

MINUTES of the proceedings of the **ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN MEETING** held at The Community Centre, Fakenham on **Wednesday 11th May 2022** at 6.00pm, those present:

Town Councillors: G. Foortse (Chairman), A Glynn, V Joslin, J Holdom, J Rockett, D Andrews, M Campbell, G Acheson and P Bucknell

District Councillors: C. Cushing

County Councillor: T Fitzpatrick

Press: A McMillan (EDP)

Police: None

Town Clerk: L. Jennings

Speakers: None

Public: 5 members of the Public

1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and made introductions.

2 NOTICE CONVENING MEETING

The Clerk read the Notice Convening the Meeting.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st October had been approved at Full Council on 19th October 2021.

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For some years now the Town Council has been working on the regeneration of the town centre. The pencil lights are now working, and the Edward VII lamp is under restoration). The latest project which has been completed is the triangle to the rear of the cinema. The triangle belongs to NNDC with the Town Council undertaking the work under licence.

The Town Council are very pleased that NNDC are providing new modern public conveniences on Queen's Road car park as well as electric charging points.

The Duke of Lancaster school has opened its doors to the first cohort of pupils. Meadow Walk assisted living facility is up and running and has won awards,

In February the town received a visit from the High Sherriff of Norfolk, Michael Gurney who toured both facilities mentioned above as well as the Gallow Sports Centre and was amazed at the range of sports and activities that take place there.

At the edge of Town, the council has been renovating the buildings at Creake Road cemetery as well as installing a gate between the cemetery proper and the extension. Councillors have planted over 350 treelets along the banks of the extension.

FTC are delighted to hear from NNDC that a new bid for Fakenham is to be put into the Levelling Up Round 2. In this round Norfolk has a priority of 1. Not only will this bid be to provide a full-sized 2G surface for competitive hockey and tennis plus a pavilion with outdoor sports changing facilities, but a 25-metre public swimming pool. Today this bid is being put before NNDC's Overview and Scrutiny committee and a press release has gone out with this news. This is exciting news indeed and the Town Council looks forward very much to working

with NNDC to put together this bid. However, this is a bid only – it is not guaranteed that it will be successful.

At the last Full Council meeting our Clerk Linda Jennings announced her intention to take early retirement. We will say goodbye to Linda on the 27th of this month. Linda is a member of the Fakenham events committee who has many activities planned to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

5 TOWN COUNCIL'S FINANCES

Marina Watters, from Stephenson Smart accountants, presented the accounts for the year 2021-22. These will be available for inspection by the public from 1st July 2022 by appointment only, to be booked through the office. The Chairman thanked her for all her hard work.

6 GUEST SPEAKERS

District Councillor Christopher Cushing gave a report and further information regarding the Levelling Up fund.

County Councillor Tom Fitzpatrick reported on the success of the Duke of Lancaster School and how the new Meadow Walk Housing has become a flagship model for the County. He encouraged residents to report any Highways queries online.

7 REPORT FROM FAKENHAM POLICE

PC Rich Dawson was unable to attend the meeting and had sent a report. The report included how local officers have dealt with a wide range of issues from low level Anti-social behaviour, domestic incidents, child protection cases, assaults and public order incidents to welfare situations for the most vulnerable. They have also dealt with minor drug incidents but report that there are no County Lines in the area. There will be a continued presence on the market on Thursdays. The Park/Walk/Talk initiative continues with each team in Fakenham having a specific area to cover across the whole of the Local Policing Command.

Our last allocation of new Officers will join at the end of May. New Officers will now join as part of a degree programme.

Work is currently ongoing to support communities with the increase in traffic on the road and the associated problems this can bring and with services that have an interest in the community's young people to look at ways to reduce boredom and improve facilities.

The local Beat Manager, PC Rich Dawson, is also working alongside the Leadership Team at Fakenham Academy to support them in improving behaviour and standards and for the safeguarding of their students. In the past few months, a new working group has been established with the Safeguarding Leads of the Infant and Junior schools in the area to share knowledge and develop a more consistent approach as the children move through their school lives.

8 PRESENTATION OF MAYORS CADET AWARD

Cadet Phoebe Harris of 2534 (Fakenham) Sqn Royal Air Force Cadets received the Mayors Cadet Award for 2022-23. She will accompany the Town Mayor at any civic events.

9 QUESTIONS

Various questions were asked mainly regarding highway issues.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS RELATING TO ANY PUBLIC MATTER OF A PAROCHIAL NATURE

There was no further business

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Meeting.
The meeting closed at 6.58pm.

CONFIRMED this

day of

2022.

CHAIRMAN