

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Thursday 26th April 2018 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 27th APRIL 2017

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 27th April 2017 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors J Cron and H MacFie, B&NES Councillor A Hale and residents Erica Davies, Andy Wait and Denise James.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

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

22nd February 2018 – Anti-social behaviour meeting

Keynsham Town Council held a public meeting to discuss the recent increase in anti-social behaviour incidents that have been occurring in Keynsham. This meeting also launched a new group Keynsham Community Spirit who will be linking with other bodies to seek solutions to tackle this problem.

13th April 2018 – Royal visit for the opening of the Chocolate Quarter, Somerdale

Keynsham recently welcomed HRH Princess Anne to unveil a plaque marking the opening of the first-class facilities in the Chocolate Quarter, Somerdale. The royal party and other distinguished guests enjoyed a tour of all the facilities. It is hoped that this area of the town will continue to develop with the new housing and commercial sector being integrated and linked to the rest of Keynsham.

23rd May 2018 6.30 p.m. – 8.30 p.m. in the Space – Launch of the Keynsham Business Network/Forum

Keynsham Town Council is working to create a business friendly and economically successful town by bringing together all local businesses (commercial companies,

retailers, home workers and businesses within the outlying trading estates). The launch of the Keynsham Business Network/Forum on the 23rd May and future quarterly meetings will help to strengthen the links between the Town Council and the business community.

31st May 2018 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. – Summer day – Play day event in Keynsham Memorial Park

Keynsham Town Council have invited Bath Area Play Project (BAPP) to put on a play day event in the Keynsham Memorial Park. BAPP promote and facilitate opportunities for children and young people to play and participate in positive activities. The organisation recognises and promotes the importance of self-directed play in relation to child development. In conjunction, with the BAPP, Keynsham In Bloom will be on site with a craft activity making large sea creature murals from bottle tops (to highlight the amount plastic that ends up in our rivers and seas). Finally, Keynsham Neighbourhood Plan members will be in the park on this day, undertaking surveys on children's play facilities and open green spaces within Keynsham.

9th June 2018 – 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. in the Space – Keynsham Town Council's annual Community Networking Event

This popular annual event gives local community groups and charities the opportunity to promote their organisations, seek new volunteers and sign up new members.

25th June 2018 – 1st July 2018 – 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/>. One new major introduction for this event is the performance of a full opera 'La Boheme' on Thursday 28th June. The finale is a full day of entertainment from 12 noon – 9.30 p.m. in Keynsham Memorial Park.

10th July 2018 – Commemoration of the 1968 Floods

Keynsham Town Council will be getting involved in and supporting numerous events that are being arranged to commemorate the terrible floods that devastated Keynsham in 1968. Please see the local press and the Town Council website for further details.

18th July 2018 – Keynsham Town Council Grant Award presentation evening.

Keynsham Town Council's grant award scheme has recently been launched and application forms can be submitted up until noon on Friday 11th May 2018. Application forms are available from the Town Council office or can be downloaded from the Town Council's website on the grants page. Keynsham Town Council has allocated £25,000 for grants in 2018. Grants are available to community groups and charities and a maximum of £1,000 can applied for per group.

25th September 2018 – Keynsham Area Forum in the Space 6.30 p.m.

On 25th September 2018, Keynsham will be welcoming Sue Mount Stevens, Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset to the Keynsham Area Forum meeting.

30th November 2018 – 6.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. Keynsham Winter Festival

Keynsham Town Council will soon begin its planning meetings in preparation for this year's Keynsham Winter Festival. Further details will be available through local newspapers, the Town Council's Keynsham News magazine and the Town Council's website.

Launch of Keynsham Town Community Radio

The Chair brought to the attention of the attendees that in 2019 Keynsham Community Radio will be launching a regular daily radio show that will be an excellent communication vehicle for the town.

4. GUEST SPEAKER – Tim Bowles, Mayor, West of England Combined Authority

The Mayor began his presentation by recalling his fond memories of Keynsham and time spent playing in local sports events within the town. He also commented on how he was keen to hear how Keynsham Town Council is engaging with and bringing together local businesses.

His presentation covered the following points: -

- He explained his role as Mayor, stating that it was a completely new job with no template and that he saw this as a huge opportunity to deliver and work collectively with the residents of the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to better their futures over the next 10 – 20 years.
- He would be working with the leaders and Councillors of all 3 Councils (BANES, Bristol & S.Glos) in the combined authority to manage long term regional changes in respect of housing, jobs and connecting the region digitally. This will mean looking at different and new ways of managing future challenges.
- He remarked how a positive story was emerging for the authority that included infrastructure investment from China. This would see not only changes to the road systems but more main line train services and improvements to the regions port and airport.
- The Mayor will be working closely with the BANES Council to create new jobs, provide training to develop skills to fill employment posts, offer opportunities to re-train with new skills, provide investment to support those in part-time employment and to work with local schools to promote the skills that are required to fill local jobs.
- Support will be provided to assist start-up businesses.

- The Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) will map out how the combined authority councils see new homes for the future in this region. Together these Councils will through the Mayor seek investment from Government to bring this about.
- Strategic connection routes will be looked at and planned to work together meeting the needs of all in the region. Alternative methods of transportation other than the car will be looked at in depth and investment in cycle routes will be important. There will be £150 million-pound investment for the region to support these transport infrastructure improvements.
- New developments across the region will be built as whole communities not just as homes. The WECA will work closely with housing associations to ensure that there is sufficient housing to fulfil the market need.

The Mayor ended by stating that Keynsham was a great place to live and work and was taking bold steps to improve the town.

Various members of the public asked questions of the Mayor and these covered the following topics: -

- Digital infrastructure and the potential for Keynsham to be served by a 5G mobile phone network. The possible introduction of mobile service providers sharing masts.
- Continuation of the electrification of railway connections in the South West and the importance of this being essential for advancement of the business economy in Keynsham. Better connectivity to London was extremely important for the Town.
- The importance of supporting and improving Keynsham's vibrant High Street, working with the traders and providing advice and services for start-up businesses.
- The importance of managing pollution levels and reducing congestion in the town.
- Planning the timing, across the authorities for development of both housing and infrastructure in order that they do not conflict and bring the region to a halt. Ensuring that the 20 year delivery plan works for all town and parishes within WECA.

5. PRESENTATION OF KEYNSHAM GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS

The Keynsham Good Citizens Awards for 2018 was awarded. There was one recipient this year, Mary Burnard. The recipient was presented with a framed certificate by the Chairman of the Town Council.

Mary was given the opportunity to express her thanks to the Town Council for her award and she spoke passionately in respect of her long service with the Keynsham Talking Newspaper, the organisation to which she had pledged her £100 award monies.

6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2017/18

The contents of the 2017/18 Annual Report were considered and there were no questions arising from this. The Chair spoke in respect of the Keynsham Neighbourhood Development Plan, explaining that when this plan comes into force it would set the course for the future of Keynsham over the next 20 years and will set out in detail the sort of town Keynsham will be. He also spoke about creative arts and the plan to encourage new businesses from the creative industry sector to rent or buy business premises in the town.

7. PUBLIC FORUM

The following items were raised by the electors: -

Maxine Marsh (Keynsham Civic Society) asked for details on pollution levels that were being created in other areas of the town since the introduction of the one-way system and what was being done to address this issue. **Information was provided on the number of pollution monitors insitu in Keynsham, the location of these monitors and the levels that were currently being recorded. The attendees were informed of WECA's proposals for relief roads that would aid congestion on the A4, a new Park & Ride that would serve Keynsham (creating parking outside the town for those travelling in from Bristol). The need to coordinate the working of the pedestrian lights on Temple Street and Rock Road to reduce idling traffic in this area was highlighted.**

Iris Lerpiniere (Keynsham Civic Society) asked if Keynsham was going to join the Queen in Greening the Commonwealth (a tree project in conjunction with the Woodland Trust). **It was suggested that this issue could possibly be taken up with Keynsham In Bloom.**

Richard Arthur (Resident of Burnett) asked why houses are being built in sizes that are not required for the community and why an underground tunnel could not be built to avoid the need for a Saltford by-pass. He also questioned what had happened to all the ammonites that were extracted from the groundworks that were undertaken as part of the Civic Centre redevelopment.

Bob Elcome (Keynsham Town Councillor speaking as a resident of Keynsham) reported that developers for the new housing estate at Keynsham East were listening to local residents to develop a new housing site that would fit and work well with the existing nearby neighbourhoods. He said that residents had had several meetings with the developers and had managed to instigate some important changes to the layout of the site. However, there is still a lack of low cost housing for the site and this needs to be addressed.

Kathleen Hovland – (Resident of Keynsham – Keynsham NDP member) - Raised concerns in respect of kerbside pollution levels and the affect that they had on children walking to school.

Allan Sinclair – (Resident and Keynsham Town Councillor) – Raised concerns regarding a high security gate that has been erected, possibly blocking a public right of way to the river.

John Lane – (Resident of Keynsham) – Pointed out the importance of infrastructure to new developments being put in place at the front end of the project and the need for sanctions against developers for not following conditions that are imposed as part of planning permissions. ***It was reported that the Local Authority would be made aware of issues of enforcement relating to non-compliance of planning conditions and that the Town Council's Planning and Development Committee would be keeping a sharp eye on variations to applications and this would avoid developers creep.***

Barbara Wheddon (Resident of Keynsham) – Raised concerns in respect of the loss of small businesses in the town and the drop-in footfall (The Entertainer was highlighted as an example of being down on footfall). She asked how the Town Council intended to re-invigorate Keynsham town centre.

Sarah Barratt (Resident – Member of Keynsham Taking Newspaper) – Raised concerns regarding the proposed dinosaur themed golf park planned to be sited just off the A4.

Melanie Hilton (Resident of Keynsham) – Asked whether there was any control or regulations in respect of the width of the new roads proposed for forthcoming housing developments in Keynsham. ***It was reported that roads must be built to local specification and unless they are built to this spec they cannot be adopted by the local authority and would remain private.***

8. DATE OF 2018 KEYNSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED:

That due to the Local Elections in 2019 and Purdah, the date of the 2019 Annual Town Meeting will be advised at a later date. (By law, Annual Parish and Town Meetings must take place between 1st March and 1st June each year)

The meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.

SIGNED:
(Chairman)

DATE: