

# KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held virtually by Zoom video conferencing on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

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**PRESENT:** Councillor A Wait - Chairman  
Councillors and Parishioners – see attached attendance list.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr Cheryl Scott - Town Clerk and Dawn Drury – Deputy Town Clerk.

### 1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL KEYNSHAM TOWN MEETING HELD ON 25th APRIL 2019.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2019 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from B&NES Ward Councillor L O'Brien.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Chair's announcements included information on recent, forthcoming Town Council events and Council/community matters as follows: -

- (a) In respect of the Public Realm programme phase 1 (High Street), the Chair explained that as this is funded by WECA and currently we are in the process of going to election to appoint a new WECA Mayor. Under the pre-election restrictions the Town Council are unable to answer any questions or comment on this matter. The presentation tonight would be on Keynsham's High Street Heritage Action Zone (a new project funded by Historic England), which is not to be confused with phase 1 core High Street and Public Realm scheme works. This High Street Heritage Action Zone is a separate programme that had only just started and Helen Griffiths, the Project Manager from B&NES was here to present this entitled "The Start of A Conversation."

- (b) During the pre-election period B&NES would prefer questions in respect of Helen's presentation to be submitted to the Town Council. All questions will be collated and responded to via the HSHAZ website and at the programme event that will be held later this summer. This will be an ongoing process of engagement with local stakeholders and members of the community. Any questions to answer will also be posted on the Town Council website.
- (c) The Chair reported that in the past two years the Council have been working on projects such as revitalising the Youth Service, climate change related matters, town centre issues, developing green spaces and just generally liaising with people from the town at our meetings to ensure that we are taking on board items that are raised.
- (d) The recent High Court hearing to extend the use of virtual meetings for Town and Parish Council's has not been successful and face-to-face meetings would resume as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. The main Town Council meetings will be held in The Space with other Committee meetings held in the Baptist Church Hall.

#### **4. GUEST SPEAKER – HELEN GRIFFITHS – HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE (HSHAZ) PROJECT MANAGER – B&NES COUNCIL**

Helen Griffiths gave an interesting talk and slide presentation on future plans for Keynsham High Street and Temple Street that included information on:

**Changing High Streets** – closure of major stores, loss of jobs and vacant retail space. Vacancy rates increases. Threats of online retail and out of town retail parks.

**Positives** - shops that sell goods and services that can be provided online. Lowest decline in shops closures in the South West. Having listed buildings on the High Street providing retail premises.

**Historic England key aims for High Streets** – Changing perception of heritage and High Streets, supporting sustainable economic and cultural growth on and around High Streets and restoring and enhancing local historic character.

**Funding** - £92 Million pounds worth of Government funding available for High Streets across the country for improvements.

**Historic England key objectives for High Streets** – making the High Street a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time.

**Scheme programme strands** – physical interventions, cultural programme and community engagement.

**HS HAZ four key programme strands** – Public realm improvements, shop front improvements, community engagement and cultural programmes.

**Public Realm improvements. What is the masterplan?** – A masterplan is not a set of concepts or final detailed designs.

**Greener High Streets** – transportation and links to green spaces.

**Heritage revealed and restored** – looking after existing heritage assets for the future.

**Improving streets and public spaces** – Reducing clutter, improving signage & seating. Creating Pocket Parks.

**Keynsham culture, events and markets** – The plan proposals will support and improve culture, events and markets by providing flexible spaces for such activities.

**Better connectivity and accessibility for people** – Active travel and liveable neighbourhoods and making accessibility easier.

**Engagement** – The appointment of a new consultant for the Temple Street Public Realm Project was announced and that they are keen to have community engagement for feedback and input on proposed plans.

**Keeping up to date** – A new website is to be launched detailing all the plans for Keynsham High Street/Temple Street projects. There will be other marketing material being delivered that will inform people on how to get involved. Regular updates can be found in the Keynsham News and currently you can keep up to date by viewing [bathnes.gov.uk/keynsham](http://bathnes.gov.uk/keynsham)

**Twinned programme** – English Heritage, as part of the Local Cultural Programme, are funding a twinned programme (with the town of Bedford) that includes some temporary art installations for the town. Two artists have been appointed (Ellie Shipman and Katy Hawkins). They will be looking for members of the community to design and bring to fruition the art pieces.

**Timeline and programme plan – Historic England key aims for High Streets** this was explained up to 2023 but will expand on further into the future.

Due to Purdah, Helen was unable to answer questions on the evening but asked residents in attendance to email any comments and questions on the presentation to the Town Clerk ([townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk)) for her to forward on. She will then respond once out of Purdah following the forthcoming elections.

The Chairman thanked Helen for her presentation and she left the meeting.

## **5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2020/2021**

The Annual Report had been available for download on the Town Council website.

There were no questions or comments on the Annual Town Council Report.

## 6. PUBLIC FORUM

### (a) A pre-submitted comment was received from Mr Derek Smith

“To represent my view and, I believe, that of most disabled Blue Badge holders. Closure of the High Street to my support vehicle “to assist pedestrians” has made it impossible for me to shop there. The municipal car park is too far away for me to walk and the disabled bays are often full. Please would the Council make life easier for the elderly rather than only assisting the able-bodied young and middle-aged?”

This was noted and it was reported that concerns in respect of accessibility are being taken forward by Town Councillors, B&NES Ward Councillors and other Keynsham Stakeholders on the HS HAZ programme board for further discussion. Keynsham Town Council recognise that there needs to be adequate disabled parking provision on the High Street/Temple Street.

The Clerk advised that all Councils had to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty which meant an Equality Impact assessment needed to be performed before any changes were agreed.

The Chairman of DialAride reminded the meeting of the door-to-door services offered to both the High Street and the RUH for Keynsham residents who wished to join as members.

### (a) Comment from Mr Leverton

“Catering for the needs of disabled residents is a fundamental thing and currently the facilities in Keynsham are inhibiting the level of footfall and accessibility for all. The absence of a dedicated public toilet should be at the arrival point in Keynsham, namely by the Ashton Way car park. Until such basic amenities are provided the footfall will reduce.

The Chair responded by intimating that it was up to B&NES Council to provide toilets which they have done in the Public Library. Also, the Town Council have worked with local businesses to ensure that there are facilities that can be used by any members of the public (free of charge) and these are located in Temple Street Canteen, The Ship Inn, Grounded and Café Dahlia Cocina.” The Resident was advised to contact Helen via the Town Clerk.

**(b) Question from Nige**

“Whilst the High Street is in its semi shut format could there not be a mini disabled car parking area and/or dedicated drop off point”?

It was suggested that this be fed back to B&NES Council during future community engagement.

**(c) Question from Tanya**

“With all the increase in new building in Keynsham, traffic during peak times is creating severe congestion through the centre”.

It was reported that a programme of walking and cycling routes are being worked on to alleviate some of this problem. Ways of saving journeys are also being looked at from a regional point of view and decisions will come from here.

**(d) Question from James Carrick**

“Environmental conditions at the core of Keynsham are poor in respect of air pollution. What is being done to reduce the levels of nitrox and improve the air quality?”.

It was reported that air quality monitors on the High Street are showing levels that are below acceptable limits.

Residents were advised of B&NES Council air quality data which is freely available on their website.

**(e) Question from James Carrick**

“What is going to be done to attract smaller businesses to the town?”

The question would be forwarded to the HS HAZ team. The Chairman commented that the aim was to encourage more independent shops to fill empty shop spaces with the opportunity for small pop-up shops being able to use empty buildings for temporary periods.

**(f) Question (Part a) Dave Leverton**

“What are the Town Council going to do about fast food outlets and the litter that they create?”

Details of the Litter Summit were given and the Wombles initiative to collect, sort and return the branded fast food outlet litter to the stores, asking them to deal with their waste.

**(g) Question (Part b) – Dave Leverton**

The issue of dog waste was highlighted. It was reported that a further report is to go to full Council highlighting the other areas identified by residents for siting of more dog waste bins.

**(h) Question – Edmund Cannon**

What is happening about planting of trees in Keynsham and how can residents get involved?

It was reported that a call out to residents in respect of locations for tree planting had been undertaken and a schedule detailing numerous areas has been drawn up. Two areas have been selected for tree planting in the Autumn and whips will be sourced from the Woodland Trust. It was explained that it was not just a case of obtaining trees and planting, things like choosing the right tree for the right location and soil type, seeking landowner permissions and the onward maintenance of any planted trees needs to be considered.

**7. DATE OF 2022 KEYNSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting will be on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

The meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

SIGNED: .....  
(Chairman)

DATE: .....