

MINUTES of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Community Centre, Oak Street, Fakenham on **TUESDAY 15 APRIL 2014** at 7.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: A Vertigan (Chairman), G Acheson, M Coates and T Duffy

District Councillors: A Claussen-Reynolds and R Reynolds

County Councillor: T Fitzpatrick

Press: J Harding (Lynn News) and A Lazzari (EDP)

Police: PCSO K Clarke

Town Clerk: L Jennings

Deputy Clerk: J Gant

Public: 13 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 12 April 2012, having been distributed to the public, were on the proposition of Cllr Vertigan, seconded by Cllr Coates, APPROVED and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment: a question had been raised by a Mr Gibson regarding names inscribed on War Memorials. Since that Meeting further information has been received from the Ministry of Defence War Memorials Office which states that a name can be inscribed on more than one War Memorial if the family so wishes.

4 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave his Report on the Town Council's activities for 2013-2014 as follows:

Over the past year Fakenham Town Council has continued to move forward with a number of projects and campaigns. We have seen 3 new Councillors join the Council by co-option since our last annual meeting: Dr George Acheson, Diego Rahman and Tim Duffy and they have continued to add strength of knowledge and experience to the Council. We currently have one vacancy which we hope to fill at the next Full Council meeting in May.

The Council has had a number of speakers attend meetings ranging from Christians Against Poverty, a Christian Debt Counselling Service to Social Monkey, a local social media company run by Melanie Harriss who, with help from some Councillors, is trying to pull us into the 21st Century. We have also had the Chief Executive and Leader of NNDC address a meeting and at our most recent of meeting Richard Cook of NNDC joined us to speak about setting up an Emergency Planning team for the Town. At the start of the Council year we welcomed a new Town Clerk Linda Jennings and I would like to thank her for her support to the members of the Council in a year where she has had a very steep learning curve. I would also like to thank Jane Gant our Deputy Clerk and Barry Wheller our Groundsman for their continuing hard work and endeavours throughout the year. We also adopted a new set of Standing Orders this year, the first since 1997 and I would like to thank Deputy Mayor Jeremy Punched for his support in writing these.

We have continued to work very closely with the Royal British Legion and after conferring on them the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Fakenham at the Annual Town Meeting last year I had the great Honour as an Ex Submariner of Signing the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of Fakenham Town Council in June. We were the

first town in Norfolk to do this and it was a great day for the Town. We continued to work with Colonel David James and WO John Boisson of The Royal British Legion to update the town's War Memorial and at the annual Remembrance Day parade the town watched with pride as family, friends and serving members of our Armed Forces paid tribute to the 5 men whose names were added to our town's War Memorial. As a Town Council we have continued to improve the recreational facilities within the town with new play and exercise equipment installed on Hayes Lane playing field thank to a very generous donation from a local business owner. Millennium Park has had a toddler slide installed and the older equipment is in the process of having a makeover. The work to install a BMX/Stake Park is still ongoing. Trap Lane Pavilion has had new heating installed and a working party has been put together to look at further improvements.

On other estate matters, Goggs' Meadow has a fixed water supply to allow cattle to be grazed on it without the Council's Groundsman spending many hours a week topping up their water. Also a working party has been set up to look at opening up the extension to Creak Road Cemetery.

With the sad news that Fakenham will be losing The Academy swimming pool later this year and that Fakenham Junior School swimming pool is currently closed, members of Fakenham Town Council are actively involved in a campaign to bring back a swimming pool to the town.

After NNDC's decision to decommission CCTV in the District, Fakenham Town Council has campaigned hard to retain the service within the town. Following a number of months of negotiation and planning, along with North Walsham and Sheringham Town Councils, we have come up with a plan to save the service. Subject to contract and full council approval CCTV will continue in the town.

To summarise this year, Fakenham Town Council has become stronger, we have developed the recreational facilities in the town, continued to improve the green spaces of Goggs' Meadow and Edmondson's Acres. We have worked hard to maintain the safety and security of the town by working out a plan to save CCTV and we continue to put the people of Fakenham first in all our plans.

5 TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES

A summary of the Town Council's finances as at 31 March 2014 had been distributed 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 23 June to 18 July 2014. Over £35,000 was granted from the Market Toll receipts during 2013/14 in response to applications from local charities and organisations.

6 REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE

PCSO K Clarke spoke on behalf of Austin Clark the Beat Manager at Fakenham who was unable to attend. It has been a very busy year for Fakenham Police with a significant decrease in all areas of crime with percentage decreases quoted. The Police will continue to work hard to maintain this trend. Effort has been put into dealing with complaints and targeting areas causing problems to the community i.e. anti-social behaviour, speeding and drug related offences: all these will be ongoing for the next year. One resource lost, hopefully only temporarily is the CCTV which is a valuable resource to the Police and has aided in bringing many cases to Court. Specific strategies have been applied over the year with the Police working closely with partner agencies and the Courts and work with schools, colleges and youth clubs has proved encouraging, providing education and awareness. The Police are determined and committed to giving the best service possible during these testing times.

7 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD

Certificates were presented by the Chairman to all those nominated for this award, Mike Bridges, Lisa Mallett, Brenda Pope, Tanya Abel and Dawn Wakefield. Nick Bird was also nominated but could not attend. The winner of the shield, Maureen Smith, Chairman of Fakenham Day Centre Lunch Club could not attend the meeting but the Chairman will hopefully be presenting this to her on Thursday. He thanked all the volunteers and spoke briefly on their volunteer work.

8 MAYOR'S MILITARY CADET SHIELD

The Mayor's Cadet supports the Mayor at Civic Receptions. The winner of the shield for 2013/14 is Stephanie Kirk from the Army Cadets and the Chairman duly presented her with the shield.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- The Annual Assembly should be better publicised i.e. in The Fakenham Sun and The Beacon.
- Dr Mike Bridges wished his thanks be recorded to the Town Council for their support of the Gas Museum through the Market Tolls fund: it is greatly appreciated. He has been contacted by the BBC in London regarding museums open at night. The BBC are looking at 3 small museums and should be in Fakenham on Thursday to do some filming which will be broadcast on BBC2 in the near future.
- Will the NNDC annual grant continue? The Chairman stated it was not known at this time. The Council's expenditure was higher than the income because funds had been drawn from earmarked and general reserves. There had also been a generous donation for the work on Hayes Lane Playing Field.
- What is the large reduction in crime percentages attributed to? PCSO K Clarke stated because crime is at a low level, any reduction can seem significant.
- Notes had been put through doors in Sculthorpe Road to be aware of incidents regarding vehicles. PCSO K Clarke stated if these matters are highlighted to residents then everyone can be vigilant and aware. It is better to be proactive rather than reactive.
- The zebra crossings need repainting: County Councillor Fitzpatrick will chase this.
- Mr Walters stated the cycle lanes in Greenway Lane need repainting. If they are not official then they should not be there. The office will write to Highways and get an answer for him.
- Vegetation has been cut down from the shell garage roundabout and the Chairman stated it is on the agenda for the other roundabouts in town to be cleared as well.
- NCC Highways has contacted the office regarding repairs to the road in Bridge Street. This will take place on a Thursday in the near future for minimum disruption. Tarmac is currently being used for repairs because the setts are proving difficult to source. The tarmac repairs in the market place will be replaced when setts are available.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting. The meeting closed at 7.38pm.

CONFIRMED this

day of

2014.

CHAIRMAN