

MINUTES OF THE HORNCASTLE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE HORNCASTLE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please note that these minutes do not become an official record of the meeting until they have been approved and signed at the next Annual Parish meeting

In the Chair: Councillor Brian Burbidge

Present: 14 members of the public, Amanda Bushell - Town Clerk, J Fieldhouse - Horncastle News and Mike Credland – Guest Speaker

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Burbidge welcomed everyone and introduced Mike Credland.

The order of the agenda was changed so that the Police report would be item 3 as the PCSO had to leave.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2017

PROPOSED by Richard Barker, **SECONDED** by Bill Aron and **RESOLVED:** (unanimously) that the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 May 2017.

3. REPORT FROM LINCOLNSHIRE POLICE

PCSO Ilyana introduced herself and explained that she was new to the Horncastle and Wragby Policing team and had only been in post 2 months. She introduced the Lincolnshire Police volunteer who was also in attendance and explained what they did to support the local policing team. The meeting was informed that Horncastle was a low crime area, and a summary of the incidents which had occurred in the town during the last 2 months was provided, and it was commented that CCTV was a big help to the police and helped reduce crime. The local policing team was dealing with drug incidents in the town, but PCSO Ilyana assured the meeting that the town had a low level of these incidents, and the Police was working hard to keep the town a safe place. PCSO Ilyana answered a question about youths cycling in the town centre.

4. PRESENTATION FROM MIKE CREDLAND ON THE GREAT WAR

Mike Credland introduced himself and explained how he got interested in the Great War and War Memorials. On display was a selection of war memorabilia and Mr Credland spoke about the objects on display and explained the uniforms worn by soldiers, tools, weapons and equipment used.

Mr Credland answered questions from the public and was thanked for attending and giving such an interesting presentation.

5. DETAILS FROM THE 100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE ON EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE TOWN TO COMMEMORATE TO 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WW1

Details were given about all the events planned for the weekend of 9th – 11th November, which included a concert by Banovallum Brass, a stall on the Saturday town market, talks and performance at the Lion Theatre, Remembrance Parade, and the lighting of a beacon at Scrivelsby Estate.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the events and give support.

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OVER THE PAST YEAR

The Chairman explained that last year was his first year as Mayor. He commented that he was very proud to have been voted in as Mayor again and he was keen to represent the town. He spoke about the events that he had attended in the town and mentioned the 'Horncastle Matters' community magazine, the T.E.D over 50's group and the luncheon club at the Community Centre.

Cllr Burbidge reported that the Horncastle Flood Alleviation scheme was up and running and had been tested in April when heavy rainfall occurred and it had been shown to have worked. The Town Council was looking at taking over assets from East Lindsey District Council and bringing them back to being the responsibility of the town. The Town Council staff were introduced and their roles were explained. The Town Council now had a works vehicle which residents may have spotted about the town; and information was given about projects which the town council had completed during the past 12 months and ones which it was currently working on. The meeting was informed that the Town Council office would be moving back to The Stanhope Hall as larger office premises were needed. Horncastle Town Council would be one of the first councils in the country to take on powers to determine certain planning applications, examples were given, and Cllr Burbidge commented that this was an exciting opportunity. Residents were reminded that the Council was now responsible for cutting the grass verges in the town, and had taken on the weed treatment in the town. Horncastle Town Council was one of the first Council's in Lincolnshire to do this and had chosen to take this on as it was felt that the Council would be able to keep on top of the weeds which would make the town look more attractive. The Town had entered the Best Kept Small Towns competition again this year, and feedback from last year's competition had been considered, so it was hoped that the town would do well this year.

The Chairman finished his report by stating that he was very proud to live in Horncastle.

7. ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR BILL ARON

Councillor Aron reported that he had been pleased to be the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) representative for Horncastle for the past 12 months, and he gave details of the area which he covered. He reported that LCC had appointed a new Chief Executive who was due to start at the beginning of July, and highways had allocated two major resurfacing projects for Horncastle for the current financial year, which were West Street and Boston Road. Cllr Aron spoke about bus passes which could now be applied for on-line, the flood alleviation scheme, the Fairer Funding campaign and the Coastal Highway. Work had started on building a salt barn at the highway's depot in Hemingby Lane to allow a quicker response time in winter. He reminded residents that LCC dealt with much more than just highways and he ran through a list of the areas of work which came under the County Council's remit. Cllr Aron received a comment about street lighting in Banovallum Gardens and Roman Way and he offered to report the issue to the Street Lighting team at LCC.

8. ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Apologies had been received from District Cllr Martin. District Councillor Avison spoke about the emerging Local Plan which would be adopted by ELDC shortly, and he mentioned the devolved planning powers being given to the Town Council. He informed the meeting that ELDC had given money from the ageing better fund to the T.E.D project, which was a benefit to Horncastle residents, and he spoke about Community Led Housing projects which enabled communities with land to develop it into affordable housing. ELDC had made representations to the MP about paediatric care at hospitals, and ELDC had set up a scrutiny panel to look at wider health issues. The meeting was also informed that

ELDC had made the decision the previous week to borrow £20 million over a 50 year period to invest so that the money that the investment made could be spent across the district. It was also reported that ELDC had received Blue Flag awards for some of the beaches along the coast, a market promotion was being held to try and encourage new traders, ELDC was supporting the Coastal Highway, and Cllr Avison also spoke about the transfer of assets to the Town Council.

A resident asked Cllr Avison for assurance that the £20 million being borrowed by ELDC would be well invested and protected, and Cllr Avison assured him that a lot of research and scrutiny had gone into it and the investments would be reviewed and monitored constantly.

Cllr Avison thanked Cllr Burbidge for the work that he did for the town and he congratulated him on his new term as Mayor.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM HORNCastle TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018

The following summary was provided by the Town Clerk who also reported that a more detailed financial report was included in the Town Council's Annual Report; and the year-end accounts would be on the Town Council website:

Opening balance at 01 April 2017 -	£293,473.22
Receipts during 2017/18 -	£173,143.32
Payments during 2017/18 -	<u>£156,804.90</u>
Closing balance at 31 March 2018 -	£309,811.64 (made up of £247,910.76 earmarked reserves and £61,900.88 general reserves).

The Clerk answered questions about the financial report.

10. QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

A resident commented that it had been a good evening, the presentation had been very interesting and he suggested that the town should have a museum. He commented that he had been one of the two members of the public that attended the previous year's meeting and it was worrying that only four members of the Town Council were in attendance, and he felt that some town councillors needed to make more effort to contribute. He mentioned the article on highways issues in the latest edition of the County News magazine, and commented that the new highways fault reporting system was still not up and running and performing properly, and he questioned why it was taking so long.

Another resident asked the Town Council to request that highways revert back to system of being able to contact a Highways Officer whilst there was no decent fault reporting system in place.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and commented that it would have been nice to have filled the hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.