

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KINGSBURY SQUARE, WILTON on Tuesday, 2nd April 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr T Batchelder
Cllr C Blackman,
Cllr P Church
Cllr P Edge, Mayor of Wilton
Cllr L Glyde
Cllr P Johnston
Cllr A Kinsey
Cllr R Lyons
Cllr P Matthews
Cllr I Seviour
Cllr T Taylor

Mrs A C Purves Town Clerk
Mr H A Abel Minute Secretary

Also Present: 5 members of the public

- 1. To Receive Apologies**
None were received.
- 2. To approve the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 3rd April 2018**
The minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (*Prop Cllr Matthews, sec Cllr Seviour – nem con*)
- 3. Matters Arising**
None arose
- 4. Report of the Year**
The Mayor of Wilton, Cllr Peter Edge presented the Council's Report of the Year.

“Summary

This year we have undergone some dramatic changes and improvements. as a Council! We moved our offices from upstairs to the rear of the ground floor behind Harvey & Snowden at the end of June last year.

In July Mark Bastick started his employment as Assistant to the Clerk to deal with day to day administration to ease the workload of our Town Clerk and to be the Mayors secretary.

Our long serving Clerk Catherine Purves left the Council at the end of August to move on become Clerk to Idmiston Parish Council. This meant that I had to act as interim Clerk until a replacement was found. We were very fortunate to be able to appoint our new Town Clerk, Steve Milton in October, who brings a wealth of local government experience with him having worked at Salisbury District Council and Wiltshire Council for many years.

As from this month we are restructuring our committees, the F&GP and A&P committees will now be meeting every other month in a bid to save resources and avoiding any duplication. It has also been decided that the Annual Mayor making Ceremony will now take place on the Tuesday the week after the annual Town Council meeting starting this May. This will enable the Council to concentrate on the business at the annual meeting and will give more gravitas to the Mayor making Ceremony.

1. Wilton Parkway

Wilton Station North was closed in the 1950s and Wilton South in the 1960s.

In recent years, there has become a large demand for it to be reinstated, notwithstanding congested roads and busy car parks. The Atkins feasibility report has been published although the Town Council has not been provided with a copy, apparently the signs are positive. The latest recommendation is that the station should serve both the Bristol and Exeter lines, but this is subject to finding the vital funding to proceed.

2. Wilton Hill

Wilton Hill housing by Redrow is almost complete with only 3 plots left to be sold. Last year I reported that we were looking forward to completion of the Enterprise Hub for developing business's and the Veterans Centre around September. The latest is that the Veterans Centre will be opening soon and the Town Council provided money to fit out one of the apartments with the Enterprise Hub hoping to be complete this September, which will also house the newly formed Wilton Mens Shed.

3. Minster Street

The new outdoor equipment and tennis courts have been completed and have been used well over the summer. We are currently in the process of installing a ramp for disabled access to the tennis courts, as well as installing an electricity supply to enable users to book the courts online. With the help of Richard Varney I have been able to refurbish the fountain, which has proved to be a popular attraction to young and old alike.

4. Castle Meadow

The new outdoor gym beside the pavilion has proved popular which incorporates a whole variety of fitness equipment to promote the emphasis on physical well-being and is being well used by all ages and abilities. We are to improve the lighting to enable the equipment to be used early evening during the winter period.

We are looking at providing additional storage space for our users. We have on permanent loan from the Carnival committee a large screen multimedia TV for functions.

We have just completed the installation of 5Kw of solar panels to the pavilion to reduce our carbon footprint, and this has enabled us to be able to receive payments under the Governments Feed In Tariff scheme before the deadline of the end of March 2019.

5. Castle Meadow – Environment Agency Bund

Last year I reported that the EA would cover the cost of an earth bank, which your Town Council finds unacceptable as it will decimate the playing areas, rendering them almost unusable for football and cricket. We have given the EA alternative ideas and we are about to negotiate the options with them.

The Town Council are of the opinion that any such works should not affect sporting events. To date they have not responded.

6. Naish Felts

Outline Planning permission has been granted but to date no further information is available. It is known that they are looking to relocate in the area to retain their workforce and after that progress on the site will follow.

7. CCTV

The CCTV system is now complete and is proving very useful to make the Town safe and has been accessed by the Police on a number of occasions.

8. Newsletter

The WTC quarterly Newsletter, edited and designed by Hugh Abel, has been very successful. It will continue to cover topics of local interest.

9. Web Site and Social Media

We now have a Facebook page. This can be found by googling 'Wilton Town Council Facebook' and is a very informative site. We have updated our website and investigate other forms of social media for the benefit of our residents. The role of Social Media and Town publicity is now undertaken by our Assistant Clerk Mark Bastick

10. Water Ditchampton and EA

WTC has been in regular contact with the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council, Wilton Estate and local residents to collate responsibilities and formulate appropriate plans of action to maintain ditches and address those areas from which silt flows.

Unfortunately no real progress to rectify this has been made to date

11. Town Trail

Mapping displays have been located in the Market Square, South Street Car Park, Shopping Village and on Wilton Hill. Town Trail Maps are available at each of these locations, and trail markers are soon to be installed.

12. Wilton Enhancements

The Town Council has now had all the Wilton welcome signs installed and are waiting for the WC Highways Dept to give the go ahead for the installation of the planters with the sponsors logo's on and the Town Trail Markers. This initiative has been facilitated with Wilton Chamber of Commerce and other partners in the Town.

The Town Council has also commissioned new Street name plates to be installed as Wiltshire Council who are the responsible authority will no longer replace them.

There is a great demand to resurrect the Town Team to enable a more cohesive partnership with other bodies in the community.

13. Youth Centre

The Youth Centre in The Hollows has been running with support from the Church Diocese. Unfortunately, the trustees of The Focus School who now own the building have given the Council notice to quit by the end of April, despite their promise to permit the Youth Club to remain in the building for a further three years from last April.

It will be an enormous loss to the Community if alternative accommodation cannot be found soon.

14. Roundabout

This must be one of the biggest failings to achieve. The roundabout continues to be an eyesore to visitors to Wilton.

We have secured sponsorship from local builders Mouldings & Co to enhance the roundabout, yet Highways England have constantly failed to respond to requests for action. Last year the roundabout was only cut once. Watch this space!

15. Defibrillators

We have been fortunate to provide the Town with an additional 2 defibrillators. One from Cllr Batchelder's Mayoral appeal was to install a second defibrillator at the Community Centre. The Town Council has been able to provide a third defibrillator at the Pavilion in Castle Meadow.

16. Mayoral Event

I am not having a Mayoral event this year but my Mayoral appeal for The Wilton Mens Shed and South Wilts MNDA is still open for donations.

17. Greener Wilton

Your Town Council are keen to make Wilton a desirable place to visit and we hope to become a plastic free and greener Town.

We are undertaking or looking at several initiatives to add to the Solar panels at the Pavilion. Last weekend saw the launch of the Wilton Wombles litter picking group led by Cllr Glyde which has generated a lot of interest. Laura Twomey-Hunt is looking after the Book and recycling Bunker in Shaftesbury Road with support from Wilton CLT.

Other items to look at include a milk dispenser, community fridge, free water refills and many more.

18. Staffing

We have set up a Staffing committee looking at the Wilton Town Council administration setup. Public Toilets are going to have electronic timers fitted with a specialist cleaning company to maintain them. The savings will allow us to employ a handy person to carry out street cleaning and other minor maintenance duties around the town.

Work we are continuing on are;

- o Neighbourhood Plan
- o Asset transfers

- o Car parking issues
- o Local council award scheme
- o Dog Fouling

A great deal of what your council has been doing, is still work in progress.

Finally, I would like to thank;

Our clerk and assistant clerk Steve Milton and Mark Bastick for their on-going support

Hugh Abel the minute secretary

Our other staff, Mrs Maureen Hopkins and Tim Laishley,

I also offer my sincere thanks to my Deputy Mayor Cllr Ivan Seviour, Town councillors and our unitary councillor Pauline Church for all the support and efforts provided over the year.”

5. Any Other Wilton Town Business

Cllr Johnston – expressed surprise about the fact that the Community Land Trust had not shared information with the Town Council about its move to apply for registration of the Sheep Fair field as a public open space and the Police Station and as an item of community interest.

Cllr Edge – replied that the CLT had only carried out this move in the past week.

John Cutland – asked:-

- has the Town Council had any plans to help Seeds for Success provide accommodation for the Youth Club following the termination of its use of the hut in the Hollows by the school.
- He also asked if the sale of town maps made any money
- He told the meeting that there were two cycle shelters in the Town centre which were rusting badly and he asked who owned them.

Cllr Edge – replied:-

- that the Town Council has made a grant to help the Youth Club to find alternative premises.
- That the sale of town maps did make money but did not know exactly how much.
- Was not aware of the cycle shelters but would make enquiries.

Cllr Matthews – told the meeting that there are plans to enlarge the Church rooms and there would be space for the Youth Club but it will be at least a year before this work was complete.

6. To Close the Meeting

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 7.25pm