



Redenhall with Harleston Town Council

Clerk: Mrs. L. Ling
Chairman: Mrs. F Bickley

Minutes

**of the Annual Town Meeting of Redenhall with Harleston Town Council
held at the Harleston Leisure Centre, Social Club
at 7.00pm on Wednesday 22nd May 2019**

Present: Councillors Frances Bickley (Chairman), Adrian Brownsea, Martyn Dutfield, Sue Kuzmic, Trevor Graham, Carolyn Malinowski, Town Clerk Lynda Ling and Office Assistant Rosie Riches

Also present were: Mel Jones (Diss & District CAB), Margaret Griffiths (Harleston & District Historical Society), Norman Hart, (Harlestons Future), Julie Helsby (Harleston Information Plus) Graham Reardon (Waveney Foodbank), Fiona Wilson (Harleston Girl Guiding), 4 Members of the Public

1. Welcome - Councillor Frances Bickley welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies – County Councillor Martin Wilby, District Councillors Jeremy Savage & Fleur Curson, Robin Twigge.

3. Minutes of last year's Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2018 - The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting and were signed by Councillor Bickley. Agreement proposed by Councilor Sue Kuzmic and seconded by Councillor Adrian Brownsea.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman– Councillor Bickley presented her report (**see appendix 1**) which highlighted the following:-

- We are now at the beginning of a new council for the next four years, dissappointingly after much networking we did not receive more than 11 nominations in order for an election to be held, we currently have 9 elected members. At the AGM last week, we received 2 co-option papers, which if agreed at the next Town Council meeting, we will have 11 councillors.
- The last year has been quite challenging when a lot of the time a shortage of councillors due to illness and prolonged absences put immense pressure on the remaining councillors to ensure meetings remained quorate and the business continued to move along. Thanks to those councillors who have stepped up, taken on new challenges and supported the chairman over the past 12 months.
- Car Park – residents, businesses and visitors continue to enjoy free parking, a new notice board has been purchased and sited in the recess on the toilet block wall next to a bench, this will display the names of the neighboring parishes and local business that have kindly contributed to the £67,000 a year cost we shoulder in order to keep free parking for all. We have recently opened the newly refurbished toilet block on the Bullock Fair car park these are free to use, owned and maintained by the council, open for use daily 7am – 7pm.
- Last Year to commemorate the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War 1 we officially reopened the redesigned War Memorial gardens. Local company Bespoke Outdoor Spaces were responsible for the redesign and carrying out the work together with the help of many local clubs and societies. We congratulate Jody Lidguard from Bespoke Outdoor Spaces on his recent gold award from the Chelsea Flower show.

- Community leisure facilities are continually evolving and a constant hub of activity, the social room is used for a wide variety of classes and functions, parties etc.
- Projects for the forthcoming year include moving the Town council offices upstairs. Refurbishing the toilets and changing rooms both on the ground and first floors. Installation of a lift to provide easy access to the first floor.
- Our maintenance team led by Steve Cox now have a brand-new repair workshop and fully enclosed compound site.
- Streetlighting is a project which the town council has been involved in for many years, replacing lamp posts and lamps alike as well as replacing lights with LED's a much more cost-effective outcome.
- Thank you to the Town Clerk Lynda for the total dedication to her role and the support and guidance given. Also, Tracey and Rosie for keeping the cogs turning in the office.

6. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Finance Committee – Councillor Bickley (Chairman Finance) presented her report (**see appendix 2**) which highlighted the following:

- Due to lack of councillors through illness I stepped into the role of Chairman of the Finance Committee last September 2018.
- We are in a very good position financially and able to freeze the amount of precept that we ask our residents to contribute in this financial year.
- We are currently in the process of assessing our reserves.
- Our recent internal auditors report states that we have a wonderful clean bill of health. Overall opinion is that appropriate financial controls exist at this council and have been operating effectively throughout the year.
- Thanks to the amazing team who run the leisure facilities, these last 8 months have been a tremendous demonstration of their dedication to the job whilst both Manager and Deputy Manager have been on maternity leave, an increase in numbers is a huge testament to all their hard work.

7. County Council report – Councillor Bickley read out a report from County Councillor Martin Wilby – (**see appendix 3**) which highlighted the following

- Campaign to get the whole of the A47 road dualled. called 'Just Dual It!'
- Norfolk has been ranked 4th out of 28 similar councils in a national independent survey.
- The third river crossing at Gt Yarmouth is progressing well, with funding secured aiming to start construction in 2021
- Hempnall roundabout – work should be completed by September 2019
- My members local budget of £6,000 was used in Pulham Marlet £2,000 towards resurfacing works and Harleston £4,000 allocated to opening up the Padock Road entrance onto the car park

8. District Council report – Councillor Bickley read out a report from District Councillor Jeremy Savage – (**see appendix 4**) which highlighted the following:

- Harleston's leisure centre provides good facilities, Long Stratton has just undergone major upgrade work on their leisure centre
- Harleston Surgery continues to be extremely busy with complaints that some services have now been moved out of Harleston.
- Car park now has adequate recharging points for electric cars, this is another feature of the free car park which continues to be an asset to all.
- South Norfolk is continuing to work closely with Broadland council in a partnership aimed at future savings from working together.

- The Apollo Rooms have now been demolished which leaves the town with no large venue to hold local events.

9. To receive reports from organisations receiving grant funding over the twelve months

- Harleston's Future – Norman Hart spoke briefly on this in the absence of Robin Twigge. There will be a strong heritage move next year as we celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower. Two members of the group have set up a new web site. We are most grateful for the councils grant of £500.00 which goes towards funding the Christmas Lights switch on, Christmas Street Market and Church Fayre.
- Borderhoppa (**see appendix 5**)
- Harleston Information Plus (**see appendix 6**)
- Harleston and District Historical Society (**see appendix 7**)
- Waveney Food Bank (**see appendix 8**)
- Harleston Senior Girlguiding UK (**see appendix 9**)

10. To receive reports from local organisations on their activities for the year

- Archbishop Sancroft High School (**see appendix 10**)
- Diss and District Citizens Advice Bureau (**see appendix 11**)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed *T Graham*

Date 14 April 2021