



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on **Tuesday 28th April 2015** at 7:00pm in the Guildhall.

Present:

Cllr W Harvey (Chairman)
Cllr R Tippins (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Clinch
Cllr Dibben

Cllr Duthie
Cllr Proctor
Cllr K Tippins

In attendance:

Mr Stephen Holley (Town Clerk)
Mrs Claire Commons (Committee Services Officer)
DCllr Jefferson
33 members of the public

MINUTES

Stephen Holley introduced himself as the Town Clerk and introduced Win Harvey as the Mayor of Shaftesbury.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Joseph Pestell due to a family commitment and County and District Councillor Mervyn Jeffery

2. Report on the year's activity and achievements

(a) The Mayor of Shaftesbury, Cllr Winifred Harvey welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Assembly and read her report which was also included in the Annual Report. Questions and comments were invited, the following were put:

- Have all members seen this report?
- What was the Council's action plan?
- Why were salaries more than 50% of total budget.

Town Clerk responded that the last year has been exceptionally difficult having had 4 clerks and no one to lead the office team leaving black holes of activity. Now there was a new Council, an action plan would be put together to include a 5 year action plan and looking back at what resolutions had not been done and work on the 5 year strategy and what fits together from that strategy.

Regarding the finances, the Auditors report will come to the first meeting of the new council. Regarding salaries, salaries in any town council were always the highest item of expenditure as what is done is through the staff.

(b) Cllr R Tippins, Chair of the General Management Committee referred to his report in the Annual Report and invited questions. Special mention was made in regards to the transfer of the Swimming Pool from North Dorset District Council, the start of a governance peer review and grants and SLA's awarded totalling £42,500.

Questions were put in relation to:

- Developer Contribution money (s.106)
- Town Council website
- Peer review
- Precept
- Rifles Monument
- Wiltshire's Solar Panels

Cllr Karen Tippins, Chair of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee referred to her report in the Annual Report and invited questions.

Questions were put in relation to:

- Toilet block at Coppice Street
- Street sweeping
- Hedges overgrowing footways
- Park Walk Gardens

Cllr Clinch as Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee referred to his report in the Annual Report and invited questions. He commented that he had only been the Chair since December and made special mention of the current development by Barratt Homes.

Questions were put in relation to:

- A350 Bypass Corridor
- Ambulance station planning application
- Town Centre Enhancement
- Speed Limits

Councillor Richard Thomas spoke as Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Group, reporting that the plan had 7 themes and the group was currently inputting the data from the questionnaire, noting that there had been an excellent response of 1,075 questionnaires.

3. Brief Reports from:

- Voluntary Organisations
Shaftesbury Snowdrops – Thanks were given to the Town Council for the support they had given to Snowdrops and Community Farm.

- **School Governors**

The chair of governors to the Abbey Primary School spoke on behalf of the school. He reported that the school was flourishing and that the budget was on an even keel. He reported that there was currently 195 pupils on roll and the school was very active with an accomplished football team. He reported that the school was currently able to accommodate the intake of pupils but anticipated having difficulties from September 2016 onwards.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors

DCllr Gary Jefferson reported on the successful transfer of parcels of land from North Dorset District Council to Shaftesbury Town Council.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07pm.