

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Held at St. Mary's Primary School on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7pm

Present: Councillor S Hirst (Mayor), Councillor K Painter (Deputy Mayor), S Ball, P Burrell, I Maslin, E Monks, C Morgan, T Stevenson, A Walsh. Town Clerk Stephen Holley, Executive Officer Tara Niblett, Customer Relations Officer Georgina Osman. County Councillor T Hicks, District Councillor M Heaven & Chair Dolphin's Hall Management Committee, PC Glos Inspector Karen Ellis, PC Leah Davis, Will Cook – Chair TRLRT, Mrs S Hirst - Chair of Tetbury in Bloom & Christmas in Tetbury and 22 members of Public, 1 member of Press

Approval of Minutes of last Annual Town Meeting: It was proposed by District Councillor M Heaven, seconded J Townsend to adopt the minutes – agreed.

Reports on town initiatives and from other organisations

(Note: detailed town reports are contained in the attached extract from the April edition of The Tetbury Advertiser)

Mayor's Report – Councillor Hirst provided an update on the Town Council's delivery of the seven objectives with which it had started the year – the Council already had the Quality Award and continued to work towards becoming a Quality Gold Council; the conversion of the Goods Shed into a community arts facility had been completed; the redevelopment of the Dolphins Hall had reached a milestone with the granting of planning permission; the development plan for the Council Offices and Museum required further work, but the interior had been redecorated; the Neighbourhood Development Plan had been completed and submitted to the District Council for consultation and, hopefully, approval; the Council continued to support the Community in many ways, including £12,000 of grant funding, and Tourism was a regular subject of discussion; the Council had resolved to proceed with the extension of current Burial Ground

Finance and Scrutiny Committee – The Chairman, Councillor Tony Walsh, provided an overview with emphasis on grant applications, a review of the Council's procedures for Complaints, the review of the Tetbury Emergency Plan and how the Committee closely monitored all the financial dealings of the Town Council.

Heritage and Regeneration Committee – The Chairman, Councillor Sandra Ball, provided an overview. The Committee had erected new Welcome to Tetbury entrance signs, it was in the final stages of producing a new town map, finger posts had been erected on various sign posts around the town for the newly refurbished Goods Shed and extensive tree works had been carried out around the town.

Planning Committee – The Chairman, Councillor Ian Maslin, provided an overview with a slide show of the new developments currently taking place in Tetbury. A new footpath had been installed along Cirencester Road, providing a safer pedestrian route into the town.

Police – PC Leah Davis provided an overview of the annual figures for Tetbury. There had been: 147 substantiated crimes in the year 2016/17 (compared to 112 for 2015/16); 23 incidents of burglary (against 22); 31 incidents of violence (against 22); 63 incidents of theft (against 35); 22 incidents of criminal damage (against 21 the previous year); 2 drug related crimes (against 2) and 2 incidents of fraud (against 6 last year). PC Davis explained that the largest increase was in theft from shops and one large supermarket in particular. The culprits were usually people driving through the town, rather than locals. Police Inspector Karen Ellis provided an overview on neighbourhood policing. There were some concerns regarding Lloyds Bank closing at the end of September and potential increase in crimes due to the mobile banking van and money being kept in shops.

Highways Working Party – Councillor Hirst provided an overview. Due to the revival of the Lorry watch scheme, 7 companies whose vehicles had travelled through the town centre despite being over the weight limit had been written to. The County Council's Highways

Department had proposed a plan for amendments to the junction of New Church Street, Hampton Street, Long Street and London Road.

Glos County Council – County Councillor Tony Hicks provided an overview. Progress was being made regarding pot-holes and repairs in town with most of the damage occurring through building lorries to the new housing developments and utility companies opening up the roads, once building work had been completed a more robust plan would be in place. County Councillor Hicks would be standing down at the County Council elections in May 2017, following 20 years of service. The Mayor proposed a vote of thanks.

Tetbury Rail Lands Regeneration Trust – Will Cook Chair of the Goods Shed provided an overview. The new retractable seats had been installed and various events taking place throughout the year. Mr Cook invited ideas for events people would like to see at the Goods Shed.

Dolphins Hall – Maggie Heaven Chair of the Dolphins Hall provided an overview. Bookings had increased, the planning application for the extension had recently been approved by CDC. Negotiations were currently taking place with the County Council regarding the £225,000 from the sale of the old Youth Club building with a view to extending the date for the money to be spent from July 2017 to July 2018.

Tetbury in Bloom – Mrs Hirst, the Chair of Tetbury in Bloom, provided an overview with a wonderful slide show of how the flowerbeds around the town looked before and after Tetbury in Bloom took over. Tetbury in Bloom celebrated their 11th anniversary with 13 volunteers who look after 33 flower beds, 42 troughs and 25 baskets in and around the town.

Christmas in Tetbury – Mrs Hirst Chair of Christmas in Tetbury provided an overview. There were currently 8 members, 6 of these were also part of Tetbury in Bloom. In 2016 Christmas in Tetbury had celebrated its sixth anniversary and the town was looking better each year with street lamp and trees Christmas lights, shops taking part in window displays and the wonderful ‘Switch On’ event that took place on the first Thursday in December.

Questions from residents:

Mrs Williams asked when the town maps at the West Street Car Park and at the Goods Shed would be updated, at present they were falling apart and very unsightly. It was agreed that the Town Council’s Heritage and Regeneration Committee would consider this at its next meeting. Mrs Williams advised that 10 estate agent noticeboards had been erected outside the old SIAC building and stated that there should be only one. The Town Council would draw this to the attention of the planning office at CDC.

Mr Horgan from L E Perry Funeral Directors advised that the grave digger had informed him that there were not as many burial plots available as first thought and the proposed extended burial site into the recreation ground needed to be addressed before it was too late. It was asked whether a ‘Plan B’ had been considered.

Councillor Painter stated that County Councillor Hicks had been a credit to the town following his 20 years of service. Adult Social Care was still a problem within the County and this needed to be addressed. Following the unveiling of the proposed amendments to the junction of Hampton Street, London Road, Long Street and New Church Street he asked if the pedestrian railings could be in keeping with the town heritage. Pot-holes were still being patched and not to a very high standard, Gumstool Hill being given as an example. The new Tetbury Community Bus had been picked up earlier that day.

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Chair Dated

