



## **Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council**

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held on:

**Wednesday 6th March 2019 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 V Eni – Mayor (Chairman)  
   Cllr Mrs A Mitchell - Deputy Mayor (Vice Chairman)  
   Cllr C Barker  
   Cllr C Butchins  
   Cllr S Rubner  
   Cllr E Silver  
   Cllr Mrs P Strack  
   Cllr Mrs F Turner

**OFFICERS:**                    H R O Jones – Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer  
   T Malton - Deputy Clerk  
   D Salter - Entertainments Officer  
   A Nicodemus - Council Warden and Youth Council Secretary  
   J Simon - Mayor's Secretary

**IN ATTENDANCE:**            32 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 A Coleshill, Cllr G Silver, Cllr R Butler, Cllr Mrs S Parnell and Cllr G Franklin.

## **2 MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 7 March 2018 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 V Eni, welcomed 32 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.

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 Eni, together with his wife, Martine, had attended. Highlights included the Town Twinning visits, many meetings with local volunteers in the Community and the Diversity Festival.

## **4 PRESENTATIONS FROM LOCAL GROUPS**

### **Borehamwood & District Garden Crafts Society**

Rose Barry: an update was provided on fundraising and it was noted that the organisation was the only local society that held three shows per year.

### **Elstree Mozart Players**

Cllr Mrs P Strack: the group continued to grow with the All Saints Church coffee mornings held on Saturday mornings. Three concerts had occurred in the year.

### **Boreham Wood Football Club**

Charlie & Matthew Hunter: The club was very pleased to support Town Council/local group activities through grants and it was felt that there was a strong partnership between the Football Club and Town Council. Over 40 hours each week were spent on local initiatives (such as classroom visits). The FA Cup on tour initiative had been very successful. A visit to the children in Barnet Hospital over Christmas was much appreciated and the Club was proud to support the Town Council with the previous year's Christmas Lights Switch On Event. After winning a place to Wembley, the Club had led the civic parade in an open top bus.

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

### **Dementia Club**

Cllr E Silver: It was reported that the Football Club was going to provide a grant of £1000 to help start the new Dementia Club. All were welcome to attend the Club which was intended to provide support and entertainment to those people with dementia and their carers in Elstree and Borehamwood. Cllr Silver said he was proud to be one of the founding Members together with Cllr Mrs Pat Strack and Cllr Mrs Sandra Parnell.

### **Acoustic Music Club**

Nick Male: A new venue for the club had been found at the Catholic Church in Rossington Avenue. The group intended to reach out to the community and encourage residents to join in the fun in an informal social setting. The club meet on the last Wednesday of every month.

### **Rotary Club**

Nick Male & Cllr C Butchins: The Rotary worldwide organised help to build good will and peace.

### **Borehamwood Brass**

Cllr Mrs P Strack (for A Grady): the band continued to progress from success to success and welcomed working in partnership with the Town Council, especially at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

### **NSPCC**

Dr A Goddard: NSPCCC worked to give every child a safe and happy life. This was a modern organisation with two telephone help lines. Funds would be raised at the 14 July Garden Party at Allum Manor and with a concert by Borehamwood Brass on 7 April.

### **Borehamwood Community Choir**

Karen Forrester: This group “rose from the ashes” of Com.Unity Choir and has been growing ever since with 60 people in its current membership. Funding was required to help with transport and hall hire at St Teresa’s Church Hall.

### **Borehamwood Food Bank**

Judith Elders: 14,000 people received emergency food packages in the previous year. This was a well established organisation which was open on Monday afternoon and Thursday mornings.

### **DR96**

Cllr Mrs P Strack: the group had a membership of 120 persons and was a drop-in service for senior citizens at 96 Shenley Road on Wednesday mornings.

### **Elstree Lawn Tennis Club**

Cllr C Butchins: The club welcomed players of all ages and abilities and a full programme of events both social and tennis related. Founded in 1975 the club had six floodlit courts and a modern clubhouse (which was also available to hire).

### **The Monday Club**

Cllr Mrs P Strack: This was a drop in facility for senior citizens and vulnerable people in Organ Hall (and later Holy Cross Church).

### **Elstree and Borehamwood Museum**

Cllr C Butchins: the Museum's achievements in recent months included:

- Talk to Jewish Primary School - 'The Growth of Borehamwood since 1936';
- Museum Accreditation (27 February 2019) from Arts Council;
- Friends Evening with talk by John Schoonraad about making prosthetics for the Film Industry; and
- Planned visit by Haberdashers Boys' school in March 2019.

Other statistics included:

- Museum visitors to date: 20,245 (visitor numbers January 223 and February 239);
- Total Volunteer Hours: 25,000 (with the Town Council wishing to record its thanks and appreciation to all volunteers for their hard work) (Volunteers hours January 366 and February 384);
- Events and Presentations: 72;
- Reminiscence: 45 meetings;
- Schools: 35 visits;
- Volunteer meetings: 31

## **5 QUESTION TIME / PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION**

Comments and questions were received on:

### Diversity Festival

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.

## ELSTREE AND BOREHAMWOOD TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

### “What’s On?” News

Some Members of the Public called for there to be better channels of communication in alerting the public to local events and festivities. In particular, concerns were raised about significant events that clashed in the calendar. It was noted that The Town Crier magazine had a ‘What’s On’ page but also recognised that perhaps more could be done to share information about local organisations’ activities and for these bodies to communicate prior to setting dates to avoid clashes.

### Bonfires at Melrose Avenue Allotment Site

The Town Council agreed to reconsider its bonfire season at Allotment sites through the Environment and Planning Committee.

### Bus Services in Elstree and Borehamwood

Many residents bemoaned the loss of bus services in Elstree and Borehamwood. It was noted that the Transport Forum (meeting five times per year) was the best forum to raise these issues to be taken forwards by Hertfordshire County Council. Representatives of bus companies (Sullivan Buses) were also usually present at these meetings.

## **6 ALLOTMENT PRIZE WINNERS**

Allotment Prize Awards were made to:

Melrose Avenue:

- (i) M & J Taylor - Best Plot
- (ii) S Lopatin - Best Effort
- (iii) T & P Chiu - Most Produce

Allum Lane:

- (iv) A Lawrence - Best Kept Plot
- (v) G & A Leith - Best Grown

## **7 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY TOWN CLERK AND CLOSURE**

The Town Clerk reported that Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council had achieved the Quality Level Award of the Local Council’s Award Scheme. It was the first Parish or Town Council in Hertfordshire to do so. This was a prestigious award for best practice in administration and community engagement and was made by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). It was important to note that this award proved that the Council was meeting nationally recognised standards of practice. Contributing to the award were:

- the Town Crier magazine
- Involvement in local clubs and organisations
- the good work of the staff and Members

It was stated that the award would be a springboard for the Council to go on to delivering even better services.

The Clerk thanked the staff and stated that it was an honour to work with them.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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

The Mayor welcomed all attendees to tea, coffee and biscuits and to feel free to ask Councillors questions informally on an individual basis.

It was noted that the following year’s meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 4 March 2020.

The Mayor closed the meeting by paying special thanks to his wife, Martine Eni, whom he said was his chief source of support and inspiration.

Town Mayor:..... Date:.....4 MARCH 2020