

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**Monday 10th April 2017 at 7pm**

**held at the Civic Centre**

The Town Council Chairman

Councillor Paul Macfarlane in the Chair

**Present:**

Councillors: J Cullen, A Davis, N Dombkowski, S Fraser, R Fryer, S Jeffries, G Jolley,  
P Macdonald, P Macfarlane and P Ridout

Officers: F Fox, J Halls and V Mills

Public and press: 16 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

**1. Apologies** – Councillors P Batchelor and K Humphries.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held at the Civic Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were accepted and signed as a true record.

**3. Chairman's Report**

From the Chair, Councillor Macfarlane presented the Annual Report which also contained the Financial Report. This was circulated to all present and copies are available from the Civic Centre. Further copies will be distributed to local organisations, the library and Community Hub.

**4. Presentation – Warminster Carnival Committee**

Sandra Major said she had been involved in the Carnival for 20 years and had been Chair of the Carnival Committee for 19 years. The Carnival brings many people into the town but it costs £7,000 to put on, including insurance, marshals and prize money. Marshals for the road closure points now need to be qualified and they cost £500. The money is raised through sponsorship, a generous grant of £3,000 from the Town Council and year-round fundraising efforts, such as quiz nights, race nights and the Carnival Fun Day. It would be wonderful if the raft race could be reinstated for the latter event. All the money raised from collections on the night of the Carnival goes to local charities, as is common practice for all carnivals.

There are only 12 members on the Carnival Committee and they need more volunteers to assist with fundraising events and to help on Carnival night.

**5. Forum**

Councillor Macfarlane invited questions from the members of the public.

**Tony Jackson, 72 Victoria Road**, congratulated the Council on getting the Neighbourhood Plan adopted and asked how the CIL monies from developments are to be used for the benefit of the town and what is the mechanism for applying? **Councillor Ridout** said that

with the Neighbourhood Plan the entitlement to CIL increases from 15% to 25%. The monies have to be used for infrastructure projects. There is no CIL on social or affordable housing. **Fiona Fox** said that Wiltshire Council will inform the Town Council as to what money is available. Applications would need to be made for the funds.

**Simon Burn, 15 Ludlow Close** thanked the outgoing Council and in particular for the work that was being undertaken in the Town Park. He had been speaking to Bob Montgomery, (CEO of Longleat) who had told him that Longleat was currently dredging the lakes on the estate and they could help dredge the lake in the park. Simon Burn asked whether this assistance had been offered as he was aware that there was a lot of rubbish in the lake. **Fiona Fox** said the issue of dredging the lake had not been raised but would be discussed with the Direct Services Supervisor and she would answer more fully in the minutes.

*The Direct Services Supervisor has considered this matter. The park lake has very little silt, therefore dredging would not be appropriate. The lake is litter picked on a regular basis; however, the frequency will be increased if required.*

**Nigel Linge, 6 Swift Mead** congratulated the Town Council on taking on the Town Park and asked whether they had plans to take back other pieces of land that had traditionally been held by the Urban District Council. He was particularly concerned that although Warminster Common is a designated town green it is not owned by the Town Council and is not well maintained by Wiltshire Council. The combination of long grass and dog excrement is not conducive to public enjoyment of the space. **Councillor Macdonald** said the Devolved Services Working Group has been preparing for taking on further assets from Wiltshire Council but the Town Council could be more proactive in taking on certain areas. **Nigel Linge** felt there were many volunteers who would be happy to be involved with maintenance of the common.

**Erica Castle, 1 Southleigh View** complained about the condition of Smallbrook Road in the vicinity of the nature reserve and the car park. The edges of the road are disintegrating and it is difficult for two cars to pass each other. There is no speed limit in evidence on this stretch of road which is widely used by pedestrians crossing from the car park to the reserve. **Councillor Davis** said speed restrictions had been considered for this area some years ago but had not been approved. It is a county C road so will not be a priority for resurfacing. This issue will be taken to Town Development for referral to the Community Area Transport Group along with a suggestion that a road crossing sign be erected.

**Alastair Wright, 153 Boreham Road** asked how the Town Council is dealing with the lack of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment when considering the siting of developments. **Len Turner, 3 Were Close** said the examiner of Wiltshire's Core Strategy had asked for this as a matter of urgency and Wiltshire Council needs to fund it. **Alastair Wright** said that Chippenham, Salisbury and Trowbridge had all had strategic assessments and the flood risks in Warminster were greater than in Chippenham. Although Warminster's Flood Plan identifies the areas at risk of flooding a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is needed to find out why flooding occurs. Individual developments will still need their own flood risk assessments but this overall strategic document is essential and the Town Council should put pressure on Wiltshire Council to produce it.

**Alastair Wright** expressed concern over the deterioration and damage to the Battlesbury monument. Although the land is owned by the MoD it is in the Neighbourhood Area. The

problem is being caused by motor bikes and mountain bikes and the issue should be brought to the attention of the Garrison CO and the military police.

**Simon Burn** commented that the skatepark was not being looked after by its users and was in a particularly bad state at weekends. Given the expensive new skatepark that was being proposed he wondered what measures could be taken to ensure this was not treated in the same way. **Councillor Ridout** said the new skatepark would be a concrete bowl design and less susceptible to vandalism. There were 15 young members on the skatepark committee and she felt confident the new skatepark would be looked after. There is CCTV coverage in the park and the CCTV control room has radio contact with the police.

**Nick Parker, 207 Boreham Road** asked whether the Town Council could approach Wiltshire Council regarding the state of Warminster's roads. The current repairs to the road by Bishopstrow house consisted of patching and top dressing rather than resurfacing which would last for 10 years. Top dressing has a life of around five years and patching much less so the road will break up again. **Councillor Davis** said that the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) is only able to deal with a limited number of large-scale projects in a year. Boreham Road should have been done earlier but other projects took precedence. The concerns about the general state of Warminster's roads would be referred to CATG.

**Malcolm Mellersh, 91 Pound Street** raised concerns about the medical infrastructure of the town. The hours at Smallbrook Surgery had been reduced which had impacted on The Avenue Surgery which now had waiting time of a month for routine appointments.

**Councillor Jolley** said that The Avenue were currently recruiting and would have eight full-time doctors. These matters are outside the Council's control as only NHS England have the authority to establish what provision is needed to cover the increase in population from developments.

## **6. Any Other Business**

None.

**Meeting closed 7.55pm**