

**HUNTINGDON TOWN**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Annual Town Meeting of Huntingdon Town was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm.

*In attendance; Councillors A Beevor; J Cole; C Doyle; S Gifford (Mayor); V Hufford; P Kadewere; P Kennington; B Luckham; S McAdam; P Pearce; T Sanderson; A Sedgwick; T Shrapnel; S Sweek and K Webb. Twelve Residents and/or representatives from local organisations.*

1. **MAYOR'S WELCOME**

The Mayor, Councillor S Gifford, welcomed everyone present to the 2019 Annual Town Meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies tendered to the Town Clerk included Councillor A Blackwell and a Resident apology from Susan Mulcahy.

3. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018, having been approved at a meeting of the Town Council on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 (M2) had been published to the Town Council website and were available at the meeting for review.

**RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

4. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MAYOR 2018-19**

The Mayor's report on the Council's activities during the year was presented by the Mayor, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

5. **CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

The Mayor invited the Chairman of Finance to give his report. Councillor P Pearce gave a brief overview of financial activities of the last 12 months. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

**CHAIRMAN OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

The Mayor next invited the Chairman of the Leisure and Community Services Committee to provide his report. Councillor T Sanderson delivered a brief

overview of the committee's activities of the last 12 months. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes

## **CHAIRMAN OF PLANNING ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

The Mayor then invited the Chairman of the Planning Committee to provide her report. Councillor A Beevor delivered a brief overview of planning activities of the last 12 months. A copy of this report is attached to this minutes.

### **6. PRESENTATION FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

i. Chris Bayliss from Highways England gave a presentation on the progress of the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme, including: Pathfinder link archaeological excavations, Mill Common link, proposed forecourt improvements to Huntingdon Train Station, Views Common link and the viaduct removal process. The presentation highlighted the impacts to Huntingdon over the next year. In Summer 2019 the construction was planned to begin on Views Common and Pathfinder Link. In Winter 2019-2020 the preparation for and instalment of a protection desk under the viaduct was planned, with the removal of the viaduct to follow. Impacts on traffic management in Hinchingbrooke and Brampton road were noted.

ii. Stuart Orme, curator of Cromwell Museum, gave a presentation on the Cromwell Museum. The Cromwell Museum Trust was created to manage the museum, thanks were extended to Huntingdon Town Council for their support during this process. It was noted that the Cromwell Museum had the most significant collection of Oliver Cromwell artefacts in the world; with 70% of the artefacts displayed now owned by the museum. In the past year Cromwell Museum has focused on exhibitions and temporary displays to increase visitors including: a Lego siege exhibition, Unseen Cromwell with artefacts loaned to the museum that had never been displayed and the Trail and Execution of King Charles I.

Education had become a big focus, visits from schools had increased by 20% from last year. The team of 46 volunteers were thanked for their commitment.

A resident commented that the Cromwell Museum was a super facility and noted the importance of local authorities promoting the historical links to Huntingdon to improve tourism in the town.

iii. Mike Addis from Huntingdonshire History Festival and Bob Picking from the Napoleonic Association gave a presentation on the plans for the Huntingdonshire History Festival 2019. The main aims of the project were as follows: to promote an interest in local history; to educate people about the rich history of Huntingdonshire; to put Huntingdon on the national map as a place to visit and to provide most of the activities for free. Three large scale activities were planned for Summer 2019, including: A Civil War re-enactment, a Medieval re-enactment on the sack of Huntingdon and a Napoleonic re-enactment.

The Mayor thanked all of the presenters for their contribution.

## 7. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor invited questions and comments from those electors of the town of Huntingdon on any matter in relation to which the Council had powers or duties or which affected the town.

A local resident raised concerns on drug dealing in the area of Hartford Road and Montague Road. People in the area had been openly dealing in drugs and there had been a rise in anti-social behaviour. It was noted that the issue had been reported to Home Start and the local PCSO's. The resident asked for support from Huntingdon Town Council in tackling this problem. A meeting of residents was scheduled with the Community Safety Officer, Councillors were invited to attend. It was advised that the issue would be added to a future agenda following the resident's meeting for further discussion.

A Member noted that there was a lack in attendance from the public. It was advised that the dates of the Annual Town Meeting had been included in the previous two issues of Huntingdon Magazine which was distributed to 10,000 residents in Huntingdon, in addition the information was available on our website and through social media.

A resident queried whether Huntingdon Town Council (HTC) was financially supporting the Commemoration Hall. It was advised that HTC had financially supported the Hall in the past. The Commemoration Hall was run by trustees in a charitable trust. It was noted that HTC was a custodian trustee. Custodian trustees are appointed to hold property of a charity, the administration of the charity was left in the hands of the charity trustees. Following an AGM in November 2018, the Hall was officially opened and was in the process of creating a management and strategic plan. It was noted that the Commemoration Hall could apply for funding. HTC had offered some funding in September 2018, with the condition of being presented with a business plan. However, this offer was rejected as the board of trustees deemed it was no longer necessary.

With no further questions, the Mayor gave thanks to those in attendance.

**MAYOR**