

MINUTES OF THE 125TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD

14 MAY 2019

Councillors Present: Cllr Margaret Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Ian Corben (Chair), Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Ben Thomas, Cllr Jane Welsh

In attendance:

Mayor of Eastleigh – Cllr Darshan Mann
Dr. Nigel Paterson – Kings Community Church
Brett Athow – Operations Manager
Paul Snelgrove – Head Groundsman
Crolyn Badman – Office Manager
Hannah Drury-Ellis – Marketing Officer
Nataliya Jureleviciene – Communications Officer
Donna Love – Youth Team Leader
David Howse – Youth Worker
Chloe Hailston – Youth Worker
Members of the public

PM1 Apologies

Cllr George Brown, Cllr Keith House, Cllr Pat Jenkins, Cllr Rupert Kyrle, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr Geoff Westgarth

PM2 Welcome to the Worshipful Mayor of Eastleigh, Cllr Darshan Mann

Cllr Ian Corben welcomed members of the public, staff, councillors and the Worshipful Mayor of Eastleigh Cllr Darshan Mann.

PM3 Retiring Town Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Ian Corben outlined that he was not going to do a history of the last year and selected to focus on the Remembrance Parade, last year being the Centenary making it even more poignant that so many people supported the event.

Cllr Corben thanked the staff for their contribution over the year and for everyone attending the Annual Parish Assembly.

The Town Council and Cllr Corben as Chairman found themselves in the unusual position of having to recruit a new Town Clerk as the previous one retired and was pleased to welcome Sarah Jelley.

PM4 Town Council Financial Report

The Financial Report was delivered by Cllr Ian Corben on behalf of Cllr Derek Pretty, Chair of Finance and Administration Committee.

Every year the Audited Accounts as presented to you at the Annual Parish Meeting. They represent the financial activities of Hedge End Town Council during the fiscal year ending 31st March 2018

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They show the income and expenditure of the Council and have been subject to scrutiny by our own accountant and auditor, and then presented to independent external auditors for final approval and comment. Approval was received and the certified accounts subsequently presented to, and approved, by Full Council.

They represent the financial activities of this Council throughout the year 2017/2018. They are prepared by the Town Clerk who is the Responsible Financial Officer.

These accounts continue to be available on the Hedge End Town Council website.

During 2017/2018 we continued our programme of upgrading our play areas by improving the area at Turnpike Way. Indeed, this year we have just completed a large extension to the Dowds Farm Play area.

Several years ago, we began a programme of additional maintenance of our buildings to ensure that they are kept in good order. This continues to be on-going and works are scheduled to community buildings as and when identified.

Despite holding our Council Tax precept at a 0% increase for the year 2017/2018 we continued with funding support for Youth Services, PCSOs', and the Berry Theatre in respect of youth and local productions.

In conclusion, our new Town Clerk appointed in February is intending to look at ways to provide local facilities in a more efficient manner, and we are committing ourselves to a fewer number of projects whilst we review our activities to ensure best value for money. After much consideration it was agreed that our Council Tax Precept in 2019/2020 should rise by a below inflation rate of 1.5%.

PM5 HEWEB Local Area Committee Chairs 2018/19 Report

Cllr Cynthia Garton, Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee (LAC) opened her presentation by welcoming the new Mayor of Eastleigh and the new Town Clerk on behalf of the LAC.

Cllr Garton highlighted the work that the committee has undertaken in the Hedge End area including the Woodhouse Lane application is one of the most significant for Hedge End in many years. The secondary school is desperately needed and will be managed by Wildern Academy Trust.

The Committee also approved planning permission for a replacement pool roof and spectator seating.

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As well as approving applications the committee are prepared to defend refused permissions as could be seen at the former Budgens site. Eastleigh then took the opportunity to purchase this site to ensure that its future was secured for the community. The car park has been re-opened 7 days a week and a re-launch of the Park and Stride Scheme for Shamblehurst and Wildern Schools.

The Sunday Hill's bypass which is the link between Heath House Lane, Kings Copse Avenue and junction 8 of the M27 has been open a few months now and were part of the planning agreement for Boorley Park.

The committee also agreed to projects to increase parking spaces in Ratcliffe Road, a road widening scheme in Waterbeech Drive, a dropped kerb in Downscroft Gardens and to replace the boardwalk at the back of Berrywood School.

The committee works in partnership with Hedge End Town Council and have jointly funded the extension to the Dowds Park play area and building improvements at the Old School House. Match funding is provided to the Teenage Drop In centre which is a highly valued service for our local people.

Cllr Garton said that all this could not happen without the support of their Local Area Manager, Julia Birt and our thanks are extended to her for her continued support and hard work.

PM6 Reports from Local Organisations

Dr Nigel Paterson presented a report from Kings Community Church, Kings Church has continued to attract god numbers of people in the past year. There are plans to start a second KCC in Totton. The Family Hub space is used to support families through a variety of groups aimed at different ages from baby to teenagers.

For Teenagers there is a social night on Fridays, and this runs in conjunction with a mentoring programme with Wildern students.

There is a lunch club for older people as well as events for those with memory loss and a group for isolated men.

Hedge End Food Centre supplied 307 households during the first four months of this year which is approximately a 60% increase on previous years. West End and Hedge End Councils both have collection points.

Nigel felt honoured to have been the Chaplain to the Mayor.

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Cllr Jane Welsh treasurer of the Carnival Committee delivered the report on behalf of the Carnival Committee which has been running since 1921 and takes place in July each year. This year's date is 7 July and the committee are hoping for warm weather especially as last years numbers declined most likely due to the poor weather and football. The committee raises money to provide grants to local community groups and provides a lunch for the senior citizens.

Besides the carnival there are fireworks and a fun fair. Planning takes a considerable amount of time and begins early in the year. The theme for this year is Musicals.

PM6 Presentations of 'Serving the Community' Awards, 'Best Cultivated Allotment' and 'Youth Awards' by the Mayor

Cllr Ian Corben asked for the nominees in each category to come forward while citations were read outlining their achievements and the reasons for the nominations of the award. There were two winners of 'Serving the Community Youth Awards' who were Dominic Pearce and Sam Hatley. The awards were presented to them by the Mayor of Eastleigh Cllr Darshan Mann.

A number of awards were given to allotment holders for 'Best Cultivated Allotment' the winner of the Kanes Field Allotments was Philip Ravenscroft and Spring Field Allotments, Mr Baker. There were then awards for highly commended.

The final awards of the evening were for the young people from the Friday Night Project who participated in a residential weekend with the Mayor presenting the different categories.

PM7 Public Questions

None recorded.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30 hours.