

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR TETBURY
Held via Teams on Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 7pm

Present: Councillors A Pearce (Mayor), K Painter, N Ind, S Hirst, J Taylor, C Pearce, G O'Connor, S Brown, P Coleman, M Wood, S Scott, A Walsh, T Niblett, 33 members of the public

1. Welcome:

Mayor welcomed all residents to the Annual Town Meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of last Annual Town Meeting:

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 10th April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

3. Reports from the Town Council and other town organisations (refer to the April edition of the Tetbury Advertiser) with Q&A:

Councillor Ind provided the Town with a Mayors report for 2019/2020.

It was an honour and absolute pleasure to have been the Mayor of Tetbury. I have been proud to wear the Mayoral Chain to represent the town at so many amazing community events. There has been challenges over the past year – the closure of the Tetbury Leisure Centre, our Day Centre under threat, slow progress with work towards a new GP Surgery.

During the year two new working groups began - Health and Wellbeing, Climate Strategy and the Council has a new Youth Committee.

Mayors Report (provided by Councillor Ann Pearce 2020/21):

Cllr A Pearce held the first virtual Annual Meeting of the Town. Praised Calcot Manor for producing meals three times a week during the first COVID lockdown to vulnerable residents and for the many residents who assisted the community throughout all lockdowns. The Town Council are supporting the local health visitors by holding the Baby Groups on a Thursday morning in the town council offices.

Finance and Scrutiny Committee – The Committee meet monthly via Teams where we have continued to apply due diligence to all of our financial obligations. This year has seen quite a few changes and restructuring through the council offices, and we have welcomed 3 new members of staff. We have continued to support the Tetbury Area Youth and Community Trust with a grant of £10,000.

Planning Committee – Tetbury Town Council are only consultees to all planning applications received by CDC.

Heritage and Regeneration Committee – Throughout these challenging times we have managed to install new benches and bins throughout the town. We have worked with the Feoffees for Tetbury to become part of the Kingfisher trail.

Youth Committee – Organised various activities alongside World Jungle and TAYCT, pumpkin trail and a colouring competition for Christmas.

Visitor Information Centre – Following the COVID lockdown rules, the VIC was able to open for the Summer with new stock items and advice on local walks were highly requested. VIC saw a new member of staff join the team.

Tetbury Police Museum and Courtroom – Museum has been closed due to COVID which has enabled us to work behind the scenes to set about building a stronger foundation of the museum. Our goal over the last few years has been to have a more sustainable volunteer run museum that is outward facing and an active participant in the community.

We were very fortunate to be successful in obtaining a Culture Recovery Grant from the ArtFund and Southwest Museum Development to enable us to work with a volunteer consultant to develop a whole new volunteer culture at the museum.

Everyone is also very excited about receiving an Emergency Recovery grant from Historic England for £20,00 to help restore the Victorian covered stairs that lead up to the courtroom. It will be fantastic to have them back to their former glory and be able to use them as part of the story of the museum.

Highways Working Party – Tetbury Town Council are still awaiting the works to be carried out by GCC following the Traffic Regulation Order which was approved a few years ago, this includes double yellow lines painted on junctions and access points for safety reasons. GCC have been requested to repair 2 speed signs on Wiltshire Bridge and Bath Road.

Climate Strategy Working Group – Set up in June with representatives from Tetbury Town Council, Greening Tetbury and the general public. The Town Council voted to accept the Climate Strategy and will begin to look at the action plan. Town Council working alongside Glorious Cotswold Grassland to set up various wildflower verges within the town.

Cotswold District Council (CDC) – In 2021 a new system of funding for projects has been launched – Crowdfund Cotswold – the aim of which is to fund and deliver on ideas to improve the District put forward by the local community.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) – By the end of the year it is anticipated that due to Ash Dieback 3,300 trees will have been removed. Through a 1.99% increase in Council tax this will raise in the region of £7m to fund services.

New Picket Harp Allotments Association – Demands for plots continues and there are currently 19 people on the waiting list. Over the year the Town Council has cleared brambles between the land and the fence and replaced a broken post.

4. Presentation by Tetbury in Bloom: Celebrated its 15th anniversary in 2020. Delivered 95 hanging baskets to traders and residents in June. Planted over 3,500 additional spring flowering bulbs to enhance the forthcoming displays for Spring 2021. Fifteen hundred bulbs were kindly donated by Wildlife World Ltd.

5. Report by Tetbury Police team: There has been an increase of 17 crimes following last years figures. Carried out various speed checks across the area. Developed a closer working relationship with the Royal Household police which as meant more joined up working.

6. Questions from Residents and Motions for discussions:
Have requested a vote of no confidence in the Council due to the issue regarding the release of the S106 funds.

Noted that the legal fees within the budget had increased dramatically.

Various family members have been upset due to certain comments made on Facebook.

Meeting closed 9.40pm

Chair Dated