

MINUTES of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Community Centre, Oak Street, Fakenham on **TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2015** at 7.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: J Punchard (Chairman), J Dougall, J Holdom and A Vertigan

District Councillors: J Punchard

County Councillor: T Fitzpatrick

Press: J Harding (Lynn News) and C Bishop (EDP)

Town Clerk: L Jennings

Deputy Clerk: J Gant

Public: 10 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 15 April 2015 were on the proposition of Cllr Punchard, seconded by Cllr Vertigan, APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave his Report on the Town Council's activities for 2014-2015 as follows: the Council year had started with the devastating fire in the marketplace which impacted on the town and its Charter Market, but following some good joined-up working between Town, District and County Councils, the market was able to continue. Following the fire, the Town Council donated £1,000 to the Fire Fighter's Charity in recognition of the work carried out by the fire and rescue services at the time. The EDP donation fund gave £10,000 to three Fakenham charities and individuals and business affected by the fire. The Town Council has invested its assets with work such as the easy access slope installed at the Greenway Lane entrance to the Railway Cutting and the Millennium Park has seen significant improvements to play facilities and the addition of the skate park through the Fakenham Recreation Ground Charity. There have been sad times with the passing of Jack Richards, Mark Baldwin and Di Butler. August saw the news that Aldi would be investing in the Town by developing one of the brownfield sites. Car parking issues have been controversial and have led to many complaints and although not popular with some shop staff, shoppers now have better parking opportunities. Remembrance Day in November saw yet another good turnout. In February the CCTV system was re-launched and thanks go to Councillors and staff involved in getting this up and running. The year also saw Town Councillors come and go, ending with both wards being uncontested.

5 TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES

A summary of the Town Council's finances as at 31 March 2015 was available at the meeting. The Chairman asked that any questions regarding these should be directed to the Town Council's Office. The audited accounts can be inspected by the public from 1 July to 28 July 2015 on application to the Clerk. The Town Council granted £22,732.97 from the Market Toll receipts during 2014/15 in response to applications from local charities and organisations.

6 REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE

A report had not been received from the Police.

7 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD

The Chairman presented the Community Volunteer Award Shield to the winner Tanya Abel who volunteers at First Focus. A Certificate was presented to Howard Young who had also been nominated. Irene Doughty was also nominated but could not attend and her Certificate would be forwarded to her.

8 MAYOR'S MILITARY CADET SHIELD

The Mayor's Military Cadet for 2014/15 was Mollie Banks from the ATC.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman opened the floor to questions from the public. The following points were raised:

- The Clerk read out a letter from Mrs D Gibson with her apologies. She asked if the two seats by the river at Goggs Mill are going to be replaced: the Clerk would find out which benches are referred to and take this matter to the next Leisure & Environment Meeting. Mrs Gibson also asked why reports from the Town Council are rarely in the paper: Cllr Punchard stated the Town Council has a good relationship with our two local reporters who report on issues of a pertinent nature.
- Cllr Holdom handed the Clerk a written complaint she had received regarding car parking in the town.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.

CONFIRMED this

day of

2015.

CHAIRMAN