

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR BURY ST EDMUNDS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2019 AT 6.05 PM
AT 7 ANGEL HILL, BURY ST EDMUNDS**

PRESENT:

Town Councillors: Cllrs Hopfensperger (Town Council Vice Chairman in the Chair), Bouché, Chung, Higgins, D Hind, K Hind, Parker, Rout, Turner, Waterman, Whittingham and Williamson.

Representatives from: Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, Bury St Edmunds Lions Club, Churchgate Area Association, Cotton Lane Allotments Association, Gatehouse, Greener Growth, Newbury Community Centre, RWSfm, St Nicholas Hospice, Suffolk Constabulary, Suffolk County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensperger.

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 Cllrs Iannelli-Popham, Rayner and Thompson.

3. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2018

The vote to adopt the minutes was carried.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE YEAR IN OFFICE

The Chairman gave a synopsis of the history of the Town Council. He thanked the previous Chairman of the Council and outlined the Council's activities over the past year. These included funding two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). He mentioned grant funding and use of Councillors' Locality Budgets, to many groups and organisations in and around the town. Examples of these include the DMO, the Theatre Royal, the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, Armed Forces Day 2018 and Suffolk Fire and Rescue. He highlighted the partnership working with West Suffolk Council, Our Bury St Edmunds (BID) and Suffolk County Council. In addition, the Council provides and administers over 300 allotments, launched the 'dog friendly bse' scheme, provides tourist information, two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and the Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year awards and annual Armistice Day commemoration.

He thanked the Council staff on behalf of all the Councillors.

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

Verbal reports were received from representatives of the Abbey of St Edmund Heritage Partnership, Bury St Edmunds Lions Club, Gatehouse, Greener Growth, Newbury Community Centre, RWSfm, St Nicholas Hospice and Suffolk Constabulary.

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

Issues raised:

- Churchgate Area Association - Zone D and F permit parking – more permits than available spaces issued by West Suffolk Council - additional parking spaces identified during a walk-round with Suffolk County Council (as the authority responsible for Highways) have still not been marked out. A suggestion was made that West Suffolk Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee be asked to look at the Permit Parking system. Once parking enforcement transfers to the District Council, better enforcement should alleviate some of the issues. It was noted that placement of a skip in a parking bay (or anywhere else on the Highway) requires a permit from the County Council. Another suggestion was that residents might be willing to pay for an allocated space.
- Repairs to Angel Hill road surface – scheduled to be done possibly in 2020 but will involve closing the road, which affects the flow of traffic around the town.
- Demolition of unused garages in residential areas to create usable car parking spaces.
- Suffolk County Council's 'Community Self-Help scheme' whereby Parish Council's are undertaking or funding grass cutting etc.
- Transport links with London including the reduction in train and coach services. It was noted that Suffolk County Council is due to publish its "Local Transport Plan".
- Park and Ride scheme – had previously be deemed financially unviable due to the roads being not wide enough to accommodate a bus-lane.
- A new group called 'RES4B' is concerned about the number of commercial buildings in the town which are being turned into residential accommodation.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 7.21 pm.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____