



Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

MINUTES of the annual Parish Meeting held on:

Wednesday 8th March 2017 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 C Butchins – Mayor (Chairman)
 Cllr E Silver - Deputy Mayor (Vice Chairman)
 Cllr C Barker
 Cllr R Butler
 Cllr A Coleshill
 Cllr V Eni
 Cllr G Franklin
 Cllr Mrs A Mitchell
 Cllr Mrs S Parnell
 Cllr S Rubner
 Cllr G Silver
 Cllr Mrs P Strack
 Cllr Mrs F Turner

OFFICERS: H R O Jones – Town Clerk
 T Malton - Deputy Clerk
 D Salter - Events Officer
 J Simon - Mayor's Secretary

IN ATTENDANCE: 60 Members of the Public.

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received from Councillors.

2 MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 9 March 2016 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 Mayor, Cllr C Butchins, 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 - Events Officer. The four minute video showed a compilation of the Mayoral Engagements and Council Events which he, together with his wife, Elaine, had attended (90 engagements in total). Highlights included the defibrillator project, Town Twinning visits and many meetings with local volunteers in the Community.

4 CHINA SISTER TOWN

Responding to a request from several Members of the Public, a public presentation was made about the sister town arrangement between Elstree and Borehamwood and Huainan in the People's Republic of China. Some Members of the Public queried whether the Town Council could have promoted the scheme through greater public consultation, although it was made clear that, because of the timings of the scheme, a decision was required at the time agreed (January) in order for an opportunity not to be missed. Some Members of the Public remained of the view that there should have been greater demonstrable public support for the scheme despite recognising the legal authority (following advice) for the Council to formally agree to the arrangement. It was noted that the scheme had the written support of representatives of Hertsmere Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council and the local MP. Some Members of the Public pointed to the economic opportunities that could be generated by agreeing to the 'sistering' arrangement, especially with the film and tv industries. Others supported the scheme insofar as cultural links (especially between schools) could be promoted. It was further noted that the cost of any trips to China to sign a memorandum of understanding would be met by individual Councillors and not the taxpayer.

5 ALLOTMENT PRIZE WINNERS

Allotment Prize Awards were made to:

Melrose Avenue:

- (i) M Young (D9) - Best Plot
- (ii) Button/Atkinson (G5) - Best Effort
- (iii) P McDonald (M8) - Most Produce

Allum Lane:

- (iv) J Velik (8) - Best Kept Plot
- (v) M Sahbaz (4) - Best Grown

6 PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION

Comments and questions were received on:

Teddy's Trails

The initiative to create a series of walks locally (starting from and finishing at Elstree and Borehamwood railway station) was congratulated. These involved taking a local bus to destinations and returning on foot. Further information could be found by visiting www.elstreeborehamwood-tc.gov.uk/index.php/yourtown/teddy-s-trails or calling at the Town Council Offices for a printed route.

Oyster Cards

Some Members of the Public queried the availability to use Oyster Cards at Elstree and Borehamwood railway station and on local buses. It was noted that the matter would be put to the Transport and Road Safety Forum.

Bus Stops at Aycliffe Road and Rossington Avenue

Representatives from Fountain Court reported the problem of bus stops at the above locations having no sides, leaking, no proper seating or lights. Potholes in the roads were also reported in these locations. It was noted that the matter would be put to the Transport and Road Safety Forum and the local Hertfordshire County Council Members.

Seating Arrangements and Questions at Meeting

Responding to a query from a Member of the Public, it was agreed that the Town Clerk would seek advice and respond to him/her regarding the arrangements for seating and the asking of questions at the Annual Meeting.

Notice Boards

Responding to a query from a Member of the Public, it was agreed that the Environment and Planning Committee would further consider the location and installation of new notice boards in the town.

Flyover by Holiday Inn

Responding to a query from a Member of the Public, it was agreed that the issue of the neglected fence at the above location would be referred to the local Hertfordshire County Council Member.

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Aldenham Reservoir

The Meeting heard concerns raised about the condition and ongoing arrangements for the maintenance of Aldenham Reservoir. It was understood that Full Council continued to be updated about this issue by the relevant liaison representative.

New Housing

Some Members of the Public raised concerns about the seemingly excessive number of new housing being built in the area. Town Councillors acknowledged that the impact on the local infrastructure of increases in population continued to be a concern to the Environment and Planning Committee (which favoured family sized dwellings rather than single unit builds) and by the Council collectively when responding to consultation documents (e.g. the Local Plan).

Traffic and Parking in Manor Way

Some Members of the Public raised concerns about the above issue. A representative from Goodman's Autos clarified the position of the company with regards to vehicles being parked in this area and explained the pressures under which the business operated. It was noted that the subject was likely to be of ongoing concern to residents who sought space to park their own vehicles at this location.

7 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

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 7 March 2018.

Town Mayor:..... Date:.....7 MARCH 2018.....