

MINUTES of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Conference Centre, Highfield, Fakenham on **TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2016** at 7.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: A. Vertigan (Chairman), J Dougall, J Holdom, I. Grand, R. Smith, M. Coates, J. Sandford-Cooke, T. Wilkes, G. Thorpe, R. Crook, T. Duffy

District Councillors: J Rest, A Claussen-Reynolds and R. Reynolds

Press: C Bishop (EDP)

Police: PC W. Simmons and PCSO J. Robotham

Town Clerk: L Jennings

Speaker: April Simnor of First Focus

Public: 12 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 21 April 2015 were on the proposition of Cllr Vertigan, seconded by Cllr Dougall, APPROVED and signed by the Chairman.

4 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman gave his Report on the Town Council's activities for 2015-2016 as follows:

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and the Deputy Clerk who have left in the past year. Two Councillors have re-joined. The Town Council are promoting women into Public Life. The Town Council will be recruiting an admin assistant to work in the office. A new and gates have been erected at Hayes Lane Playing Field making it accessible to all. The Skate Park in Millennium Park is well used. The CCTV system is being maintained by the Town Council and the Police have had success with the system. The Chairman reported that the Town Council were still unhappy that Highfield Car Park has been closed to lorries and buses. Dog fouling around the town is a very big issue and the Town Council working with the District Council to have restriction orders placed on the play and sports area and also the cemeteries. He concluded by saying although it has been a year of change the Town Council was looking forward to the future.

5 **TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES**

A summary of the Town Council's finances as at 31 March 2016 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 2016 on application to the Clerk. The Town Council granted £8,878.00 from the Market Toll receipts during 2015/65 in response to applications from local charities and organisations. The balance stands at £18,000.

6 **REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE**

PC Wayne Simmons, the new Beat Manager for Fakenham, reported that crime is extremely low in Fakenham. Recently there have been some high value thefts from supermarkets. These have mainly been carried out by foreign nationals from further afield.

7 **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR JOHN REST**

District Councillor Rest is the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing and Corporate Assets. He reported that Consultants working for the District Council are looking at the site to determine what use it could have and is awaiting a survey report. The Travellers site had a 10 year lease of which there is 3 years to run. The site is continuing to work well. A new car

parking order is being made at the Community Centre which will be for pay and display. The commercial area at Egmore has been made an Enterprise Zone and will employ around 60 to 80 people. There has been no increase on Council Tax this year. The Fakenham Connect Building has been refurbished with no occupants from DWP, NCC and Citizens Advice. He thanked the Town Council for all their hard work.

8 PRESENTATION BY APRIL SIMNOR OF FIRST FOCUS

April reported that it had been a fantastic year with the success of gaining £285,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has enabled First Focus to move to and renovate the Scout Hut. First Focus offer support for the youth and older generation 2-4 days a week. They can also help with the foodbank and mental health assessments especially with same day referral from the GP. April invited Councillors to the Fakenham Dementia Friendly project on May 26 2016 at Fakenham Race Course.

9 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARD

The Chairman announced the Community Volunteer Award Shield has been won by Irene Doughty who volunteers at First Focus. Mrs Doughty was not present.

10 MAYOR'S MILITARY CADET SHIELD

The Mayor's Military Cadet for 2015/16 was Rowan Yaxley from the ATC.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

- Mr Gibson reported that rats have been seen at Goggs Mill picnic area especially where the chickens are.
- A traffic warden for the town was requested especially on Queens Road and the Town Centre. PC Simmons replied that the Police have been issuing tickets at these 2 locations and would continue to do so. A request has been made to move the disabled parking spots from outside Boots to outside NatWest Bank. The Clerk will write to Highways.
- A suggestion was made for double yellow lines but these are not enforceable by the Police.
- Cllr Thorpe asked if the Town Council could employ their own enforcement officer to look after parking and dog fouling.
- April Simnor asked District Councillor Rest why the District Council were looking to make the Community Centre car park free. Cllr Rest replied that it was District Council Policy that all of its car parks are pay and display. The Connect building users will have permits.
- Cllr Crook commented that the area on the Lower Market could be better utilised.
- Mrs Gibson asked what other use had the District Council in mind to use Highfield Car Park for? It was noted that some of the residents of Church Lanes have Deeds that call Highfield car park the 'lorry park'. Cllr Rest said that the District Council are the registered owners of the site.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.
The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

CONFIRMED this

day of

2017.

CHAIRMAN