

# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Monday 4th April 2022 at 7pm**

**held at the Civic Centre**

Councillor Chris Robbins in the Chair

**Present:**

Councillors: C Robbins A Cooper, A Davis, S Fraser, R Fryer, P Keeble, P Macdonald, and J Syme

Officers: T Dommett, J Halls, S Legg, S Atherton

Public and press: 15 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

In the absence of the Mayor of Warminster, Cllr Jeffries and the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Brett, Cllr Robbins took the Chair for the Annual Town Meeting.

**1. Apologies**

Received from:

Cllrs: S Allensby, S Jeffries, D Brett, P Macfarlane, B Parks

Grant recipients: Matt McGinn - Highbury Youth Football Club, Neil Baker - Independent Living Centre, Suzanne Wigmore - Wiltshire Citizens Advice, Tina Osbourne - Princecroft Primary School, Joanna Turner - Touching Tones Music Therapy, Mike Read - Warminster Community Choir, Mike Fricker - Warminster Table Tennis Club, Annalisa Davis - Warminster Action Group,

**2. Minutes from last Annual Town Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held at the Civic Centre on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 were accepted and signed as a true record.

**3. Chairman's Report**

From the Chair, Cllr Robbins read Cllr Jeffries' 'Chairman's Report'. Cllr Jeffries reported on his year in office:

- Shortly after taking office, the Town Clerk resigned meaning I lost one of the key roles and advisers in any Town or Parish Council. We also saw a few other personnel changes in a short period of time which was challenging for both the council and the Civic Centre Team.  
Tom Dommett secured the Town Clerk role, shortly followed by Judith Halls as Deputy Clerk, and Lucy Guy securing the Civic Centre Managers role. I feel we now have a professional and very capable team who support the Town Council and can effectively manage the day to day running of a busy operation and I would like to thank all the staff at the Civic Centre, CCTV, and

our Open Spaces Team, for the hard work and support that I have received from them during my term of office.

- The commissioning of a space themed splashpad to replace the paddling pool in the Lake Pleasure Grounds. The Council also opted for the water recycling system so the new facility is more sustainable and meets the Council's green ambitions.
- The commissioning of a Lava Trail themed children's agility course in the park. Combining exercise with imagination, this has been a huge hit. It was no surprise when the Lake Pleasure Grounds were again recognised as an outstanding park, winning the highly regarded Green Flag Award.
- It was my proud duty to take part in the Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial in November where the Town was able to come together and remember in person again following the COVID restrictions of the previous year, and it was also my great pleasure to turn on the Christmas lights, despite the storms, and to judge the Christmas Window Competition.
- It was delightful to present the Civic Award to such worthy recipients and highlight some of the great work done by volunteers.
- I have held "Meet the Mayor" drop-in sessions at the Civic Centre and as well as people turning up I have had extra emails and phone calls. The Town Council's new website has proved very popular.

Cllr Robbins presented the Warminster Town Council Annual Report which also contained the Financial Report. The Annual Report was available to those present. (Copies of the Annual Report are available from the Civic Centre, Community Hub, Library and the Warminster Town Council Website.)

#### **4. 2021-2022 Grant Recipients**

##### **4.1 Friends of St. Georges School**

Kate Saunders Headteacher, Erica Davis & Ethan Year 6 Pupil, spoke about the development of an outdoor quiet area. The grant was used to purchase rainbow coloured benches made from recycled sustainable material. The benches will enable the area to have multiple use from, breaktime activities, to reading groups, small group interventions and outdoor learning.

##### **4.2 Cop Heap Volunteers**

##### **4.3 Warminster Volunteer Tool Library**

##### **4.4 Warminster Common Volunteers**

Nigel Linge expressed great thanks for the grant from the Town Council that has enabled the purchase of many power tools, bespoke tools specific to, for example, removing ragwort, and a post hole digger which has been an energy saver for the volunteers. Additionally, the grant has funded, safety wear and first aid equipment for and consumables such as fuel and screws.

##### **4.5 Groveland Countryside and Wildlife Park**

Len Turner gave thanks for the grant that has enable the volunteers to create a circuit around the flora and fauna rich wildlife area of Grovelands. To create the circuit the grant funded a small bridge the enable visitors to cross a watercourse that runs through the area. In more flooded areas the grant was used for other bids of matched funding to be able to purchase and instal a boardwalk. This has enabled visitors to navigate through the wider area that may not have been accessible

before. Photos of the new additions are available to view on the Grovelands Countryside and Wildlife Park's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

#### **4.6 Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Wessex) Ltd**

Rosie Eliot gave thanks for the grant from the town council. The grant has been used to support the purchase a Tyrostation which is a piece of unique physiotherapy equipment that tailors exercise to the individual, linking the intensity of focus to achievement. It has been well received and will continue to serve the members who use the MS centre.

#### **4.7 St Lawrence Chapel Warminster**

Heather Parks Feoffee and treasurer of St. Lawrence Chapel gave thanks for the grant that was used to replace the worktop in the kitchen, preparation and bathroom areas in the chapel. The hope and intention is that this style of worktop will have greater longevity given the issues with damp in the Chapel.

#### **4.8 Tyninigs Allotments Association**

Robin Stedman Secretary of the association said that the Tyninigs Association is the luckiest it has been in years due to the grant received. Due to covid, the previous year's grant was not able to be spent. The decision was therefore taken to put it together with this year's grant to improve the driveway that enters the allotments and additionally two parking areas. This has negated a long-standing issue for the allotment area which is hoped will make a long-lasting impact on the ease of entry and parking.

#### **4.9 Warminster Town Football Club**

David Parry, chairman of the club, thanked Warminster Town Council for the grant they received to buy a new boiler for the club.

#### **4.10 Warminster Philharmonic Orchestra**

Amanda Williams who founded the orchestra 18 years ago gave thanks for the grant that the orchestra received. The money has been used to buy musical scores for the musicians. The concerts that are delivered will be fund raisers for other charities.

#### **4.11 Warminster and Westbury Visually Handicapped Club**

Steve Kervell the treasurer of the club was forever grateful for the grant money that has funded entertainment, speakers and activities bespoke to the need of the clients of the club. It also has funded the cost of the transportation of members to St Johns Hall.

Cllr Robbins read statements from recipients unable to attend.

#### **4.12 Warminster Community Choir – the grant was used for musical scores**

**4.13 Group Five** - the grant was used to insure and fuel the vehicles that support the charity to pick up and deliver furniture to some of the most vulnerable residents in the community. The grant also funded the rental of the warehouse and related energy costs.

**4.14 The Hive Nursery, Princecroft Primary School** - the grant was used to purchase a 16-seater folding dining table to enable the nursery children to sit with the rest of the school at lunchtime, making them feel part of the school 'family'. Additionally, the grant was able to fund some maths much need tactile resources to support mathematical development.

**4.15 Independent Living Centre** - the grant was used to increase the level of cleansing the area during this heightened need for keeping communal areas sanitised at all times.

**4.16 Touching Tones Music Therapy Trust** - the grant was used to create two therapy groups. One group for children who have been adversely affected by the pandemic. The group was designed to support their interactions as many have developed selective mutism. The second group was for mothers who had a baby during the pandemic and who have suffered with social anxiety.

**4.17 Warminster Table Tennis Club** - the grant was used to purchase a Defibrillator that will be housed at the Table Tennis Club/Cricket ground.

There was no representation from:

4.18 Warminster Action Group

4.19 Warminster Highbury Youth Football Club

4.20 Wiltshire Citizens Advice

Cllr Robbins thanked those who had reported on how they had spent their grants and the long hours of voluntary work that had gone into the success of the projects. He also pledged that the Council would do as much as they can to continue the support of the community of Warminster.

## **5. Forum**

Councillor Robbins invited questions from the members of the public on any subject related to the town or Town Council.

Andrew Robinson asked what community led events Warminster Town Council would be supporting during the lead up to and for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Cllr Robbins explained that there were many street parties being arranged by residents around the town and in the villages that the town council greatly supports. The Tynings Allotment Association will be hosting Tea Party of its members at the allotments on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> June coupled with planting a Rowan tree in commemoration of the queen's jubilee.

He also explained that there had been considerable discussion and thought about a larger town event, but it had not come to fruition.

The Town Clerk, Tom Dommett detailed the events that the Town Council was organising.

- Children's Jubilee fancy dress competition.

- Memory Exhibition of Warminster residents' memories about the Queen throughout her reign.
- Jubilee Bake Off, three categories with prizes at the Civic Centre
- Jubilee window competition (similar to the Christmas window competition)
- A royal film show – The Queen's Corgi
- The Queen's Green Canopy tree planning that has already taken place at Ashley Coombe and in the Lake Pleasure Ground that was greatly attended by many Warminster residents and schools.

Mr Robinson also asked if after 10 years of scaffolding at the property, Number 3 High Street, was there any more information about this moving forward?

Cllr Robbins explained that proposed planning had been passed by Wiltshire Council, but the owners of the property are finding that due to current world events, trades people are increasingly difficult to find for the proposed works and materials. The availability of building companies is proving a current issue to move forward with the project. Warminster Town Council will continue to encourage and prompt for a speedy outcome to this ongoing issue.

Cllr Robbins gave an overview of communication with the community.

He detailed:

- the success of the two Meet the Mayor sessions held at the Civic Centre.
- the updated Warminster Town Council website that is easy to navigate and now more interactive for the public to use. There has been increased communication via the website since its launch. He encouraged the use of the website to work with the council to give suggestions and ask questions to the council.
- the increase in volunteers.

Rosie Eliot spoke to commend the fundraising Bake Sale for the Ukraine crisis. She congratulated Lucy Guy, Civic Centre Manager for the success of raising in excess of £1700.

Cllr Jackson paid tribute to the Warminster Town Councillors and Council officers who give their time for the success of the town.

Cllr Robbins closed the meeting with thanks to all grant recipients and attendees of the meeting.

Meeting ended: 7:55pm

Signed..... Date.....