

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in The Space, Market Walk, Keynsham on Thursday 23rd April 2026 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury - Town Clerk
Amanda Leonard – Business and Community Engagement Officer
Kate Gretton – Administration Assistant

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL KEYNSHAM TOWN MEETING HELD ON 17th APRIL 2025.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 17th April 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs D Biddleston and M Burton.

3. GUEST SPEAKER – DAVE SAGE FOR AVON WILDLIFE TRUST.

Dave Sage gave a very entertaining slide presentation with commentary on his involvement with Avon Wildlife Trust.

He presented a PowerPoint guided tour of various green spaces within our town, visiting locations such as the up-and-coming nature reserve of Somerdale. His very professional and colourful photography introduced us to numerous species of wildlife including butterflies, birds, mammals, invertebrates and aquatic creatures.

His presentation was very well received by all present and the Chair thanked him.

4. PRESENTATION OF KEYNSHAM GOOD CITIZENS AWARDS 2025 - 2026

The recipients of the Keynsham Good Citizen Awards 2025 -2026 were

- *Under 25's Young Citizen Award – Imogen Ellis (KeynshamNow)*
- *Over 25's Good Citizen Award – Jethro Payne (Keynsham and District Mencap & Stay and Play sessions for children under five with SEND)*

- *Service to the Community Award – Patricia Veale (Keyford Dance School and other community events)*
- *Life Time Achievement Award – Dave Sage (Wellsway School teacher – long service (Avon Wildlife Trust & Wildlife Clubs and Duke of Edinburgh Assessor))*

All Award recipients received a framed certificate and £100 payable to the organisation(s) of their choice. They were given the opportunity to give an acceptance speech and speak about the organisation that they support.

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2025/2026

The Annual Report of the Town Council is available and downloadable from the Town Council website or as a hard copy from the Town Council office.

Copies were available at the meeting.

There were no questions on the report.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

The following questions and comments were raised by Members of the Public.

Question 1 – Nick Sargent

He began by thanking the Town Council for their excellent report.

They are starting to form a small group of residents from Bristol Road that are interested and concerned about the traffic on the Bristol Road and Station Road, in particular the volume of traffic that is speeding through the town. He said that he could not comment about the rest of town, but was sure that residents in other parts of the town have noticed speeding in their areas.

To back up their concerns regarding this speeding the group have managed to get some evidence from Bath and North East Somerset Council who have provided a report from the pneumatic road tubes used by Councils to collect traffic data, including volume, speed, vehicle classification, and direction. It is quite astonishing the amount of traffic that is flowing through Station Road, down Bristol Road towards the roundabout at St. Ladoc Road. The numbers were recorded as 12,500 daily vehicular movements with 10% of those being HGVs and that might highlight how some of the damage that we can see appearing on Station Road, Bristol Road by St. Ladoc Road and by The Crown Inn.

Some sections of damage are quite severe and have been reported on Fix My Street over the past several months. In particular, having had the 20 m.p.h. in place, which was welcomed, we note the average speeds are approaching 30 m.p.h. and local residents have witnessed from the speed sign that is in place we frequently see cars coming down that hill at speeds of somewhere between 35 and 45 m.p.h.

We are quite concerned that it will only be a short time before there is a serious accident. We are concerned about the heavy traffic doing those kinds of speeds and the residents have written to the Hauler, which have acted responsibly and have shown the group that they have reminded their drivers not to speed. We have presented this to the Local Speed Watch and we are disappointed with the response that we have received which recognise the lack of Police resources. It is thought that if we could at least have a speed camera for one day it would act as a deterrent, I recognise that they cannot be there all the time but anything to enforce the new speed limit would help.

Response by Chair of Council:

Firstly, the Town Council is not responsible for traffic, speeding or roads but you make a very good point.

Councillor MacFie, Town Councillor and B&NES Ward Councillor runs a Community Speed Watch Group in Keynsham East on the Wellsway and I am sure if you have a word with him and you want to set up a Community Speed Watch Group on the Bristol Road he should be able to tell you how to go about doing this. The Police are very supportive of such groups.

The Town Council also have regular meetings with Avon and Somerset's Beat Sergeant for Keynsham (Rob Turner), and I will raise this with him. We acknowledge that speed across the whole town is an issue.

Finally, B&NES Council are very keen to have a lot more houses built in Keynsham and the draft Local Plan Options Document which came out last autumn will be followed by the Draft Local Plan which will be available in June 2026 and there will be a second round of Consultations on the Local Plan which will go to the Planners in Westminster.

There will be an Inspectors Public Enquiry round about January 2027, so if you responded to the Consultation to the Central government part of it, then you may speak at the Public Enquiry.

Question 2 – Richard Arthur

A couple of years ago I donated a large Geo to Bristol to mark my 50 years as a Geologist. I am mentioned in the Local Plan referencing instu Ammonites which make Keynsham famous. You may recall some time back with the demolishing of the old Civic buildings and shopping area that there were some archaeological digs undertaken and this exposed some rather lovely Ammonites, and I tried then to get these preserved. I got an undertaking from Bath and North East Somerset Council that these Ammonites would be put on public display.

Over 10 years have passed and they have not been displayed. On 6th October, this year it is the UNESCO Geo-Diversity Day which is themed Geology on Our Doorstep. This subject is on a decline, and it is an important subject so I would like to promote Geology. I am doing a wheel chair accessible guide to the Geology of the Suspension Bridge.

I would like to try and get a bit of commitment that this collection of Ammonites, which I believe are still in storage, will be put on display for all to see. I believe that there is one in your office.

Perhaps if the glass over the Roman Mosaic in the Keynsham Library could be lifted cleaned and the Ammonites could be displayed with the Mosaic. Also, there is an Ammonite by the play area in the Memorial Park that has weathered away.

Response by Chair of Council:

What is the largest Ammonite that you have? I have one that is about 1.5 metres in my garden.

There are a number of Artefacts belonging to Keynsham stored in various places in B&NES, and we are pleased that some of these are on display in the Library. As the Ammonite is one of the symbols of Keynsham we should make more of them and Council will endeavour to get a display of them somewhere in the town.

Cllr Brennan said that she was aware of a gentleman who was trying to set up sites in Keynsham for a series of museum displays in shipping containers (each container being a different era). Schools and the public will be able to visit these containers. It is hoped that his business will soon become a charity and funds can be raised to allow for this project and she will put Mr Arthur in touch with the gentleman.

Question 3 – Richard

I came along tonight to remind you of the matter that I am campaigning about and that is the lack of lighting in Back Lane, especially the alleyway that runs from the High Street to the Memorial Park. It seems that for such a small job it is taking a lot of time to resolve.

Response by Chair of Council:

Ward Councillors for Keynsham North have been working on this project as Back Lane is extremely dark at night. It is quite a complex issue and that is why progress is slow. Both properties either side of the lane are not Council owned and there are no lamp posts located in this area. We are working with both those organisations to get this sorted and I will be speaking to Police Sergeant Rob Turner regarding this matter. This is not a Town Council responsibility as we have no remit for street lighting. We will be pursuing this matter and hope to get a solution before the winter.

The Clerk suggested contacting the company that supplied the Bluetooth controlled solar lighting for the Skate Park to see if they can suggest a solution.

7. DATE OF 2027 KEYNSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the next Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd April 2027 at 7 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

SIGNED:

DATED:

(Chairman)

DRAFT