



**Minutes of the Annual Town's Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2019 at 7.00pm
in the Market Hall, Holsworthy**

Present: Cllr. Hutchings, Cllr. Musker, Cllr. Parker, Cllr. Sanders, Cllr. Watson, Cllr. Stanton, Cllr. Shepherd & Cllr. Allen.

In attendance: Town Clerk (TC)
Assistant to the Town Clerk (ATTC)
TDC Cllr. Ian Parker
Members of public: Ms. Val Mardell
Mr. Richard Brown

3197. Welcome by the Mayor

Cllr. Hutchings welcomed and thanked the Public and Cllrs for attending.

3198. Minutes of the 2018 Town's Meeting, having been read out, are recommended for approval.

Cllr. Sanders proposed that the Minutes of the Town's meeting held on 25th April 2018 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Musker and agreed (Vote 7 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions)

3199. Annual Report presented by the Mayor, Cllr. Jon Hutchings. (Appendix A)

Cllr. Hutchings welcomed everyone and presented an Annual Report to members and the public. The report included all the different events that have taken place over 2018 including the WW1 event and the planting of the Memorial Tree Trail, Commonwealth Canopy Tree and the BBC Communitree.

Also discussed was the Market, how it has increased in footfall and how lucky Holsworthy is to still have an active market.

The sad loss of the Deputy Mayor Colin Punter and Cllr. Ken Carroll was also noted with special mention of all the hard work carried out by Colin for not only the Council but for many voluntary organisations in the town.

Cllr. Hutchings also thanked all Councillors, the TC, ATTC, Maintenance Operative, Market Assistants as well as those members of the public who gave their time to support the Town.

3200. To receive any questions and consider any matters raised by Registered Electors within the Town of Holsworthy.

Mr. Richard Brown expressed his gratitude to the Town Council and Mayor for all the hard work that has once again gone into the Town. He also wished Cllr. Hutchings all the best for the Elections which are coming up. Ms Val Mardell also agreed with these comments.

Mr. Brown asked for an update on the opening of the beds at Holsworthy Hospital. Cllr. Hutchings stated the CCG are still working on opening the beds and ensuring that the hospital is staffed sufficiently.

Ms. Val Mardell also expressed her appreciation for what the Town Council has achieved in the last year.

A question was raised about the condition of a retaining wall on one side of the footpath leading from Waitrose to Parsons Place in Holsworthy by the residents and the public using this area. The TC confirmed that the Town Council are not responsible for this wall; however, the TC has requested the Building Control Officers at TDC to investigate this as a matter of urgency.

3201. Ideas brought forward from the public for Town Projects.

No ideas or projects were brought forward.

3202. Close.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.15pm

Signed.....Dated.....

Appendix A

Our Wednesday Market has been criticised many many times over the years. Last year we introduced a new layout due to complaints that the whole square was closed off for only a few stalls. The new layout makes parking spaces available whilst maintaining an area for our market traders. Many say the market is the smallest it has ever been but if you look back at historical pictures infact there are more stalls in the square today that there were many years ago. The fact we still have a weekly market is in its self quite something as many market towns across the county have lost theirs due to the massive decline in market traders nationally. I hope we can continue to encourage new traders and keep HOLSWORTHY a market town.

Its been a good year for communication! Both Torridge and Devon County Council officers are starting to talk and listen to us as a council. In the past speaking to the right people before a planning application is passed or an on going highways problem gets worse has been virtually impossible. We have made some good contacts and going forward should mean decisions made for our town are not made from desks in other areas but based on what the town really wants and needs by communicating with the town council.

A good example of miscommunication was the 106 agreement relating to the football pitch on the Redrow estate. This agreement was made many years ago by Torridge and the developers. As a council we were expecting an FA standard football pitch. it turned out the very loose 106 was actually for a basic football pitch which didn't have to meet any fa standard. The result is a piece of grass with some drainage. After many months of tooing and throwing with Torridge the town council decided enough was enough and decided to force the hands of the develop and Torridge to try and come to an agreement to have the pitch handed over. it has taken most of the last year but we are hopefully nearing a time to have the pitch handed over to the town council. There is now only one problem left to be resolved and that is the query over the drainage and the height of the pitch. if Torridge are satisfied the height is acceptable with the plans and the drainage will work properly the town council will take over the pitch. if this can be agreed then I see no reason the pitch will be playable and for the 19/20 football season.

Over 10 years ago station close was built and along with the planning permission came another dreaded 106! The 106 was to create a play area and the ownership would be handed over to the town council. Once again not quite as straight forward as it would seem. The developers finally tried to

handover the play area learily last year but the equipment was found to be in a bad state of repair. Once again a lot of tooing and throwing but eventually the developer agreed to do some needed maintenance and transfer the land along with some money to replace the play equipment. I am pleased to say at long last an agreement has been reached and the money should have been transferred today! This means the play equipment will be replaced by the town council and we will now be responsible for the upkeep.

In February the town council voted to increase the council precept for Holsworthy. I can assure you all that this is not an easy decision for any councillor to make. However with more and more being pushed onto the town council we have no option but to keep raising our precept to cover the extra work and upkeep of the town. However I will say that our part of the overall council tax is very small. Infact we only make up around 7% of the total council you pay.

So what next!

Thanks to remembrance show in the theatre and the Royal British Legion we will soon have some new picnic benches installed in the park. The towns notice board is to be replaced next week and soon you will see our bus shelter brightened up with some new pictures depicting areas of the town. We should also be having some new electric car charging points installed in Manor Car Park but only when they can find a suitable power source!

This council is up for election on the 2nd May and I am delighted that this time around there will be an election. This will be the first time in many years the full council has had an election. I urge you all to vote. The annual Meeting of the town council will take place of Wednesday 15th May where we will be giving out our council grants and presenting awards for the freeman of Holsworthy and the community champions, you are all invited

To finish I would like to thank all our staff who assist the council in its day to day running, Vanneesa the town clerk and her assistant Kerry. George the towns handy man, Steve and Richard who set up the Market each week. I would also like to thank Pete our street cleaner who is employed by TDC but works tirelessly to keep the town looking tidy.

A special thankyou to the members of the public who have helped the town council in any way over the last 12 months from helping at events to planting trees in the park to litter picks, you help make HOLSWORTHY the great

community that it is. I hope this community spirt will not just continue but also grow

And finally I would like to thank all the councillors who have given their time not only to serve our town but also for supporting me as Mayor and to those of you who are standing in the election good luck.