

Minutes of the **Bingham Annual Town Meeting and Civic Awards** held in **The Methodist Centre**, Union Street, Bingham, on **Saturday 8th April, 2017**, at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: 7 Town Councillors
Over 80 members of the public.
Clerk (Locum) – Jo Cartmell

CHAIRMAN: Town Mayor, Councillor John Stockwood.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th April, 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

TOWN MAYOR'S SUMMARY AND REPORT:

In summarising the year within the theme of celebrating contributions to the community, I'd like to start with one of the first community events I attended in my year as Mayor which was the Summer Town Fair. It was raining that morning, but as a new Mayor I wanted to make a big impact so I enthusiastically opened the fair with my well prepared speech to the crowd which had two people in it. One person holding an umbrella, and the other person standing underneath the umbrella. My first example of Bingham people working together in the community. When the sun came out that day, the Summer Town Fair was an enormous success.

Indeed, when the sun shone, Bingham partied throughout the summer with great events like the Queen's Birthday Picnic, BFest and welcoming visitors from Wallenfels but as the Summer pasted into Autumn, there were more sombre events to attend. I joined with others in Bingham in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, also Armistice Day and then the Remembrance Day Service and Parade. We remembered together the great sacrifices that others made for our democracy and the lives we lead today.

The leads me on to November, when I was invited to speak to the pupils of Carnarvon Primary School as part of their democracy week. I was thoroughly grilled on council matters by the children, with one child informing me that her father wanted me to know that he paid too much in taxes. I agreed with him. It's just a shame that none our local councils did.

Moving on, there were many celebrations at Christmas with the Market Square well-lit and our tree well decorated. A particular event I will always remember was actually outside of Bingham. I visited Whatton Prison to join with them for their rousing Christmas Carol Service, and a joyous event it was. This was just before the prison governor received an OBE for her work in rehabilitating members of the community there.

That is an example of how Bingham is a community that does not exist alone, but is a community with links to many others. One physical link is the A46 to the town of Newark. An event I attended in Spring was visiting Newark for the commemoration of Hercules Clay. Hercules Clay was a gentleman who received divine visions of his house being hit by cannons when Newark was under siege in the Civil War. When he avoided injury by relocating just before his house was destroyed, he bequeathed to the

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town a gift to pay for an annual sermon encouraging people to do good deeds and help those in need. Although Bingham doesn't have that particular service, we do have the Civic Awards. And even without the threat of cannon fire, there are many past Civic Award winners, Award winners this evening and future Award winners that are willing to help one another in our community through their kindness and good deeds. I was invited to many events in the year, but I can't list them all as there needs to be time for other speakers tonight. I'd just like to take this time to thank everyone who invited me to share their events with them.

And that brings me to the end of my summary of the past year as your Town Mayor. It has been a joy and a privilege to join many people from our community in celebrating together and honouring the past together. Across the range of events I have been invited to, I have seen many different kinds of community; the school community, the prison community, communities of people with a shared interest and communities of places here and nearby. In all these communities I saw people living many different lives, contributing with kindness to each other, living together.

I hope this summary has been of some interest, thank you to everyone who has assisted me through my year as Town Mayor and thank you for letting me be your Town Mayor in 2016-2017. Thank you.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST:

The Mayor noted that members of the public were welcome to visit the office and details of the opening hours were read out. The Mayor also encouraged members of the public to attend the Town Council meetings and raise any points in the Open Session.

01 Expansion of Toothill School

Mr. R Bear raised the issue of Toothill School looking to redevelop the old Youth Centre and the parking problems that were anticipated along The Banks and other side roads. There hadn't been any consultation with local residents or the Town Council about these proposals and Mr Bear asked the Town Council to consider contacting NCC highways to discuss parking restrictions to ensure that traffic on The Banks and neighbouring side roads was managed in a satisfactory way.

The Mayor confirmed the Town Council will contact the school and he looks forward to discuss options with the school to limit the disruption from the extra traffic to local residents.

02 Chapel Lane

A resident asked the Town Council to continue to raise the issue of the danger posed to cyclists by the lack of a cycle lane on Chapel Lane.

The Mayor noted that with all the developments which were proposed for Bingham, the Town Council would continue to work with the local authorities to ensure that the developments are supported by the correct infrastructure which the Council hoped would include cycle lanes and dedicated off road routes.

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03 Community Centre

Mr Fowler asked whether there was any real prospect of the Old Manor House becoming a Community Centre, if not, shouldn't money from the community chest be used in some way to provide a community facility.

The Mayor explained that money from the community chest had been made available for the Methodist Centre project and Butt Field Sports Club so the money was being used from the Community Chest Funds from the Community Chest can only be spent on specific projects.

04 The out-going Clerk

Mrs Eagles wished to express her sadness at hearing about the resignation of the Clerk and asked if the Town Council could forward a letter on behalf of the residents of Bingham for her contribution to the Town during her time as Clerk. Mr Ashton supported this request. Mrs Eagles asked for those gathered to raise a hand if they supported this request and the Mayor noted that the proposal was supported by the majority of those present.

Butt Field Sports Club

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. A. J Harvey gave a short presentation on the facilities supported by the Town Council at Buttfield Sports Club and showed the meeting a promotional video of Bfest.

Linear Walk

Mr Bill Bacon gave an informative presentation on behalf of Friends of Linear Park about the history and the work that is involved in preserving the biodiversity of this area. The park is home to a number of species that are not found in other parts of the county and he noted that preserving the environment to encourage biodiversity was a priority for the group. He encouraged residents of the parish who were able to assist with the work of the group to come forward and in particular anyone who could offer expertise in relation to monitoring and preserving biodiversity.

Community Parks Project

Mr Paul Moskwa gave a presentation on behalf of the Community Parks Group who were looking to improve the play area facilities within the town. The group were concentrating on establishing exactly what the needs of the town were by carrying out survey based consultations with a view to analysing the data and making the appropriate design choices to ensure that all the needs were met. The group would also look to achieve funding and achieve the best value outcome for the group through the procurement process. The group were looking for volunteers who could assist with community engagement, press relations and anyone who believes that they have something to offer to ensure that successful conclusion to the project.

Civic Awards presented by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Mr Geoff Ashton nominated **MR PETER ALLEN** for his tireless work for Bingham in particular towards the production of the Community Led Plan and the BHTA.

Mr Allen accepted the award and wished to acknowledge the contribution of all the volunteers of both groups.

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Mrs Stephanie Orr nominated **MRS SUE EATON** for her commitment and enthusiasm to Bingham Netball Club.

Mrs Eaton accepted the award and thanked all the ladies and girls who made the Netball Club a success.

Mr James Hollands nominated **MRS PAULINE HOLLANDS** for the many years of contributing to public life in Bingham, including the many groups that she had set up and organised when their children were young.

Mrs Hollands accepted the award with thanks.

Mrs Anne Harrison nominated **MRS PAMELA RICHMOND** for her work with the Bingham Branch of the NSPCC, the Tape Scheme and the Neighbourhood Watch. Mrs Harrison also noted that Mrs Richmond was an active member of the BHTA and was a very good friend and neighbour who looks out for many residents.

Mrs Richmond accepted the award with thanks.

Mr M Symis nominated **MR BILL STARK** for his work and commitment to the Royal British Legion Branch at Bingham and the Bingham Penguins Swimming Club for the less abled. The award was presented by Mr Simms who noted that Mr Stark carried out all his duties with pride and dignity and was willing to take on additional responsibilities as needed.

Mr Stark accepted the award with thanks.

Mrs Sue Hull nominated **MR MICHAEL & MRS SYLVIA BENNET** as recognition for their energy, contribution and willing involvements in the community of Bingham.

Mr Michael and Mrs Sylvia Bennet accepted their awards with thanks.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chair closed the meeting at 9.00 p.m with an expression of thanks from the Deputy Mayor for the work of the Staff of Bingham Town Council and Councillor Hutchison for organisation of the event.

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CHAIRMAN.

Date.....