

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Wellington held in Wellington United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington, on Monday, 12 May 2014 at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mitton (Mayor) who presided, Councillors Bowrah, Copley, Critchard, A Govier, J. Govier, Henley, Hunt, Lloyd, Milton, Reed, Sparrow, Stock-Williams, Sully and Wilson.

Greg Dyke (Town Clerk) and Debbie Rugg (Assistant to the Town Clerk)

There were 14 members of the public present.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous annual parish meeting held on 13 May 2013, as circulated to councillors and members of the public present, were received, confirmed and signed as correct.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR AND THE TOWN CLERK

The immediate Past Mayor and the Town Clerk submitted a joint annual report which highlighted the work of the Council over the past year and the challenges it faced in the future.

The Mayor thanked all the councillors together with the Council's officers for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

3. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

(a) Basins Volunteer Group

Mrs Cherry Hitchcock reported that the Easter Egg Hunt organised by the Basins Volunteer Group had been successful despite the inclement weather.

Councillor Andrew Govier drew attention to a problem with flooding along the footpath across the Basins. The Mayor and Councillor Milton were able to inform the meeting that the Volunteer Group were working closely with the owners to resolve this problem.

(b) Wellington Monument

Mrs Diana Land asked if the National Trust had made any progress in restoring the Monument. It was now 9 years since the building had been closed.

The Town Clerk agreed to contact the National Trust to find out the present position.

(c) Green Spaces and Sports Fields

John Morton drew attention to the lack of grass cutting in a number of green spaces such as Swains Lane.

The Town Clerk agreed to try and ascertain who was responsible for looking after these green spaces and prompt further action.

Mr Morton also drew attention to the lack of sports areas in and around the town particularly in the new developments. He expressed disappointment in the totally inadequate provision that had been made by the developers of the Longforth Farm site.

Councillor Andrew Govier agreed to invite the appropriate TDBC Portfolio Holder, Leader of TDBC and officers to meet the Town Council. He was concerned that a piecemeal, uncoordinated approach was being taken to the provision of community facilities in general and open spaces in particular. He felt that a radical solution was called for rather than just relying on developers to provide land as part of their developments.

(d) May Day in the Park

Mrs Pauline Sturgess reported upon the successful May Day event in the Park. She also drew attention to the rapidly deteriorating condition of the Park Bandstand. The condition of the Bandstand had deteriorated to the extent that equipment stored underneath the building were having to be placed elsewhere. She said that the TDBC Parks Department were aware of the problem. Councillor Hunt, in his capacity as a Taunton Deane Councillor, undertook to ensure that the necessary action was taken.

(e) Flooding Plan

Mr L Skinner asked if, in view of the large scale developments taking place in the town, any flood alleviation plan had been put in place.

The Mayor reported that the Environment Agency had agreed flood attenuation measures in all of the new developments and were happy with the plans.

Councillor Hunt, the Environmental Health portfolio holder at TDBC said that that Council had a good record in relation to flood attenuation measures.

Councillor Mrs J Govier, as Chair of the Town Council's Emergency Committee, reported that the Committee met when necessary and would react to any problems of this nature.

Councillor A Govier felt that this was an issue that could be taken up when considering the proposed Jurston Farm development.

(Councillor Henley and Wilson left the meeting at 7.10p.m. during consideration of the above matters).

(f) Proposed Jurston Farm development

Mr P Heald-Gledhill asked about the likely impact of this proposed development.

It was pointed out that the planning permission would be needed before any development took place. The land was, however, allocated for development in the TDBC Core Strategy and in the event of planning permission being granted the Council would use its best endeavour to ensure that best possible scheme was achieved.

(j) Cades Farm, Wellington

Mr David Kearney, a residents of Pear Tree Close, Wellington drew attention to incidents of anti social behaviour that had been taking place in and around the play area on the Cades Farm development.

It was acknowledged that the Police were aware of the situation and were working hard to resolve any issues.

Councillor Critchard felt that the key to any problems was the adoption of the estate so that the local authority had control over the use of play areas and open spaces. It was agreed that the Town Council would work alongside TDBC with a view to achieving the early adoption of the estate and doing what it could to solve the problems.

The meeting ended at 7.22pm

Signed.....
Town Mayor