

**Melksham Town Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting meeting held  
on Monday 28th March 2022**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor J Hubbard  
Councillor C Goodhind  
Councillor P Alford  
Councillor P Aves  
Councillor G Cooke  
Councillor S Crundell  
Councillor G Ellis  
Councillor C Forgacs  
Councillor S Mortimer  
Councillor J Oatley  
Councillor S Rabey

**OFFICERS:**

Linda Roberts  
Christine Hunter

Town Clerk  
Committee Clerk

**8/21 Welcome from the Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard welcomed members of the public and press to the Annual Town Meeting and informed those present that this was an opportunity for the Town Council to report on progress made over the last year, and give members of the public an opportunity to question councillors on local issues.

**9/21 Minutes**

It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24 May 2021, having previously been circulated, were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard.

**10/21 Report of the Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, stated that updates on projects had been circulated throughout the year in the Town Council's newsletter. The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, updated on progress on the Bath Road and Market Place toilets works, the installation of Eco Toilets for King George V park, improvement works in King George V park, the Splash Pad and the Spiritualist garden.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, thanked the amenities team and volunteers who help in making the Town look magnificent, the town council team for delivering

services to the town, the Deputy Town Mayor and the Committee Clerk for the support provided.

#### **11/21      Reports of Wiltshire Councillors**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard confirmed that the reports provided Councillor Jack Oatley and Councillor Mike Sankey were included in the agenda pack.

Councillor Alford explained that as a Wiltshire Councillor he had strategic responsibility for asset transfers and housing. He confirmed he is Chair of Melksham Area Board providing support to various projects throughout Melksham Town.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, confirmed he is continuing as a Wiltshire Councillor as Chair of the Children's Select Committee and Chair of the Adoption West Scrutiny Panel which the only regional adoption agency in the country owned equally by the authorities it serves.

#### **12/21      Reports from Councillors/Chairs of Town Council Committees**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard confirmed that the report provided Councillor Jack Oatley, the Chair of Community Development Committee was included in the agenda pack. Councillor Oatley thanked the vice chair and committee members for their support and gave a brief outline of his report attached to the agenda.

The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, Chair of the Asset Management and Amenities Committee explained ongoing works for the café in King George V park, broken play equipment, the sensory garden, and that the sports roadshows will commence at Easter. He confirmed successes were the dog park, Food and River Festival, skate park, the gated section of Bath Road car park, the Splash Pad, and work will commence shortly on the Maintenance Shed. The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Goodhind, advised that there is a new Parks Working Group covering all parks and that building works are required on the Roundhouse, Arthouse Café, Melksham Independent News building and the Assembly Hall. The Assembly Hall usage and hire rates are being reviewed.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Jon Hubbard, Chair of the Economic Development and Planning Committee explained that the Committee met every three weeks to review planning applications and provide a recommendation to Wiltshire Council Planning department. He confirmed that it is the responsibility of Wiltshire Council to make planning decisions.

Councillor S Rabey, Chair of the Finance, Administration and Performance Committee thanked the vice chair and committee members for their support. She reported that the Committee had met five times during the year and had responsibility for scrutinising the finances of the council, examining financial and budget reports and checking the expenditure of the council. The committee also have responsibility for grant applications and allocations.

**13/21      Reports from Groups who have received grants during the year**

Reports were received from eighteen groups who had received grants during the year.

**14/21      Presentations from Groups who have received grants during the year**

Wendy Clayton of Alzheimer's Support thanked the town council for the very generous grant awarded in September last year which enabled them to continue to run groups that are essential for people with dementia. The groups offer socialising opportunities, exercise sessions, and support to carers and clients. Wendy confirmed there had recently been an increase in numbers attending sessions.

Anna Robertson of Dorothy House gave a video presentation explaining how the grant received supported the work of specially trained nurses running community care clinics providing a full holistic assessment for patients with life limiting illnesses. The clinics providing specialist care will be available to Melksham residents from April 2022. Anna confirmed that the funding received from the Town Council encouraged further funding which will enabled the group to hold ten clinics for a year throughout the region.

Debbie from Melksham Cricket Club explained that the funding received had been for Astro work that had been delayed from January and would be installed in September. Access issues and materials shortages had also impacted on the work. Debbie confirmed the new nets system are in the process of being installed .

Lewis and Lucy of 4Youth explained the work undertaken by 4youth over the last year. 203 sessions were run with 185 young people and made 1,641 contacts. 94 youth clubs sessions were held working with 503 young people making 2,092 contacts. Lucy explained the mentoring work ongoing for young people. Lucy also updated on the Team Talk service which is a 1-1 free counselling service for young people Referrals have increased to 41 in 2021.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, thanked Councillor Jack Oatley on behalf of 4Youth for his work with the team.

**15/21      Reports/Presentations from Community Groups**

The Town Mayor, Councillor Hubbard, confirmed the Melksham Area Board report was attached to the Agenda.

Joint Melksham Neighbourhood Plan – the Town Clerk explained the importance of the Plan regarding local land supply, local green spaces, environmental issues, and housing allocation. Consultations will be undertaken with the public and the new website has a link for people to nominate green spaces for protection from development. A housing

needs assessment will be undertaken to establish what type of housing Melksham needs.

Priority for People – Gerald Millward Oliver explained the priorities of the scheme were to make moving around the town safer for people, vehicles and goods. From the initial consultation projects suggestions were condensed to create a longer term vision for actionable, sustainable projects which are being considered by two working groups who will liaise with Wiltshire Council and present their recommendations to the Town Council in May 2022.

**16/21      Open Forum/Questions from Electors**

There were no questions from electors.

Meeting Closed at: 8.25 pm

Signed:

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the person who signed the document.

Dated: 13.03.23