

## **ANNUAL TOWNS MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Town's Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 at 7pm  
held at The Morland Hub, Pearce Drive, Highbridge

**Attendees** Cllr Millard, Mayor, 12 Councillors and 25 members of the public. Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk

**1. Introductions and welcome from the Mayor, Councillor Lesley Millard**

Councillor Millard welcomed members of the public and Councillors to the meeting.

**2. Official noting of the Town Councillor apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Wynn, Facey, Barber and Flurry.

**3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting of 30th May 2022**

The minutes of the Annual Towns Meeting held on the 30th May 2022 were received, approved and duly signed by the Mayor.

**4. To receive a report from the Police**

There was no report provided. The Mayor confirmed she had contacted the Inspector to raise her disappointment in the lack of attendance and agreed to arrange meetings in both Burnham and Highbridge, where residents can speak directly to the Police to raise any concerns.

**5. To receive presentation from Jane MacPherson, The Morland Hub**

Roger Keen and Jane MacPherson gave a report on how the grant monies awarded from the Town Council had been spent to improve the facilities at The Morland Hub.

**6. Presentation of Annual Reports 2022-23**

The Mayor read her annual report. A copy of reports from the Mayor, Town Clerk, Committee Chairs and Somerset Councillor Harvey were provided to all attendees. Copy attached.

## 7. Open Forum

A number of members of the public raised questions. All residents who wished to speak were residents within the Town.

The issues raised were:

- *Anti social behaviour in Highbridge*

The Mayor confirmed she will speak to Homes in Sedgemoor and the Police and then report back to the resident directly.

- *Residents in Trowbridge Close, Highbridge do not want an allotment garden next to their homes.*

The Mayor stated she was informed this would not go ahead without the residents support. Councillors Keen and Morgan agreed to liaise with residents on this issue.

- *Residents in Trowbridge Close, Highbridge raised concerns regarding the lack of parking spaces and that there was space for two additional spaces.*

The Mayor confirmed it is Homes in Sedgemoors jurisdiction. However, the Mayor will put forward their views and give her support at a planned walkabout in June.

- *A footpath in Moorland Road, has a bush that is overgrowing the footpath making it difficult for people to walk past.*

The Town Council would follow this up.

- *A Resident of Trowbridge Close, Highbridge raised concerns regarding the lack of access for emergency vehicles.*

The Mayor agreed to arrange a meeting with Homes in Sedgemoor to take forward all the concerns raised at the meeting.

- *The lack of dog litter bins along the Marine Drive area.*

The Mayor is planning a new campaign to encourage responsible dog walking to address the issues and will be seeking volunteers to help.

- *Why doesnt the local green energy company think its a good idea to attend the food festivals?*

The Mayor could not answer on their behalf, but would raise this with them.

- *In the Mayor's report, it focuses on the retail traders in the High Street and not the light industry as well.*

The Mayor took onboard the comment made and confirmed that the Council is working with The Chamber of Trade.

- *When would the Town Council's Strategic Plan be available?*

The plan is currently being reviewed by Councillors and will then be presented at the May Council meeting for approval.

- *Why doesnt the Town Council have a big lunch planned for the Kings Coronation when most other towns in the UK are holding one?*

The Chairman of the Finance & Resources Committee responded to confirm that the Town Council had invited grant applications for Coronation events, but no proposals were put forward for a big lunch.

- *A resident would like to see the Crosses Penn back on the agenda and re-discussed as the location was unsuitable.*

The Chairman of the Town Improvements Committee responded stating that he would welcome further discussions.

- *Why don't the Town Rangers give out fines for dog fouling?*

The Town Clerk explained that giving enforcement powers to the staff would be complicated and needed Somerset Councils support. This could be considered further, if requested by the Council. The Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee agreed that this was an interesting idea and worth costing out.

- *Why hasnt there been a Town Guide printed since 2018?*

It was agreed this would be considered at a future Town Improvemnets Committee meeting.

- *The drain in Burnhams South Street floods accross the road during heavy rain.*

The Town Council will report this to Somerset Council.

- *There are a number of street signs and signposts that are in poor condition and need re-painting.*

The Town Rangers will audit the signs and liaise with Somerset Council.

- *There are numerous potholes within the towns that need filling.*

The Mayor confirmed these would need to be reported to the Somerset Highways via their website or by visiting in person the access points at either Burnham Library or the Morland Hub where they can receive support with this.

- *There are a number of blank signs within the towns, one at Steart Avenue, can these be removed?*

The Town Rangers would look into this.

- *There are poor road markings at the Zebra crossing in Church Street and in other areas around the towns.*

The Town Council would request Somerset Council look at these.

- *There is a lot of debris around the town particularly in the car parks.*

It was confirmed that the car parks are swept daily.

- *Haven Holiday Park's grass verges on the seafront are overgrown and untidy.*

The Town Council would contact Haven directly to ask them to tidy their verges.

- *One resident reminded the Council that not everyone has access to emails and information relating to meetings needs to be better publicised.*

The Mayor agreed to look into other options including an advert in the Local Reach magazine or posters in more prominent places.

## **8. Town Mayor's closing remarks and thanks**

The Mayor thanked all those who attended and said it was an important exchange of information and the Town Council would follow up on all the questions.