

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR BURY ST EDMUNDS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 MAY 2018 AT 6.05 PM
AT 7 ANGEL HILL, BURY ST EDMUNDS**

PRESENT:

Town Councillors: Chung, Everitt, Hailstone, D Hind, K Hind, Hopfensperger, Rayner, Rout, Speed, Springett, Thompson, F Warby, Williamson,

Representatives from: Abbeycroft Leisure, Athenaeum Astronomy Association, Bury Society, Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw, Southgate Community Centre, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Suffolk Constabulary, Theatre Royal, We Love Bury St Edmunds and West Suffolk Council.

Town Council staff: Greg Luton (Town Clerk/Executive Officer), Sue Hindry (Assistant Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer) and Julie Sturgeon (Allotments and Administrative Assistant).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed those present.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Mark Cordell (OurBuryStEdmunds), Philip Gladwell (Breathe Easy) Melanie Lesser (Bury In Bloom), Richard Summers (the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership), Jenna Keenan (West Suffolk Pandalas), Cliff Hind (Moreton Hall Residents Association), Richard Mortlock (Mildenhall Road Estate Community Association) and Cllr Nettleton.

3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 24 MAY 2017

The vote to adopt the minutes was carried.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE YEAR IN OFFICE

The Chairman noted that it was a time of change with the single Council for West Suffolk and possible opportunities and challenges this might bring to third tier Councils. He highlighted the partnership working with the Police and the positive influence that the Town Council funded PCSO had had on some of the key issues affecting the town such as parking, that 'Bury St Edmunds & Beyond' (the Destination Management Organisation) had made a really good start and the Town Council through Greg Luton has a place on its board. As Chairman, he had enjoyed the community participation, in particular the transformation from giving a grant to seeing how the money had been spent. The Council had allocated a budget for pavement repairs and although it was early days for this project, it should make a difference. He thanked all of the Town Councillors for their work in their community, highlighting the use of Locality Budgets. The increase in the Precept this year will enable the Council to play a bigger part in the town's life going forward.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS, TOWN ORGANISATIONS AND RECIPIENTS OF TOWN COUNCIL FUNDING

Bury St Edmunds Rickshaw

Two representatives gave an update on the project, which would launch on 5th June and rides would commence the following week. 20 volunteers had been recruited and there had been a pleasing level of interest in the project, particularly from residential care homes. It was felt

likely that demand would be sufficient that additional bikes would need to be purchased next year.

Southgate Community Partnership

The Chairman of the Partnership that runs the Southgate Community Centre thanked the Council for the funding it had received in respect of new banqueting chairs, security camera, replacement wall partitions and café refurbishment.

Bury Society

The Chairman of the Society thanked the Council for the funding it had received both towards Bury In Bloom (a sub-committee of the Society) and towards other projects such as the Ouida memorial refurbishment.

We Love Bury St Edmunds (WLBSE)

The founder of WLBSE thanked the Council for its support (including funding) of St Edmund's Day in 2017 and hoped that (once again working in partnership with OurBuryStEdmunds) the 2018 celebration would be even better.

Abbeycroft Leisure

Abbeycroft's Development Manager, Physical Activity thanked all the Councillors he had been working with on various projects and gave an update on progress with the Closed Road Cycle event.

Suffolk Constabulary

One of the Bury St Edmunds Safer Neighbourhood Team's Sergeants gave an update on its activities during the past year and the newly appointed Engagement Officer for Bury St Edmunds explained his new role.

6. OPEN FORUM – RESIDENTS MAY RAISE ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE TOWN

The Chairman was asked if he would adopt the title of Mayor of Bury St Edmunds. He suggested that this might be considered but that it would be prudent to see what decision the new West Suffolk District Council made about its Civic leadership first.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 6.48 pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____