

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING **MINUTES**

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Annual Meeting of Duly Registered Local Government Electors** held at **Diss Youth & Community Centre** on **Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 6pm.**

Present: Councillor Eric Taylor (Town Mayor) in the Chair
Sarah Richards (Town Clerk)
Sonya French (Deputy Town Clerk)
Councillors Browne, Collins, Gingell, Kitchen, Kiddie, Murphy, Olander
(Council Leader), Robertson, Peaty, Warren, Welch and Wooddissee.
District Councillor Minshull
members of the public

Apologies received from District Councillors Kiddie & Wilby.

1. WELCOME BY THE TOWN MAYOR OF DISS

Councillor Eric Taylor welcomed those in attendance to the Annual Town Meeting of Diss and asked for any questions at the end of the meeting. See notes.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on **Wednesday 29th September 2021** were agreed as a correct record and duly signed by the Town Mayor.

3. ANNUAL REPORT FROM DISS TOWN COUNCIL

Members received an annual report on the activities of Diss Town Council.

4. ANNUAL REPORT FROM NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

Members received a report from the Norfolk County Council Member for Diss. District cllr Minshull reported on behalf of County councillor Kiddie who has recuperating from a recent accident. – see notes. District cllr Wilby also provided apologies.

5. ANNUAL REPORT FROM SOUTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members received a report from the South Norfolk District Council. Cllr Minshull reported on moving on from Covid-19. £1 million a week ensuring residents and businesses were supported. Recovery period – rebuilding finances. Council tax kept at same level as pre-Covid. No services being cut. Ukrainian evacuee crisis – Diss stood up. Best response in District / County. Hundreds of offers of toys, children. Set up events to bring Ukrainians together – phone home.

CIL fund – levy on developers to put into town. Comes in dribs and drabs – parish can apply to SNC for loan of funds upfront to carry out large project. Low carbon Council – solar panels on leisure centre to heat water & additional electric charging points. Proposals to move out of Long Stratton and move in with Broadland. Several benefits – carbon neutral building, save funds - £1.5million estimated. SNC office in Diss.

Couple of projects that can't be discussed at present.

6. Update from grant recipients

David Whatley thanked DTC for support. Chris Aldous reported. See powerpoint.

Julia Fairbrother reported on grant received in 2021-22. V-19 – changed format of delivery. Other than FareShare Scheme. Youth Council meetings went online. 175 hrs youth & community work delivered. Community xmas mask competition. Deliver 51 fareshare sessions. Volunteers

collected foods. 1059 attendances – more than double previous year. Intergeneration project – support isolated members of community – letters / artwork. Positive feedback. Partnered with lots of other local organisations – community partnership delivery. Chair of Youth cllr became DTC cllr. JGC award.

7. QUESTIONS RAISED BY ELECTORS

Several questions were raised by electors including

SNC – demolished HMA building on Park Road – what will be done with it? 50th anniversary of SNC next year. Meeting after that at Corn Hall ref leisure provision. All weather pitches, sports hall.

Full of asbestos – vandalism required building to be demolished. Cleared and made safe. Plans are at a delicate stage of negotiation. Watch this space. Not too long. Just before CV-19 – looking at plans £5m for new leisure provision. Covid – money diverted. Plans in pipeline. Negotiations regarding bringing a leisure facility for Diss.

DTC – Mayor of Diss in 2003 – Diss had chance to take over ownership of parish fields. Plans drawn up – quiet space for people with needs. Houses built. Queen's Jubilee – Diss Mere – flowerbeds, railings, town sign, benches, tree with ivy. Sleepers. Pavilion painted. Anti-social behaviour. Identified works to be undertaken.

Market Place railings have been recently refurbished. Organising events to lift spirits of town. Significant anti-social behaviour.

Mere's Mouth area – resurfacing. DDNP – DTC supporting major development – Cemetery. Ignored plan – expand by 1.4 hectares. Support another 500 people – no more infrastructure support.

GNLP working in conjunction with DDNP – 400+ homes minimum up to 2038. DDNP with 7 parishes. Identified key sites in plan – DIS 1-7 different areas of town. Consultation – residents had their say on different areas. 2-3 consultations – key sites. 1 of them is end of Shelfanger Road – 179 homes – 1 site. Developers tried to beat us to the pass before DDNP is adopted. Care provision behind Thatcher's Needle (70 homes), Nelson Road for sheltered housing, rest still in the plan. Parish Fields is being protected. Housing needs to go somewhere. No choice in numbers – find appropriate sites. Top right hand corner of town by station. Can't develop in same area – balance off on Shelfanger Road side with counterparts in Roydon. Objected to development in past. Housing doesn't support healthcare – sold off in 90s. Private – doesn't come under criteria for development. Cemetery extension – working with developer. Not likely to be needed before next local plan in 2038 – don't have a right to get it. Certain amount of negotiation. Got very reasonable deal – 10 years maintenance fee on site going forwards. Burial habits have changed. Need is not as great. Slightly less land but tranquil site. Flowering meadow place for reflection initially.

Housing drives infrastructure – 3-4,000 housing development.

Young people – cultural activities – DYCC / Corn Hall. Initiate more places for young people. We're working with MTM Youth Services on projects for young people. Don't hear about it. Invited to engage. Raising more in community. Corn Hall to push outreach more. Things to do for young people. New management in CH.

Since 2011 – grown by 25% in population. Plans ref leisure side – appeal to young people. Free activities for children. Not a Diss resident – Harleston councillor – come to Diss to use recycling facilities – TLC – Morrisons – clear rubbish. Flytipping on regular basis. Recycling centres – County looking to build another centre. Suffolk County closed Eye tip. Privatised Eye tip – long trips. Flytips – SNC has to deal. SNC – bottles, cardboard into green bin. Free brown bins. Food waste collection. Community Champion – Morrisons.

Facilities for young people in Diss – Skateboard Park facility – group of young people worked with local cllrs & community. Money found – facility used. Young people encouraged to work with DTC.

Proud to have nominated George. Why is there so much litter in the town – do something about it &

I'll help it. George grown up in neighbouring village – started Diss Litterpicking group – 2nd Sat of month – attract 30 litter pickers every month – young, Duke of Edinburgh award. No funding. Opening bank account too difficult. Volunteers at Quaker Wood. Horticultuarlist by profession. Green corridor work in Roydon. Key member of newly established community fridge project – offering plants at 50/50. Fridge and freezer is now in situ. Project no. 3 is underway. Good at getting involved in partnerships. Nominated him for all reasons. Privileged personal growth. Enthusiasm.

Priviledge to know Lou – mental health. Affected negatively. Lost son to mental health. Fundraising events to make a difference to help others. Beers, bands and bikes event. sEt up a group for young people suffering mental health difficulties – over 200 people have been supported. Group would not be here without this lady. 100% an Honoured Citizen. Friend – event this weekend. Incredible woman. Main reason for nomination.

Junior Good Citizen – Julia explained Plamena to champion the voice of young people. 2019 joined Diss Youth Council to get involved in her community. Elected Chair. Volunteering roles – Diss youth projects, charities SYNAB. Lead on project Orbis. Not only Diss, SNC, Norfolk wide – nationally also.

Revd Tony Billett – Gerry Hoskins – soulmate for 20 years. Big Sing lasted for 18 years. Brought happiness to the year – 1st Sat of August – raised over £8k for charities. Young man step down – lunchtime carols. 7th August – miss you terribly. Need good sense of humour. Banter is all part of the show.

Learned over 21 years – great place to live. Extraordinarily get moaners. People of passion. Concerned about their place. Makes place a brilliant place to live. Miss it. So honoured to serve the Diss community. Chaired school governing boards, RBL. Thank you.

The meeting was declared closed at 8.13pm.

Signed as a true record - _____
TOWN MAYOR