

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 24 April 2018 at 7.00pm
In the Council Chamber of Beccles Town Hall**

PRESENT **R Stubbings, Mayor in the Chair**
 E Brambley-Crawshaw, Deputy Mayor

Mrs S A Bubb	S Kenward
A Downes	J D Harris
G Catchpole	J Janney
G Elliott	Mrs C A Topping
N Elliott	J B Walmsley

IN ATTENDANCE **Mrs C Boyne, Town Clerk**

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC **3**

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brooks, Haynes and Birrell.

2. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 25 APRIL 2017

3. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR FROM THE MAYOR OF BECCLES, COUNCILLOR RICHARD STUBBINGS

4. TO RECEIVE REPORTS ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS COUNCIL COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR:-

(a) ASSETS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR C TOPPING

Councillor Topping's report was received.

There was a question regarding the lack of action being taken to alleviate the flooding issues on the track leading to the Rowing Club and rented moorings and Waveney Meadow. Nuttalls, who had carried out flood alleviation works along the river bank, had stated that it was Waveney District Council's responsibility to rectify the issue. All dykes would require draining and cleaning and aggregate would need to be dug out.

Councillor Topping explained that meetings had been held at Waveney DC regarding proposed actions and the result of these would be known very soon.

(b) PRIDE IN BECCLES SUB-COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR E BRAMBLEY-CRAWSHAW

Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw's report was received.

(c) FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR N BROOKS

Councillor Brook's report was received.

(d) PLANNING COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR N ELLIOTT

Councillor N Elliott's report was received.

(e) GRANTS COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR R STUBBINGS

Councillor Stubbings' report was received

(f) BELL TOWER WORKING PARTY – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR A DOWNES

Councillor Downes' report was received

(g) BLYBURGATE HALL OPERATIONAL GROUP – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR J JANNEY

Councillor Janney's report was received.

5. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM BECCLES & PARISHES NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN OPERATIONAL GROUP – CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR E BRAMBLEY-CRAWSHAW

Councillor Brambley–Crawshaw's report was received.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL'S YOUTH CHAMPIONS

The Youth Champions' report was received.

7. TO RECEIVE OTHER REPORTS, AS APPROPRIATE, INCLUDING:-

Beccles Police

No report had been received.

District Councillors

Reports were received from Councillors G Elliott, G Catchpole and C Topping.

There was a question as to how it was decided how many councillors represent the wards in Beccles. Councillor G Elliott explained that it was based on population and that there should be one district councillor to approximately 3,700 per head of population.

County Councillors

A report was received from Councillor Brambley-Crawshaw.

Beccles Allotments & Gardens Association

3

The report from the Beccles Allotments & Gardens Association was received.

Beccles Twinning Association

The report from the Beccles Twinning Association was received. Michelle Golding, Chair of the Twinning Association, thanked Councillor Haynes for her support as a council representative.

Michelle was thanked for all of her hard work as chair.

Beccles Community Bus

The report from the Beccles Community Bus committee was received.

8. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, IF POSSIBLE, FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT WHO ARE ON THE ELECTORAL ROLL ON MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORTS GIVEN, ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR AND OTHER QUESTIONS RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE MEETING

A question had been received from a member of the public regarding Beccles Fenland Trust meetings and whether these could be held prior to the town council meetings or on a different day.

The mayor explained that the town council meeting by law had to be advertised to start at a particular time, and so it would not be possible to hold the Fenland Trust meeting prior to the town council meeting as it would be difficult to estimate how long the meeting would take, and may mean cutting the meeting short so that the town council meeting could start on time.

There was a question as to whether the council would be charging for parking on Waveney Meadow and Beccles Quay Car Park. Councillor Topping, Chair of the Assets and Environment Committee, reported that the council had agreed not to charge for parking on Waveney Meadow. With regards to Beccles Quay Car Park, the Beccles Fenland Trust had agreed in principle to charge for parking on this car park. The details of the charges would need to be considered further, but the first two hours free was being considered, along with the issuing of a limited number of parking permits. Income from this car park would be ring fenced to be spent on Beccles Quay.