

THORNBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Town Meeting held on
Tuesday 24th April 2018 at the Armstrong Hall Complex

PRESENT: Cllr Helen Harrison (Chairman)
Cllr Pam Shipp (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Vincent Costello
Cllr Benj Emmerson
Cllr Clare Fardell
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr Jayne Stansfield
Cllr Matthew Stringer
Cllr Maggie Tyrrell
Cllr Gail Whitehead
Louise Powell (Town Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Cllr Shirley Holloway, Cllr Clive Parkinson, Cllr Guy Rawlinson

**OPENING
REMARKS:** The Chairman, Cllr Helen Harrison, welcomed all present and made the following remarks:-

“As I was thinking about what to say at this point, I reflected back over the past year, and what have been some of the significant moments in it for the town.

One of the main ones, I think, has to have been the decision on what option to take forward regarding the Armstrong Hall complex. The decision to go for a rebuild was made in consultation with the town, and it has been good to be able to demonstrate democracy community collaboration in this way. Many thanks to all who participated in any way in reaching the decision. Of course the real work is only now starting, and the path to be taken between now and completion of the build is still long - but at least we have embarked on it at last.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan team continue to beaver away in the background, and I thank all those members who are giving so much of their time, expertise and input to pull the plan together.

Thornbury continues to grow, and new families are moving in to the town on a weekly basis. It saddens me to hear some of those newcomers feeling that they have to apologise for their presence, aware that they are in homes that were fraught with contention about being built. Never has it been more vital for Thornbury to be seen as a welcoming place, and I am delighted that a new organisation ‘Thornbury Welcomes’ has been birthed off the back of this past year, to help facilitate and encourage initiatives that promote the welcoming aspects of the town - for new

residents, those with additional needs, those visiting, and anyone else who wants to feel welcomed.

In a town as vibrant and active as Thornbury, there are countless other initiatives and examples that I could give that highlight the best of the town in the past year, but time doesn't permit. However, I would just like to draw attention to Thornbury in Bloom who this year are taking part in the national competition of Britain in Bloom as recognition of years of excellence. I wish them well in this, as I know do all the rest of Council.

As tends to be the way, there have been some staffing changes - and to that end I would like to note the grateful thanks of Council to Clare Nelmes and Sue Horsfall, both of whom left the Council staff in the past 12 months, and who served the Council incredibly well over their period of time with us. We wish each of them well as they embark on new chapters of life. I would also like to note the retirement from the Environment Committee of community volunteer Allan Burberry - a stalwart champion of Thornbury's green credentials for many years. The Council all wish you well, Allan, and give our thanks.

Whilst on staffing, I would like to welcome Louise Powell as our new Town Clerk, and Belinda Morley as one of the Council administrative staff - may your time with us be happy and enriching, and we look forward to having you alongside as we journey into the future

My thanks also to the rest of the Council staff who have kept day to day Council matters ticking along so well and helped ease us through the time of transition.

And finally, my very grateful thanks to all the Councillors who have served in various capacities over the past year, given me so much support, and shown such dedication to the town - thank you, each and every one of you."

**MINUTES OF
THE LAST
ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING:**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 25th April 2017 were read by the Chairman, approved by those present and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**MATTERS
ARISING:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:**

The Chairman called in turn on Committee Chairmen to present their reports.

**TOWN
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Town Development Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Maggie Tyrrell. She concluded her report by thanking the staff who have helped to support the Committee, ensuring Councillors have all the information necessary and for responding to the numerous consultations. She also thanked all members of the Committee including Adrian Savery, representing the Chamber of Commerce, who sat on the Committee this year, for the time he has given.

The report is appended hereto (Appendix A).

**ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Environment Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Matthew Stringer. He concluded his report by thanking Council staff, in particular Sandra Richardson (Deputy Town Clerk), and his fellow Committee members and Vice Chairman.

The report is appended hereto (Appendix B).

**PLAYING FIELDS
AND CEMETERY
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee was presented by the Vice Chairman, Cllr Bob Griffin, in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Clive Parkinson. Cllr Bob Griffin passed on Cllr Clive Parkinson's thanks to Council outdoor staff for all their hard work and support during the year, and also to Mr Jack Hainsworth who has represented St Mary's Church at the Committee meetings.

The report is appended hereto (Appendix C).

**FINANCE AND
POLICY
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Finance and Policy Committee was presented by the Chairman, Cllr Pam Shipp. She concluded her report by thanking the Council staff and her fellow Committee members for all their work and support during the year.

The report is appended hereto (Appendix D).

**STAFFING
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Staffing Committee was presented by the Committee Vice Chairman, Cllr Matthew Stringer, in the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Guy Rawlinson. He concluded his report by thanking all Council staff for their commitment to the work they do and in ensuring excellent relations with members of the public.

The report is appended hereto (Appendix E).

**ANY MATTERS
RAISED BY
ELECTORS:**

There were no matters raised by those electors present.

CLOSURE:

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.