

## ELLESMERE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in Ellesmere Town Hall on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2018

<b><u>PRESENT:</u></b>	Town Mayor (Chair):	Cllr R Hartley
	Deputy Mayor:	Cllr Mrs J Williams
	Councillors:	Cllrs Mrs J Clayton, J Frost, P Goulbourne, Mrs E Peers, B Reincke, I Ward and Mrs A Wignall
	Clerk and RFO:	Mandy Evans
	Assistant Clerk:	Phil Smith
	Unitary Councillor:	1
	Members of the Public:	0
	Press:	0
	Guests:	3

#### ATM 1/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs G Elner and Mrs M Lagoyianni – both family commitments.

#### ATM 2/18 **Minutes**

It was moved by Cllr P Goulbourne, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Williams and

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on 10 May 2017 be approved and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.**

#### ATM 3/18 **Speakers – Social Prescribing**

The Town Mayor welcomed Kate Garner and Steve Latham-White from Shropshire Council, who gave a presentation about Social Prescribing.

Social prescribing was described as a means where GPs, Nurses and others working in healthcare services refer people into non-clinical services, which can support their emotional health and wellbeing. Shropshire's social prescribing programme was being led by Shropshire Council and its Help2Change service. The programme involved working with a range of organisations such as GPs and community and voluntary organisations to provide non-medical support for people to help them take greater control over their own health, and to reduce demands on medical health services.

Further information was provided in response to questions, including:

- Ellesmere and Oswestry were a “demonstrator” area for social prescribing in Shropshire. There had been 118 formal referrals over a 10 month period. It had involved a fairly broad cross-section of ages.
- Once referred, people got 1:1 support from a social prescribing advisor;

- Examples of activities prescribed included 'Walking for Health', 'Wild Team' undertaking countryside conservation work, Oswestry Qube, Age UK day centres, 'Get Up and Go' scheme.
- They would look at whether a local directory of activities/support groups in the Ellesmere area could be produced.

ATM 4/18

### **Honorary Freeman**

The Town Council had agreed to award Honorary Freeman status to Mr Barry Lewis in recognition of his long service as gardener to the Council, his associated work for Ellesmere in Bloom, and his contribution to making the town look attractive. A certificate was presented to Mr Lewis by the Town Mayor, who thanked Barry for his service and for going "above and beyond" what was expected on numerous occasions.

ATM 5/18

### **Town Mayor Report on the Civic Year 2017/18**

Cllr R Hartley, Town Mayor, presented his annual report for the people of Ellesmere, as follows:

"I have been honoured and privileged to serve as Mayor of Ellesmere this past year and I would like to thank my fellow Town Councillors for their help and support during the year. We have a full complement of 12 Members with a few new faces which has been refreshing with good contribution towards discussion and teamwork.

We now have a Newsletter/Briefing Group who aim to keep our Community informed of decisions and events affecting the Town.

I would like to record my grateful thanks to the Clerk, Mandy Evans and her two assistants, Jo Butterworth and Phil Smith. The Town Council have been well supported by our officers who have had a difficult year. The Town Clerk, Mandy Evans, has had to deal with the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into force on the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 together with the discovery that the Ellesmere Joint Parishes Burial Committee devolved in 2015. It has been agreed between Ellesmere Town Council & Ellesmere Rural Parish Council that ETC will be the lead council, therefore, incorporating the devolved EJPBC yearend accounts onto its Annual Returns for the past 2 years. A new "Cemetery Working Group" has been approved by the 2 town/parish councils who will report to the lead council Ellesmere Town Council. As usual the Town Clerk has dealt admirably with these. Our Temporary Assistant Clerk Phil Smith filled in whilst the Assistant Town Clerk Jo Butterworth was on Maternity Leave and then also when Jo injured her knee. We now have her back fully recovered and Phil has stayed on to help out with their ever increasing workload.

It is good to report that the Town Council has attained the Foundation Award from the Local Council Award Scheme and is close to working towards the Quality Award Level.

The Town Hall continues to be extremely busy, the caretakers and caretaking assistants continue to work hard dealing with all the many varied events held in the Hall. The building is starting to show its age and is looking a bit tired. With this in mind the Clerk has drawn up a Maintenance Plan for us to restore the building for the future. We are in the process of receiving a grant from S106

money to improve the entrance/lobby area which will enhance the aesthetics, disabled access and save energy. In the longer term, we will require major work on the problematic roof. This impacts on the budget which the Town Council do their best to control being faced with rising costs and increasing legislation.

I would also like to thank our Local Member, Shropshire Council Mrs Ann Hartley. I feel we have a hotline to Shirehall! A good working relationship with Shropshire Council is important especially over Planning Applications which are probably the most contentious items we face. It is important to stress that we are only consultees and make recommendations, but we do not make the final decision. Nevertheless, it helps having a strong voice at Shirehall. At present we are recommending that the recent Station Yard Planning Application be reassessed before consent is granted as the Town Council has always been concerned about the traffic implications on Trimpley and Brownlow Road plus the impact of the new dwellings off Elson Road, which have been agreed.

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team continue to use the Town Hall as a location to take their lunch breaks etc, due to the Town Council agreeing that the Town Hall will be a Community Policing Post following the closure of the local Police Station and to ensure their presence in the Town. Any incidents though must still be reported through phoning 101 and not via visiting the Town Hall. Policing for the town is stretched due to one of our two Community Support Officers currently on maternity leave, but Oswestry Police will still cover this area in their absence. The Clerk has written on our behalf to the Police, raising our concern over this unsatisfactory situation. We have an update from the Inspector which will be given at the Town Council meeting later this evening.

The Town Council gave a grant of £10K to help facilitate the move of the Library from Fullwood House to "Our Space" on Trimpley. This is working well and has helped secure not only the library but also the Meres Day Centre & Adults with Learning Disabilities Services. Sadly we have lost the Community Nursing Home due to funding problems.

The Town Council now has representation on the Chamber of Trade. This organisation is extremely well supported and works hard to promote the Town; you will have seen the new Planters in the Town thanks to them. Together with the Rotary Club's Tree of Light and ETC's Christmas lighting scheme, the Winter Festival - including late night shopping and Fizzgigs' wonderful Lantern Parade escorting Father Christmas to his Grotto - was the start of Ellesmere's Christmas Celebrations.

Thanks go to All Together Ellesmere who manage the Market Hall which includes responsibility for the Tuesday weekly market on behalf of the Town Council. The Town Council continue to financially support the running of the Market Hall by meeting costs for setting up/taking down the stalls with the Town Hall caretaking/caretaking assistant staff, cleaning products and weekly waste/skip removal.

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service was again very well attended. Marking the Centenary of WW1 the Town Council has contributed towards a new pathway around the War Memorial, added Edwin Williams name on a new plaque, plus commissioned a Plaque on the Town Hall. To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WW1, the Town Council are about to install a "Silent Soldier" figure in the grounds of the Town Hall as a final tribute.

The Boathouse continues to thrive providing funds to maintain the Cremorne & Mereside, plus improve the Arboretum with the Icehouse.

Shropshire Council is consulting on plans for the Estate Yard and we hope as many people as possible will give their views, and we urge as many people as possible to respond.

The Plantation Wood was formally transferred by the Grosvenor Estate to the Ellesmere Community and was re-opened to the general public by the Trustees on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2018. Remedial work is in progress.

On the whole, the Town continues to thrive - bucking the trend locally somewhat. All the local volunteers do a marvellous job running Youth and Sports organisations, all the Festivals held during the year - Food & Drink & Summer, Regatta, Carnival, Choirs, Amateur Dramatics and Community Groups of all types - I commend them all and wish everyone well in the future, and look forward to Ellesmere's continuing success".

ATM 6/18

**Elector's Issues and Concerns**

No issues were raised.

The meeting ended at: 7.00pm

Town Mayor: .....

Date: .....