**Minutes of a meeting of the Annual Town Meeting**

**held in the Council Chamber, Newbury Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury**

**04/04/2022 at 7:30pm/19:30.**

**Present in the Council Chamber:**

Councillors; Martin Colston, David Marsh, Phil Barnett, Elizabeth O’Keeffe, Erik Pattenden, Chris Foster, Jeff Beck, Roger Hunneman, Andy Moore, Stuart Gourley, Nigel Foot, Sarah Slack, and Vaughan Miller.

5 members of the public.

**In Attendance:**

Darius Zarazel, Democratic Services Officer

**Present Virtually:**

Councillors; Tony Vickers, Jon Gage, Steve Masters, Pam Lusby Taylor.

2 members of the public

Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer

**1. Welcome by the Deputy Town Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gary Norman, welcomed all Newbury electors to the Annual Town meeting 2022 and gave apologies for the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer, who were unwell.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 22 March 2021**

**Proposed:** Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe

**Seconded:** Councillor Martin Colston

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting, held on 22/03/2021, be approved to be signed.

**3. Newbury Town Council’s Plans for the coming year**

The Leader of Newbury Town Council (NTC), Councillor Martin Colston, outlined NTC’s key priorities and objectives for the year ending in 30/04/2023.

Key information included:

* The Leader outlined the 4 goals of NTC:
  1. To help make Newbury a unique, welcoming, safe and well cared for town
  2. Foster a real sense of community
  3. Take actions to address the climate emergency
  4. Provide focused support for young people, the elderly, minorities, and the vulnerable
* Key projects for the Council are the new Community Café in Victoria Park, planned upgrades to the Wharf toilets, the Neighbourhood Development Plan, and ensuring carbon neutrality by 2030 or before.

**4. To discuss Town business**

The Newbury electors present at the meeting were invited to ask questions about any matter relating to Newbury.

A member of the public, Mr A. Mercado, spoke about how the pavement from the end of Argyle Road on Pound Street till the Pound Street Co-operative Shop, was very rocky and uneven. He mentioned that he had real difficultly transporting a wheelchair bound family member down this road due to the uneven surface and parts of the pavement which were barely large enough for a wheelchair to pass.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the member of the public for his comment. It was emphasised that pavements and roads were the responsibility of West Berkshire District Council (WBC). However, it was agreed that the Town Council would write to WBC to ask that the area highlighted be examined for repairs and improvements, and send the response to Mr Mercado.

In addition, Councillor Andy Moore informed the meeting that as Ward member, he would also take this up with WBC.

Another member of the public highlighted the poor state of walkways, especially on Northbrook Street, and mentioned the number of puddles on this piece of pavement.

It was again noted by the meeting that pavements and roads were the responsibility of WBC, but the Town Council would pass over these concerns.

The final question from a Newbury resident, Ms Paula Saunderson, was about if the Council has any representative for adult social care in WBC as there are many elderly residents and care homes in Newbury.

It was mentioned that Councillor Martha Vickers is a member of the WBC Health and Wellbeing Board and is also a member of the Town Council. Through this ‘dual-hatted member’ the Town Council could have influence in this area.

In addition, it was mentioned that if any member of the public has specific proposals in this area they should contact their Ward member who can take this proposal forward.

**5. Closing remarks by the Deputy Town Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor thanked the electors for their attendance at the Annual Town Meeting as well as all the Leader for their presentation.

Former Mayor, Councillor Elizabeth O’Keeffe, encouraged the public to attend any of the Council’s Committee meetings as they are all open to the public and also submit any questions they have to those meetings.

**There being no other business, the Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:15 hrs.**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chairperson**