



Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council

MINUTES of the annual Parish Meeting held on:

Wednesday 9th March 2016 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 O'clock in the evening (14(4)).

The next Annual Parish meeting is scheduled for 8 March 2017 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors: Cllr R Butler – Mayor (Chairman)
 Cllr C Barker
 Cllr C Butchins
 Cllr V Eni
 Cllr G Franklin
 Cllr Mrs S Parnell
 Cllr S Rubner
 Cllr E Silver
 Cllr G Silver
 Cllr Mrs P Strack
 Cllr Mrs F Turner

 Youth Councillors: YC J Warman

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

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

Also present: 40 additional attendees, including those who signed the attendance register being made up of residents and representatives from partner organisations (Borehamwood and Elstree Twin Town Association, Melrose Allotment Committee, British Legion Social Club, All Saints Church, Borehamwood Brass Band, Defibrillator Group and the First Impressions Group).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A Coleshill (Other Business) and Cllr Mrs A Mitchell (Deputy Mayor). Apologies were also received from representatives of other Authorities and Partner organisations who had received individual invitations to the meeting, including: O Dowden (MP), J Shingles (Elstree Productions), A Dismore (London Assembly), Mrs B Kennedy (Crossroads Care – Hertfordshire South), Cllr C Clapper (Hertsmere Borough Council), A Cox (Allum Lane Allotments) and A Leboff (Shenley Parish Council) who were all unable to attend due to other commitments.

2 MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting of 11 March 2015 were signed as a true record.

3 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor, Cllr R Butler, presented his report of his year in Office in the form of a video slideshow prepared with the assistance of and thanks to B Simon. The four minute video showed a compilation of the Mayoral Engagements and Council Events which he, together with his partner R Challice, had attended. He said he had had a fantastic year as Mayor and was proud that his chosen charity (the Visually Impaired Club based at Maxwell Park Community Centre) managed to raise nearly £3,000.

4. FREEMEN AWARDS

Having been approved by Full Council at a previous meeting, awards of Freeman of Elstree and Borehamwood were presented to:

- (i) B Davies (received by Mrs R Davies); and
- (ii) R Redman

Before the commencement of the meeting, the Town Mayor called on those present to a minute's silence in respect of Bill Davies, the Town Council's first recipient of the Freeman award.

Cllr Mrs S Parnell delivered speeches of congratulation to the recipients.

5 ALLOTMENT PRIZE WINNERS

Allotment Prize Awards (Melrose Avenue) were made to:

- (i) D Smith - Best Plot
- (ii) R Dodkin - Best Effort
- (iii) K Sirodka - Most Produce

6 SESSION 1: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Comments and questions were received on:

Stirling Corner Roundabout

Responding to public comments on the safety of the roundabout, Cllr C Butchins was pleased to report that the work of the Transport and Road Safety Forum had improved the condition by helping to reduce the speed restriction to 50mph at the approach to the site.

Resurfacing of Alexandra Road

Responding to public comments, Cllr V Eni agreed to assist by encouraging for timely action to be taken in resurfacing Alexandra Road, Borehamwood. It was understood that weather conditions had delayed the commencement of the works. He agreed to inform those residents who had asked the question of his findings.

7 TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

Update Reports were received from:

- (a) Entertainments Committee – Cllr Mrs P Strack
- (b) General Management Committee - Cllr Mrs S Parnell
- (c) Environment and Planning Committee - Cllr G Franklin
- (d) Transport and Road Safety Forum - Cllr C Butchins
- (e) Youth Council : YC J Warman

The detail of the reports is set out in the Annual Report (attached).

8 SESSION 2: PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Comments and questions were received on:

Bus Cuts at Hertfordshire County Council

A number of public concerns were raised in connection with envisaged reduction in service of local buses resulting from funding cuts by Hertfordshire County Council. It was noted that this topic had been debated at length at the Transport and Road Safety Forum and that representations had been submitted to this Authority on the Town Council's behalf seeking to safeguard the service as far as this was possible.

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Bus Shelter on Aycliffe Road

Responding to public comments, Ward Members agreed to seek to assist in the timely replacement of the damaged bus shelter on Aycliffe Road.

Flyover at A1 near Holiday Inn

Responding to public comments, Ward Members agreed to seek to assist in encouraging Hertfordshire County Council to maintain the overgrown foliage at the above site as this was causing a problem to road users and was unsightly.

Town Council Precept

Responding to a query concerning the Council's 2016/17 Precept, the Town Clerk explained the decision of the Council (as guided by the Standing Committees of the Authority in the Budget Setting process) for the increase in Precept from the previous year. This was due to the impact of Council Tax Benefits and the fact that the Town Council would not be receiving a grant from Hertsmere Borough Council. Parish and Town Councils continued to take just 2% of the Council Tax in Hertsmere. The increase also included new service delivery such as an enhanced Town Crier magazine, new coach trip destinations (and a Winter set of destinations) for over 60s and financial self-resilience for the Council in terms of a general reserve fund.

Town Crier Magazine

Responding to a comment from a Member of the Public, Members welcomed the report that the Town Crier magazine had improved edition by edition and that the publication had reached all sectors of the community. Thanks were provided to the Town Crier Sub-Committee, contributors to the magazine and to the Events Officer who acted as Editor.

9 CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.00 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 8 March 2017.

Town Mayor:..... Date:.....8 MARCH 2017.....