



BOROUGHBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

1 HALL SQUARE, BOROUGHBRIDGE, NORTH YORKSHIRE. YO51 9AN

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (Parish Meeting)

held on Tuesday 2 April 2019 at 6.30pm in

1 Hall Square Boroughbridge North Yorkshire YO51 9AN

Present: Cllr Haldenby (Chairman) Cllrs K Fuller, J Fuller, S Hynes, J Goss, P Taylor, P Phillips, M Kaczmarczyk, R Windass, R Young,

Clerks Present: H Heavisides (Clerk), H Chester (Deputy Clerk).

Members of the Public – No members of the public were present.

Meeting Opened – 18.30

1. Apologies for absence – J Wilkinson.

2. Mayor's Report:

The Town Mayor has pleasure in reporting the following:

The Council

After the high of the Freedom Parade, which I think most people thoroughly enjoyed and was most successful, we had the local elections which left us one councillor short. The Council did encourage the local people to get involved but to no avail. The Council then set about finding another candidate and I am glad to report that Pat Taylor stepped forward and, through due process, was co-opted on to the Council making us 11 councillors in all; a 'full house'.

Then the Council set about modernising itself, continuing to work hard on projects that had already been started.

The Water Rat building was finally demolished, and the site was made safe for now until the Council decided what to do with it. This was done in conjunction with Harrogate Borough Council through their District Improvement Fund. Also, through the same fund and again along with Harrogate Borough Council we managed to secure the installation of a much-needed bus shelter. There are just a few things to finish these projects; a sign for the bus shelter informing people as to how this was funded and by whom.

The Council, with the ongoing help of an ex-councillor and his wife, have managed to obtain Possessory Title on a small piece of land adjacent to the Water Rat site on Mill Lane, which helps the Council to decide what to do with it.

The Council also had an asset valuation carried out of all the council assets with the idea of formulating a Town Plan for the future.

The CCTV is back.

You will be pleased to know that, through diligent hard work, the new CCTV system is up and running. This new system, with more cameras, has greater capacity, hopefully making the Town a much safer place. Thank you to Councillor Phillips who has led the way and to the other councillors that have also worked on this project.

Police

The Police Station has sadly been closed but the police have managed to secure office space in the Fire Station. Although this is not fully manned, at least there is still a presence.

PC Jan Powell, our Beat Officer, along with PCSOs Phil Wright and Jack Bell are still very active in and around the town. We also believe that there has been an improvement to the 101-telephone system.

Council Assets

Cemeteries:

Work has been carried out at both cemeteries keeping them safe and tidy. Hopefully soon, we will have bigger waste bins to help with the tidying.

Car Park, Toilet Block and Open Spaces:

The Car Park remains free but during the year it suffered a blow when somebody knocked down the honesty box. Through the quick reactions of Councillor Rob Young and the help of a local contractor, the honesty box was repaired and is still continuing to raise funds towards the running cost of the car park and toilet block.

The Government announced plans to scrap the business tax on public toilets but failed to point out that it was not immediate but will be implemented in 2020.

Because of anti-social behaviour the two shelters in Wetherby Road Recreation Ground and Back Lane Car Park have been removed and the Council have had to have the benches in the recreation ground re-secured.

There is still no news about the electric charging points for cars. It seems that the Government have been side tracked by something!

1 Hall Square

The Council Office is small but well used. The Tourist Information Point seems to be popular and also the United Parochial Church Council have office space in the building. Improvements to the office space continue with minor adjustments and hopefully, a better working environment.

General

Yorkshire Water have carried out a survey of the area, not just Boroughbridge. Hopefully they will come up with a plan to combat the problems of an ageing system in light of all the development in the area.

The HGV restrictions seem to have improved the number of vehicles travelling through. The true impact will not be felt until all the development has been finished. It may be a while yet.

Brighter Boroughbridge and District are still working hard in the community with various projects to improve the look of the town. Thank you to Councillor John Goss. I did miss the litter pick organised because of family commitments but Lilian and myself spent a few hours next morning clearing the Water Rat site on Mill Lane.

Harrogate Borough Council Planning Department as 'gone digital'. With this in mind, the Council have installed a system in the Tourist Information Point. Hopefully, other groups in the town will contribute with pictures so that the slideshow which will run during opening hours can be expanded and show off the town in a good light.

Housing is still being built at the same pace and the town centre seems to serve the town well although it is congested at times.

The Council were also sad to see the retirement of Reverend Dr. Diane Westmoreland and hopefully a replacement will be found soon.

The Council have also put into place funding for the Emergency Committee which seems to have reinvigorated itself and it was soon to come into action when the river levels were up the other weekend.

Conclusion

To close, having spent this last year as Mayor and supported by my darling wife, Lilian, we have been to many official and social events to help promote the town. Deputy Mayor, Councillor Monika Kaczmarczyk and her husband, have also been busy promoting the town.

At this point, I would like to thank all the councillors and their wives, husbands and partners for their understanding. As you know, we receive no remuneration and are unpaid Public Servants.

Thank you also to the clerking team without whom we would not be able to function.

Councillor Geoff Haldenby, Mayor of Boroughbridge Town. 2 April 2019.

3. District and County Councillor's Report

We have had another difficult year financial wise on both councils. Finance from Central Government has reduced, council tax has increased and yet services are still having to be cut. Locally we have been plagued by housing developments. The Inspector has not yet approved the Local Plan for the next ten years but already removed a number of sites from the Local Plan. With Harrogate demonstrating over a five-year land supply it will mean we have reasonable reason for refusing none allocated sites.

As you are aware, I am currently the Chairman of North Yorkshire County Council, it has been a busy time but mostly enjoyable. This has meant that I have not been able to attend many of the committee meetings that I normally would. The cuts in services are continuing, services that are not mandatory are the services that are the first to go. A consultation is underway regarding Home to School transport which costs the council £24 million a year.

We are still having to make savings for the foreseeable future.

Robert Windass County & District Councillor. 2 April 2019.

- 4. Parish Precept 2019/2020.** At the Town Council Meeting held on 8 January 2019, it was resolved that the Precept should be set at £54,000 for 2019/2020 (Minutes 8a(iii)).
- 5. Any other business (Previous notice in writing will be required where detailed answers are necessary).** None.

Signed: _____ (Chairman)

Date: _____

Meeting Closed 18.41