, Mrs Kent, Martyn, Maynard, Pawle, Weaver and Williams.

Also in Attendance: The Mayor of Luton, Cllr Tahir Khan
The Deputy Mayor of St Albans City & District, Cllr Gill Clark
30 Members of the Public

Apologies: None

The meeting was chaired by the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Nicola Linacre.

1. WELCOME

The Town Mayor opened the Meeting and welcomed those present.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2016

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 April 2016, previously circulated, were duly signed as a correct record.

3. PRESENTATION BY KATE NEWTON AND ALISON JARVIS FROM CVS ST ALBANS

3.1 Kate and Alison gave a presentation which firstly updated residents on the work of the CVS and secondly outlined the increasing role of the voluntary sector generally. Key points included:

- There was an increasing demand for volunteers, although people tended to have less time to volunteer than in the past.
- The CVS supported and represented a number of volunteer groups and ran training and advice sessions for these.
- Dedicated partnerships had been set up for voluntary groups to collaborate and solve common issues (e.g. Older People, Social Enterprise and Environment partnerships).
- There was an increasing social need for the voluntary sector to help with issues such as the demand on GP services, poverty, isolation and wellbeing.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE 2016/17 MERIT AWARDS IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING WORKS IN THE COMMUNITY OVER MANY YEARS

4.1 The Mayor congratulated the recipients of the Award of Merit. She was delighted that they were able to be here to accept them adding that the Awards were well deserved as the individuals have made outstanding contributions to the life of the Town. The Award of Merit is the Town Council's way of recognising the achievements of individuals and showing how grateful we, as members of the community, are for their efforts on behalf of everyone in Harpenden.

4.2 The Mayor presented awards to:

Margaret Melville;
Oliver Randell;
Christopher Marsden OBE.

5. PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITY CHEQUES

5.1 The Mayor was delighted to announce that £6,500 had been raised for her chosen charities. The Mayor presented cheques to her two chosen charities, The Tyler Reader Brighter Future Fund and Youth Talk, for £3,250 each representing the balance of the funds.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2016/2017

The Mayor presented the Town Council's Annual Report for 2016/17, the key points of which were as follows:

6.1 The Town Clerk, Carl Cheevers, had now been at the Council for nearly ten months.

6.2 A review of staff resources had been carried out and some new posts created; these included a Projects Officer and People and Wildlife Officer who would deliver a three year programme of education and engagement across the Town's commons and green spaces.

6.3 The Council's approach to delivering a Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan was launched in December. The Plan was a significant document and would have a major impact on Harpenden over the next 15 years. It would be a community led planning document that would guide future growth, development and conservation.

6.4 A number of key priority projects had also been completed or were well underway, including the refurbishment of the Westfield Recreation Ground and the redevelopment of the Batford Springs Volunteers HQ on the Lower Luton Road.

6.5 A new Business Plan would be introduced as a blueprint for what the Council would deliver over the next 3 years, and set out its vision and objectives.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Mayor invited questions from the floor:

- 7.1 One member of the public noted that the Town Council had been fortunate in the past to have good Town Clerks. He asked Carl Cheevers what his views are on Harpenden and the Town Council having now been in post for 9 months.

Carl responded by saying that the Town Council had lived up to his prior expectations of being ambitious for the Town and having a set of priorities that would help Harpenden to be an even better place to live and work. He also commented that he had been impressed with the community and voluntary sector in the Town and recognised the valuable role they play in making it a vibrant place.

There being no other questions or statements at this time the Mayor called the meeting to a close at 8.05 pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....