

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in The Space on Thursday 20th April 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor A Wait (Chair),
Councillors and Parishioners – see attached attendance list.

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury - Town Clerk

**1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL KEYNSHAM TOWN MEETING HELD ON 21st
APRIL 2022.**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 21st April 2022 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Beaumont, D Biddleston, D Cooper and A Halliday.

**3. GUEST SPEAKERS - SIOBHAN LAMB – WATERSPACE CONNECTED
PROJECT MANAGER (B&NES COUNCIL) AND KÄREN RENSHAW -
ECOLOGIST (B&NES COUNCIL)**

This year's Speakers were Siobhan Lamb – WaterSpace Connected Project Manager from Bath and North East Somerset Council and Kären Renshaw - Ecologist at Bath and North East Somerset Council giving information on the new B&NES Ecological Emergency Action Plan and also the WaterSpace Connected project, which is focusing on delivery of improvements for nature and people by Keynsham Hams, including a bridge over the River Avon.

The Speakers' presentations covered the following: -

- Ecology to 2023
- Green Infrastructure Service
- Nature decline including loss of species – vertebrates, insects, and birds, for example the Cuckoo.

- Unsustainable pressure on nature including the climate change, adverse changes in river quality, pesticides, and pollution.

Also, opportunities

- Carbon sequestration
- Health and wellbeing of humans
- Food security
- Nature positively to 2030
- Better land management
- Biodiversity improvement, example Beavers have been seen on local rivers
- Encouraging people to engage with nature
- Production of action plans covering different themes
- Getting more people involved and creating partnerships
- Creation of Local Nature Action Plans with Town and Parish Councils
- Improving bats scapes and water spaces.

The Speakers asked whether Keynsham Town Council would be willing to create a pilot Local Nature Action Plan to be used as an example for other local Town and Parish Councils.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council would definitely consider including this within their four-year plan.

The Speakers will provide a copy of their slides to the Town Council.

4. PRESENTATION OF KEYNSHAM GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS 2022 - 2023

The recipients of the Keynsham Good Citizen Awards 2022-2023

Tracie-Jane Bath (Keynsham Music Festival Association) – over 25 Award.

Trevor Cruse (Keynsham Life Saving Club) – over 25 Award.

Geoff Davis (Somerdale Shed) – over 25 Award.

Russell Pocock (Keynsham Mencap) – over 25 Award.

Mark Tanner (Keynsham Table Tennis Club) – over 25 Award.

Matty Jackson (KeynshamNow) – Under 25 Award.

All award recipients received a framed certificate and £100 payable to the organisations of their choice. They were also given the opportunity to give an acceptance speech and speak about the organisations that they support.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2022/2023

The Annual Report is available and downloadable from the Town Council website or as hard copy from the Town Council office. Copies were available at the meeting.

There were two questions on the Annual Report of the Town Council.

Question 1 - from Edmund Cannon (resident)

I could not find any information in the report or the Town Council website regarding the significant loss of approximately £15,000 reported in respect of the 2022 Music Festival and would like further information.

Answer

The Chair explained that the Music Festival was a private company limited by guarantee and registered charity that the Town Council support with an annual grant and he then asked Mike May (Director of the Keynsham Music Festival Association) to explain the loss.

Mike reported that the reason for the £15,000 loss was that coming out of COVID suppliers' costs just rocketed resulting in a 30% increase in the Music Festival's infrastructure costs, toilets and generators. To add to these torrential downpours on the Saturday of the Festival resulted in the loss of gate donations and the Company then needing to use their reserves to support the event. This year we have recovered all our losses and have funds to cover all the costs of the 2023 event. The Association's account is now in the black.

Question 2 – from Edmund Cannon (resident)

You say that you want to be carbon neutral by 2030, what do you mean by Keynsham Town Council becoming carbon neutral by 2030?

Answer

For the Town Council to be carbon neutral we have to give back the amount of energy and resources that we are using in order to make this claim. So will need to invest in electric vehicles, create power in some way or carbon offset in order to do that. We have a long way to go; we are at an early stage and there is an awful lot that we need to research to achieve this goal.

We are already working on an Environment and Sustainability Action Plan involving local community groups to assist to move forward in this area.

Annually in addition of our general grant awards we offer £15,750 in Environment and Sustainability grants which enable community groups to undertake sustainable, environment friendly and energy reducing projects. Any groups wishing to apply for one of these grants, the application forms are now available.

We also accept new ideas for members of our community and will be pleased to receive these.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

Question/comment from Pauline Mousley (resident)

Question 1 - I am a new resident and do not really understand the workings of the Council and would like to ask do the Town Council have a vision for the town in respect of development, transport issues etc?

Answer

This vision for Keynsham will form part of the Town Council's Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The Plan was unfortunately put on hold for several reasons including COVID, staff shortages and the production of the Partial Review of the B&NES Council Local Plan. We are now in a better place and are ready to move on with our NDP.

Just to explain our five topic groups (including Councillors and Members of our Community) that in the past were working on the NDP agreed a vision statement which will appear at the start of our NDP. The five topic groups also worked on developing a set of key policies that need to be in line with National Government and the Local Authorities planning policies.

Currently, our NDP document is in early draft stage, and we plan to complete this as soon as we can. The first steps will be to appoint a Neighbourhood Plan Consultant to assist us in pulling our plan together and formalising the policies ready for approval by the Local Authority and Public Referendum.

Question 2 – I have not seen much about public transport in documents that the Town Council has produced. This is very important for our Town.

Answer

We can confirm that one of our five topic groups is dedicated to looking at all matters relating to public transport and the production of a policy that will assist the town going forward.

Pauline, then thanked all the Town Councillors and staff for all the hard work that they have done over the past year.

Question from Geoff Davis (Resident)

Is there any information in respect of the missing link connecting the new proposed Bitton cycle route and Bristol cycling paths?

Answer

The East Bristol Fringe Cycling Group are tasked with creating essential cycle paths from Bristol Fringe around to Keynsham. There is good news in that Taylor Wimpey are responsible for connecting the cycle path as it comes along the Keynsham Road allowing cyclists and walkers a route to the railway station and beyond. One of the options is to demolish the wall that restricts current access along this route and B&NES are insisting on this course of action. So, there will unfortunately be some disruption and roadworks whilst the part of the cycle route is constructed however, it will mean that with the new proposed bridge across the river there will be a cycle route that runs from Longwell Green via Keynsham all the way into Bristol. It is hoped that the Taylor Wimpey section of the cycle path will be in place within the next year.

7. DATE OF 2024 KEYNSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th April 2024.

The meeting ended at 8.50 p.m.

SIGNED:

(Chairman)

DATE: