

At the Annual Trowbridge Town Meeting held on MS TEAMS on Tuesday 6th April 2021 at 18.30hrs

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor Peter Fuller
Councillors; Bates, Beaver, Brice, Bridges, Cavill, Drewett, Hill, Hoar, King, Oldrieve,
Palmen, Piazza and Whiffen.
Wiltshire Councillor: Trigg.
5 members of the Public.
Non-residents: Wiltshire Councillor Clark, 1 member of the press, The Town Clerk, Lance
Allan and The Council Secretary Mrs A Quick.

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- a) **RESOLVED to approve** as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16th April 2019.
- b) There were no matters arising there from.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The meeting received the annual report of the Council from the Mayor, Councillor Peter Fuller.

It was highlighted that we need to maintain care regarding Covid restrictions, despite figures declining. It was recognised that the Covid pandemic hasn't been easy for children, parents or teachers so thanks were given. Before lockdown The Mayor attended 11 Citizenship events and he met the Duchess of Cornwall as a representative of Trowbridge Town Council.

Thanks were given to those who helped the community during the Covid pandemic. Museum staff have been working extremely hard in anticipation of opening next month and officially in June. Active Trowbridge have been very useful in schools, keeping students and staff safe. Beat The Street was well organised and a great success. An overview of the Information Centre was given. Members of the public are invited to Council Meetings and we are looking forward to returning to the Civic Hall and continuing to invite their comments. The Civic Centre has had a difficult year, without being able to run usual events. However, we have run Blood Donor sessions, Flu Vaccinations and provided meeting space for organisations, in particular for the Health Service. Neighbourhood Services have been noticed over the last year, particularly keeping play areas safe. Roads and footpaths have been kept clean with the assistance of Neighbourhood's friends. Christmas events occurred in terms of a virtual light switch on which was good for the community. It has been pleasing to see the use of our park in socially distanced bubbles and finally, we have managed to keep Council Tax low this year.

Thanks were given to all TTC staff, Councillors and the Health Service during the last difficult year. The Future High Street Fund will be welcomed to make our town vibrant again.

Copies of the Annual Report are available on the Trowbridge Town Council Website.

4. OPEN FORUM

A member of the public thanked the Council for all the work they have done and asked the following questions;

- To encourage businesses to use Council facilities whilst coming out of the pandemic, can TTC look at freezing costs of the Civic Centre?
- Is it possible to remove or unlock gates of the Park MUGA to allow community use?
- As a member of the Environmental cross party working group, access was given to the FHSF strategic business information despite this not being available to all Councillors, why is this?
- Has planning permission been given for Doric Park?

Cllr Fuller highlighted that Civic charges have already been reduced during the pandemic to encourage more use so this will be re-evaluated at a later date by the new council.

Access to the MUGA will be looked at by the new Committee.

Town Council will need to get fully involved in FHSF but as yet the final decision has not been made. Town Clerk responded that the Eco group isn't a working Group of the TTC but is supported by them. The business case is from Wiltshire Council so must have been released by them or their representative. Town Clerk highlighted that what was agreed was relevant to the FHSF at that time. The Mayor stated that before any improvements are made to the town they will need to be costed and this this will be looked at by the new Council.

The Town Clerk responded that Planning Permission has not yet been given for Doric Park.

Cllr Hoar is not aware that he has seen any documents regarding the FHSF so is not sure how these have been circulated to the public. The Environmental Working Group is totally intended to serve the community and is open and transparent. Cllr Piazza, despite not being an advocate of The Mayor's role, gave thanks for his hard work and for giving his allowance to his chosen charities. Cllr Brice highlighted that for many years we didn't have a Mayor and we responded to public demand to have a Mayor for the County Town. The Mayor attends many events and raises large funds for charities. He thanked the Council for hard work over the last 30 years and all that has been achieved in the town. The Mayor thanked all those that won't be standing for Council again this year and thank you to the community for looking after their neighbours and the town.

The meeting closed at 19.18 hrs.

Councillor Peter Fuller
Mayor of Trowbridge