



Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on:

Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.30 pm

at Fairway Hall, Brook Close, Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, WD6 5BT.

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Annual Parish Meetings

The Annual Parish meeting must take place between 1 March and 1 June (Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12, Part III Parish Meetings 14(1)) and not earlier than 6.00pm (14(4)).

PRESENT: Councillors: Cllr S Rubner – Mayor (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Parnell – Deputy Mayor
Cllr C Butchins
Cllr R Butler
Cllr R Challice
Cllr Mrs P Strack
Cllr A Collins
Cllr P Kaza
Cllr Mrs F Turner
Cllr V Eni
Cllr J Newmark

OFFICERS:

H R O Jones – Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
T Malton - Deputy Clerk
D Salter - Entertainments Officer
N Robinson – Fairway Hall Supervisor
J Simon - Mayor’s Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE: 33 Members of the Public and representatives of other Authorities and local organisations.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for other business from Cllr S Lawrence (EBTC), Cllr M Vince (EBTC) and M Mercer (EBLOS).

2 MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 6 March 2019 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a true record.

3 REPORT OF THE MAYOR OF ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD

The Town Mayor, Cllr S Rubner, welcomed 33 Members of the Public to the meeting and set out the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) as an opportunity for electors to have their say on anything they consider to be important to the people of Elstree and Borehamwood. He said:

“This meeting is about you, the public, not the Town Councillors. The Meeting of Full Council next week is about politics – not the meeting tonight! I wish to thank all my colleagues and the Town Council staff for a great year for the Town Council and I want to open the meeting by paying special thanks to all volunteers in the Town. You are the “Life and Blood” of the Community.”

The Mayor presented his report of his year in Office in the form of a video slideshow prepared with the assistance of and thanks to D Salter - Entertainments Officer. The video showed a compilation of the Mayoral Engagements and Council Events which Cllr Rubner, together with his wife, Gina, had attended. Highlights included the Town Twinning visits, many meetings with local volunteers and the Diversity Festival, The Civic Festival and an “explosive” and “spectacular” Fireworks Night - one of the only Fireworks Events in the area that was free on entry and attended by over 5,000 people in Meadow Park, Borehamwood.

4 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: J CARTLEDGE –“TEDDY’S TRAILS”

Mr John Cartledge was welcomed by the Town Mayor as the Keynote Speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting 2020 in order to launch the book ‘*Teddy’s Trails: Eighteen Country Walks around Borehamwood and Elstree*’ prepared and produced with the assistance of Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council. The publication was in tribute to a fox terrier “Teddy” (18/1/05 to 28/08/18): “A volume inspired by one small dog’s love of walking in the countryside around his home and his joy in sharing this experience.” As well as enjoying the walks, Teddy was a frequent visitor to the Town Council Offices and a much-loved companion to Mr and Mrs Cartledge. Each of the self-guided walking routes within the book had been personally recommended by Teddy.

It was recognised that “Teddy’s Trails” was far more than a set of instructions for walkers; it provided a valuable local resource on historical points of interest (especially film and tv history – with information on film locations and celebrities), together with geography, wildlife and much more. It was also intended that the book would encourage greater use of the local bus service with all walks starting from points on bus routes from Elstree and Borehamwood Railway Station and finishing there (making the publication ideal for visitors to as well as residents of Elstree and Borehamwood). Changes to bus routes or updated information about the walks could be found on the Town Council website: <http://www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk/index.php/yourtown/teddy-s-trails>.

5 PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

The Mayor welcomed 20 speakers from local groups to speak at the meeting:

Borehamwood Brass

A Grady: The band, founded in 1971, continued to progress from success to success and welcomed working in partnership with the Town Council, especially at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event, Allum Hall and the Meadow Park temporary Band Stand. £2,000 for the NSPCC was raised at the Tesco's Christmas Carols event. 2021 would mark the 50th anniversary of the band.

Studios Rotary

N Male and Cllr C Butchins: Work continued on the campaign to eradicate Polio at an international level. The launch of the "Book Swap" scheme was hailed as a success. The Rotarians emphasised the values of recognising worthiness, ideals of service and world fellowship.

Town Flag Competition

J Cartledge: the public was encouraged to make applications to design a Town Flag (to be judged in June 2020 by public vote). Details could be found on the Town Council's website, in The Town Crier magazine and by application to the Council Offices.

EBRA (Elstree & Borehamwood Residents' Association)

S Alford: The residents' association started in 2013 and looked at a range of matters of interest including planning applications, community asses, charities and community groups. New committee members were being sought.

Dementia Club

Cllr Mrs P Strack: The group was founded in January 2018 for people with Alzheimer's and other forms of Dementia to attend with friends, families or carers. The group also welcomed those who had lost people to Dementia and those people who felt lonely or isolated at home. Gentle exercise sessions were offered together with educational speakers and light entertainments. The Club was provided free of charge and took place at Fairway Hall, Borehamwood every Tuesday.

Monday Club

Cllr Mrs P Strack: This over 60's Group was launched in March 2019 and took place fortnightly at Holy Cross Hall. Currently, some 30 attendees were regularly attending the exercise classes, activities and entertainments.

**ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Garden Crafts Society

R Barry: 2020 was the 72nd year of the Society. An update was provided on fundraising and it was noted that the organisation was the only local society that held three shows per year (planned for Allum Hall).

Lip Readers

M Lee: Lip Reading classes were available with information on leaflets available for attendees at the meeting.

Radlett, Elstree, Borehamwood and Shenley Talking Newspaper

P Sennett: The Group stated “If you have a relative, friend or neighbour who has limited or no sight, tell them about our free weekly recording: 30 minutes of news from the Borehamwood Times and Watford Observer plus 30 minutes of magazine style items. The group had been active for over 40 years.

Elstree & Borehamwood Green Belt Society

A Goddard: The group had looked at the revised Local Plan prepared by Hertsmere Borough Council to investigate which areas of green belt land were under threat of development. Concerns had been raised about increases in traffic as the result of development and the negative impact on an already overstretched infrastructure. Membership forms were made available for those wishing to join the Society.

Woodcock Hill Village Green

S Williams: A report was received on the upkeep of the Village Green. The Beacon was initially erected in the year 1598 and lit in 2012 as part of the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee at a well-attended Town Council organised event. The next lighting would be in May to commemorate VJ Day.

Hertsmere MENCAP

It was noted that Cllr V Eni was the Town Council’s representative on Hertsmere MENCAP and that update reports were provided by him at each Full Council meeting.

Elstree Mozart Players

A Grady: A concert had taken place on the previous Saturday and further concerts planned on 1 April and on 14 June as part of the Town Council’s Civic Festival.

Aldenham Country Park Trust

D Hougie: It was noted that the footpath around Aldenham Reservoir had been fenced. A report to Full Council was anticipated in the following week.

DR96

Cllr Mrs S Parnell: This was an over 60's Club established five years ago which met on a Wednesday of each week at 96 Shenley Road. Events had included a Chinese New Year party, Christmas Lunch, St David's Day, St George's Day, St Andrew's Day and St Patrick's Day celebrations, Easter Bonnet competition and an American Independence Day party. A trip to Landsdale Garden Centre in May and to Whipsnade Zoo in June had been planned to take place. The Group had applied to become a registered charity.

Visually Impaired Club

Mrs S Capocci: The Club (VIC) was launched in 2013 by the Mayor of Hertsmere, Cllr Mrs P Strack. The Club was primarily, but not exclusively, for blind and partially sighted people of Radlett, Elstree, Borehamwood and Shenley and was the sister organisation of the Talking Newspaper that sends out a recording of the news weekly.

BETTA (Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association)

N Male: It was reported that the Mayor had received a warm welcome in Fontenay-aux-Roses and future trips to Fontenay and to Offenburg were advertised on the BETTA website.

Band Stand Project

N Shuker: The need for a permanent performance area (akin to those in Watford and Dunstable) was highlighted and recognised by the community as desirable for Elstree and Borehamwood. The temporary structure in Meadow Park had proven to be very popular with residents and visitors enjoying music on Sunday afternoons over the Summer. The permanent structure would have electrical supply and a hard standing. The Town Council was thanked for its help in seeking to actualise the project (to be funded from CIL monies).

Diversity Festival

Mrs M Eni: The event would take place on 31 October and 1 November involving music, food, art and Irish Dancers to African Drums (which was listed as being especially popular). Seven young volunteers had also been booked to participate. The Mayor was thanked for his kind words about the continued success of the Diversity Festival.

Writers in the Wood

L Reed: The group had been running for three years and wished to offer its thanks to the Town Council for the support it had received, including having stalls at events and a float in the Civic Parade.

6 QUESTION TIME / PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION

Comments and questions were received on:

Overgrown Trees on Manor Way

It was agreed that the Transport Forum be asked to note the ongoing problem of driver visibility being reduced due to branches of overgrown trees on Manor Way. Borough and Kenilworth Councillors also agreed to raise the issue with the appropriate authorities.

Diversity Festival

Once again, Cllr V Eni and Mrs M Eni were congratulated on the successful Diversity Festival weekend and it was anticipated that the event would be replicated in future years. The aim of the initiative, held during Black History Week, was to celebrate the rich mix of culture in the local community in order to foster new partnerships and friendships. The Town Council had played an active role in hosting and supporting the event.

Sewing Studio

The work of a local group on Aycliffe Road was recognised. This group helped residents who “could not afford winter clothes” and repaired damaged garments free of charge to those on low incomes.

7 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

The Mayor welcomed all attendees to tea, coffee and biscuits and to feel free to ask Councillors questions informally on an individual basis. Mr John Cartledge was available to sell (£10 per copy) and sign copies of the “Teddy’s Trails” publication at the rear of the Hall.

It was noted that the following year’s meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 3 March 2021.

Town Mayor:..... Date:.....3 MARCH 2021