

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



Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on:

Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30 pm held on Zoom and recorded on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vdpdprla7go&t=37s>

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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
 D Salter - Entertainments Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: In total 40 Electors from the Parish and representatives of Authorities
 and local organisations.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for other business from Rev. L Collins (St Michael's Church).

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**2. NON DENOMINATIONAL ADDRESS BY LOCAL RELIGIOUS LEADER ON
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY**

Rev Tim Warr (All Saints Church) provided an inspiring and deeply moving account of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local community, highlighting how people had come to feel isolated or, as he put it, “locked out in lockdown.” The importance of looking after one another was emphasised and the need to come together in times of difficulty. The Mayor and all present were grateful for Rev Warr’s important words to the people of Elstree and Borehamwood.

3. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 4 March 2020 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 40 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:

“I particularly felt honoured to work with local charities providing essential services and supplies through lockdown – Gratitude and Goods for Good. It always amazes me how local volunteers step forward to meet the demands that are put on Elstree and Borehamwood. They work selflessly and their efforts should not go forgotten and unnoticed. I was also pleased to become a vaccination volunteer at various locations, including Allum Hall.”

The Mayor also provided introductions to a number of virtual events including concerts as well as attending in person where this was possible (e.g. the opening of the cycle hub at the railway station).

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.

4. PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL GROUPS

The Mayor welcomed speakers (or received written reports) from local groups to speak at the meeting as follows:

Communities First
Allum Manor Vaccination Centre
Bhaktivedanta Manor- Hindu Community
Borehamwood Brass
Borehamwood Food Bank
Borehamwood United Synagogue
Camp Unity
Defibrillator Campaign

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Diversity
EBRA
Elstree & Borehamwood Green Belt Society
Goods for Good
Gratitude
Jewish Life Centre
Poppy Appeal
St Teresa's RC Parish
BETTA

Highlights of the presentations included:

- the volunteer work of Goods for Good supporting frontline NHS and Key workers
- volunteering at the vaccination centre in Allum Hall
- VE/VJ Day events and Armistice Day
- Cycle Hub launch at Railway Station
- Increase in Foodbank use
- 3 new defibrillators installed in Borehamwood
- The success of the Diversity Festival online
- Objections to a proposed Solar Farm by the Green Belt Society
- The important work of Gratitude in providing essential supplies to vulnerable people

5. YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Councillor Alex Sneader was welcomed to the meeting and gave an informative and comprehensive report on the activities of the Youth Council during the course of the year together with the ambitions of the Youth Members going forwards. The Youth Council had continued to meet on a monthly basis via Zoom during the course of the pandemic. The Youth Council had attended the General Election count, laid wreaths on Armistice Day and assisted at the Christmas Concert at Allum Hall. They had conducted pre-Lockdown trips to King's Cross Station in London and a visit to the Houses of Parliament. Other activities included partnership working with First Impressions to maintain the planters around Elstree and Borehamwood Railway Station. The Youth Council looked forward to having a representative on the Town Council's Sustainable Transport Subcommittee to have a "real say" on the future of green transport in the local area. Communication, task management and leadership were among the skills that Youth Councillors had gained from being part of this important body representing the views of young people. New Members were always welcomed and information about joining the Youth Council could be found on the Council's website:

www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk/index.php/yourcouncil/youth-council

6. QUESTION TIME / PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION

Comments and questions were received on:

Aldenham Reservoir

The Town Council was asked on what practical steps it could take to help to save Aldenham Reservoir. It was noted that there had been a well-attended demonstration at the reservoir which was reported in the Borehamwood Times. Some Members responded that discussions were ongoing with key stakeholders.

Band Stand

It was noted that some Members of the Public did not see the benefits of the proposed band stand in Meadow Park. Some Council Members sought to reassure them that this would be a multi-purpose arena with numerous local groups using the facility on a rolling basis (including disabled users).

7. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

It was noted that the following year's meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 9 March 2022.

Town Mayor:..... Date:.....9 MARCH 2022