

**Minutes from the Annual Town Meeting of Shepton Mallet held on
Tuesday 28th May 2019
in the Council Chamber of Mendip District Council**

Present: Councillor Chris Inchley as Chairman of Shepton Mallet Town Council, Charlotte Starkie, Town Clerk as Minute Secretary, with Councillors Frapple, Hobbs, Lovell, Height, Kennedy, Manley, Shearn, McGuire and 11 members of the public, including prize-winner junior parkrunner, Megan.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL

The Chairman of the Town Council, Chris Inchley thanked people for attending.

2. TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jon Hardy who had intended to give a presentation on behalf of Plant Life sent his apologies. Councillors Harrison and Hale also tendered their apologies.

3. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH MAY 2018

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO RECEIVE PRESENTATIONS FROM:

• **JUNIOR PARKRUN- *Marie Goodwin***

Junior parkrun was only started in April 2019 but to date have held 6 events and been supported by 171 runners and 63 volunteers. The children benefit from outdoor exercise which is beneficial to mental health as well as community engagement. They thanked the town council for the grant and ongoing support.

• **SENIOR PARKRUN- *Edric Hobbs***

Senior parkrun continues to thrive with an average of 250 runners and volunteers each weekend. The parkrun has brought many new people to the sport of running as well as attracting visitors into the town on a Saturday. Children are involved in senior park run and Megan was the lucky recipient of the outstanding young person award for her contribution. Thanks were expressed to the town council for its ongoing support.

• **THE FOOD FESTIVAL TRAIL- *Alan Stone***

The West County Food Adventures will take place between 13 and 28 July 2019 and will include a coffee shop trail, a food crawl, a Sunday market and a cider tasting. This has been made possible with support from the town council and volunteers, but more volunteers are being sought.

• **SHEPTON MALLET LANTERN PARADE - *Kate Lovell***

The lantern parade will celebrate its 10th Anniversary with a parade on 21st December 2019. The 3 weekend workshops that precede the parade are aimed at everyone and very inclusive and are a good way of people meeting new people. This year's road closure was being supported by the town council and the grant provided by the town council would enable the group to be more

creative. They are having a stand at Collett Park day and hope to welcome some more volunteers.

- **TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION- *Michael Kennett***

The Twinning Association has been established since 1960 and continues to support the towns of Misburg in Germany, Bollnas in Sweden and Oissel-sur-Seine in France. The 2018 international week has been a success and in 2019 members of the association would be visiting Misburg in August.

- **SHEPTON MALLET TOWN COUNCIL- *Chris Inchley***

The Chairman of the Town Council explained that there had been a lot of change to council membership over the last 12 months but that the election had returned 9 new councillors and there were exciting times ahead. In the last few months the council had adopted several new policies and financial controls under the guidance of the new Town Clerk, Charlotte Starkie. Improvements had been made to the website, the council was more accessible and councillors were being offered training.

- The council had invested in making Eden Grove Bridge more safe, had given its support to keep the library in the town centre and would be discussing this in more detail at a future council meeting. Collett Park has been awarded Green Flag status, the first park in the Mendip area to receive this accolade, and thanks were expressed to the former Clerk, Sam Winter, and Councillor Garfield Kennedy, Chairman of the Collett Park Management Committee, who had been instrumental in this project.
- The 2018 Collett Festival had been a 3-day success and enjoyed by the whole community. This year's event was scaled down to a one-day event but should be just as enjoyable. The café continued to thrive with new support from the management of a local café.
- The High Street has been made a priority on the Open Spaces Committee and they had invested in the Sunday Market, the festive lights and had undertaken some repairs to the Shambles. The BMX track had been funded by outstanding work from Fresh and the council had recently engaged in a 3-year service level agreement with the local YMCA to support youth activities in town.
- The council was pleased to participate in the 100th anniversary of the ending of the WW1 and hoped that the town benefited from tree planting and additional benches as a legacy. The Chairman mentioned all the community groups that the council has supported this year.
- The Town Development and Planning Committee had considered a wide range of planning applications including for the show field, the new police station, the Strawberry Line cycle route and the Local Plan part ii.
- Thanks were expressed to all the staff for the hard work they do on behalf of the community. Thanks were passed to all councillors, and in particular those who had acted as committee chairman in the last 12 months: Cllrs Martin Lovell, Garfield Kennedy, Jon Hardy and John Parham.

5. TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE ELECTORATE

There were no written questions.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THOSE PRESENT

A member of the public asked if the council would consider, when it does any large scale leaflet printing, to sure recyclable paper and to try and limit the amount of unnecessary leaflets.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the representatives of the community groups for their presentations this evening and he thanked everyone who volunteered their time to make Shepton Mallet a special place to live.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next annual town meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th May 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

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