

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 25th April 2019 at 7.30 pm at the Space, Civic Centre, Market Walk, Keynsham

PRESENT: Councillor C Fricker - 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 26th APRIL 2018

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors K Baker, T Crouch and M Blankley and residents Charles Gerrish, John Aldridge and Judy Grant.

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: -

10th July 2018 – Unveiling of the County Stone

Last year, the town came together to remember those lost in the terrible floods of 1968 and the County Stone was installed along with a remembrance plaque in the grounds of Keynsham Memorial Park.

Over the past year Keynsham Town Council has put on numerous events and have received some excellent feedback.

2nd May 2019 – Elections

Next week, we have local elections and people are encouraged to vote.

17th July 2019 – Keynsham Town Council Grant Award presentation evening.

Once the new Councillors have received their induction training and the new Council is in place, we will look forward to our annual Grants Presentation Evening. There is £20,000 available and local organisations may apply for up to £1,000. Those that are successful are invited along to the presentation evening, which is an important time for local groups, giving them the opportunity to tell others all about their organisation.

1st July 2019 – 7th July 2019 – Keynsham Music Festival

This period in the Town's calendar brings together the local community and many visitors for the Town's Music Festival. Once again, there is an exciting full programme of music, dance and creative activities – details can be found on the Keynsham Music Festival's website <http://www.keynshammusicfestival.co.uk/>. This event gets bigger and better every year and we have some exciting new performances to look forward to including a Beatles tribute band rendition of Abbey Road in The Space and the very popular Opera in the Park. The finale is a full day of entertainment from 12 noon – 9.45 p.m. in Keynsham Memorial Park. Mike May, our guest speaker will tell us more.

26th April 2019 – Keynsham In Bloom AGM

Tomorrow is Keynsham In Bloom's annual AGM. This group successfully won a Gold Award for the town in 2018 and will be once again providing competitions and floral displays to support the Town's entry into the South West In Bloom Competition. Denise James (Chair of Keynsham In Bloom) works extremely hard to support this group and encourage the town to sustain such a high standard.

3rd November 2019 – launch of Keynsham Radio

On 3rd November 2019, Keynsham Radio will commence broadcasting 24 hours a day – seven days per week. This will be an important means of communication for the town of Keynsham with broadcasts extending to further postcodes.

29th November 2019 – 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Keynsham Winter Festival

Keynsham Winter Festival was a great success in 2018 with a lot of Community involvement including stalls on the High Street and in the Fear Hall, performances on the stage and in The Space, Churches opening their doors and providing entertainment, activities and refreshments, something for all the family to enjoy.

Keynsham Town Council will soon begin its planning meetings in preparation for this year's Keynsham Winter Festival on Friday 29th November 2019. Further details will be available through local newspapers, the Town Council's Keynsham News magazine and the Town Council's Website/Facebook page.

Keynsham Business Forum - ongoing

The Keynsham Business Forum is going from strength to strength. The Town Council know how important it is to support the High Street traders and local businesses especially in the light of recent closures, including many of our Banks. The Keynsham Business Forum will continue to support the development of local employment that Keynsham businesses have to offer. The Business section of the Chocolate Quarter (Somerdale) is now completely occupied and providing local well paid employment in our town. Many existing and new companies are supporting our local community by offering sponsorship.

Keynsham Neighbourhood Development Plan

2018, has been a positive year for the Keynsham Neighbourhood Development Plan. The next year will be critical for completing the plan as there are financial implications associated with monies that may be received through the Community Infrastructure

Levy. It will also be important that all the new developments on the fringes of the town form part of the town as a whole. The Chair expressed thanks to all members of the community that have been working hard to bring the plan to fruition.

Transport matters affecting the town

The Town Council have held important meetings with GWR and First Bus.

In respect of GWR, it is important that the Town Council keep in touch with development on the railway to ensure that there are improvements in the servicing of trains arriving and leaving Keynsham Station.

The Town Council is also working closely with other Councillors across the authority in respect of matters relating to the Bristol Airport expansion. The recently submitted planning application includes an extension to the car parking at the airport to accommodate the number of passengers on the increased flights proposed. The Town Council appreciate that some residents of Keynsham are within the flight path and will be along with other Councils monitoring the flight path routes and the frequency of flights.

Town Council temporary accommodation

The Chair explained the difficulties that the Council Staff were under due to a temporary relocation to alternative accommodation as a result of dust and noise from the construction works for the development of over 90 apartments at Riverside. This development will be a key part of the town which is hoped will become a thriving community.

The Town Council will be in their temporary accommodation within the Civic Centre building until the beginning of June. The Town Council will be contactable via the B&NES One Stop Shop, through its existing telephone number, by email, with post continuing to be collected from the old Town Council building. For meetings requiring privacy e.g. burials a meeting room will be arranged.

The Chair commended the staff on the way that they had coped through this difficult period and the audience showed their appreciation by applauding.

The new Town Council

The new Town Council will be targeting and working on the reduction of single use plastic and will continue to push for Keynsham to become a plastic free town.

The current Town Council members would like to thank all those that have helped Keynsham Town Council in the past with a special thank you to all Councillors that are about to retire.

The new Town Council (formed following the election) will move forward with new leadership and will offer value for money, compassion and involvement with individuals and groups. Ensuring a safe and secure place for the residents and visitors will be important for the town.

4. GUEST SPEAKER – DUNCAN MASSEY, COMMUNITY RESPONDER, AVON SEARCH AND RESCUE

Duncan Massey gave an interesting talk and slide presentation on his volunteer role with the Avon Search and Rescue Team.

Avon Search and Rescue Service is an emergency service staffed by volunteers. On call 24/7, 365 days a year via Avon & Somerset Constabulary. Their work includes

- Cliff and steep ground rescue, recovery and access
- Rescue from high and difficult structures
- Land search and rescue
- Water margin search and swift water rescue
- Land search management advice
- Assistance with scene management and logistics

After hearing about the work of this voluntary charity organisation members of the audience were given the opportunity to ask questions.

5. GUEST SPEAKER – MIKE MAY, CHAIR OF KEYNSHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Mike May spoke of the history of the Music Festival, that has been running for more than 20 years which is supported and run almost completely by volunteers. He gave details of the performances, activities and success of the 2018 Festival and went on to give details of the exciting plans for the 2019 Music Festival.

He explained how the Festival was going from strength to strength and encouraged all in attendance to book to attend the pre-events that are to be held from Monday 1st July to 6th July and to come along to the main event day on Sunday 7th July 2019.

Lastly, he expressed his thanks to the Town Council for their financial and staff support, particularly Jackie Sydenham who worked hard on compiling the Volunteer Bucket Collection rota each year.

6. PRESENTATION OF KEYNSHAM GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS

The Keynsham Good Citizens Awards for 2018/19 were awarded.

A Life Time Achievement Award was presented to Erica Davies of Keynsham Wombles. Erica was presented with a framed certificate by the Chairman of the Town Council and cheque for £100 to donate to an organisation of her choice.

Erica was given the opportunity to express her thanks to the Town Council for her award and she spoke passionately about how she set up the Wombles Group, how it had expanded and their plans, for the future. Erica's £100 award monies will be given to the Keynsham Wombles organisation.

A further Good Citizens Award was presented to Richard Dyson of Keynsham and Salford History Society. He was presented with a framed certificate by the Chairman of the Town Council and cheque for £100 to donate to an organisation of his choice.

Richard spoke of his involvement with the Keynsham and Saltford History Society, and other organisations within the town. He explained his involvement with the planning and organisation of the County Stone event. Richard thanked the Town Council for his award and said that his award monies would be donated to the Keynsham and Saltford History Society.

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2018/19

The contents of the 2018/19 Annual Report were considered and there was one question from Roger Busby in respect of the Annual Report.

Mr Busby asked “what was the target date for completion of the Keynsham Neighbourhood Plan”?

It was reported that Easter 2021, was looking like a completion date (in order to be in line with the publication of the B&NES Local Plan) with all core policies being in place by the end of this year. It was reiterated that it was important to ensure that the plan is finalised, sent for inspection and approved by the public at a referendum in a timely manner so that the town benefits fully from the flow of CIL monies and has optimum of control over what developers can do in future in Keynsham.

8. PUBLIC FORUM

The following item was raised by a resident: -

Sheila Crocombe (long time resident) said “It was good to have the support of the Keynsham Town Council Youth Service offering outreach activities in the Community”.

The earlier session for children (held in At 67) aged 10 years plus, that the TimeOut Youth Workers are providing is proving very successful with a core group attending regularly for the cooking sessions. A full programme has just started and more will be on offer soon as the Town Council has just taken on some additional new youth workers. The facilities in the At 67 building are proving successful too with a scope for lots of different young people’s activities in the future.

9. DATE OF 2020 KEYNSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next meeting will be on Thursday 23rd April 2020.

The meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.

SIGNED:
(Chairman)

DATE: