

Sleaford Town Council

Annual Town Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7:00pm, electronically via Zoom

Present: Councillor A Brand, Chairman of the Council
Officers: Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk
Members of Staff: 0
Press: 1

The meeting was attended by approximately 25 members of the public including Sleaford Town Councillors and officers.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ATM.1 Apologies

No apologies had been received.

ATM.2 Minutes

The notes from the last Town Meeting were shared on the screen. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the notes from the meeting held on 1st May 2019 be accepted as Minutes of that Meeting. The majority of those in attendance agreed. The Resolution was carried.

ATM.3 Mayor's Report

The mayoral year had been challenging due to the Covid pandemic. Highlights of the year included opening the new Post Office and shop and unveiling the Les Gostick mosaic memorial.

Under the banner of 'spirit of Sleaford' several projects had taken place including:

- A heritage guide of the town Cemetery.
- A new woodland created in a derelict area of the Cemetery.
- Arboretum status for the Cemetery was being explored.
- The mayor's tree fund had raised £450; this would be used to buy new specimen trees to plant on the Town Council's land.

The mayor acknowledged the work of groups including:

- Sleaford in Bloom
- Town Twinning, including a photographic exhibition in the Rathaus.
- A book of the woodcut artworks had been published.
- MosArt

The Sleaford Town Awards had taken place and special note was made of Sleafordian of the Year.

Sleaford Castle Heritage had held a research symposium and a published report of the research findings was in progress. A public meeting would be held.

Sleaford Photographic Competition - The mayor shared the winning photographs on the screen; these would be included in a commemorative book would be produced.

Anti-social behaviour had been a problem in the town and the mayor had worked in partnership with the police and other agencies to address problems.

ATM.4 Questions from the Public

- 4.1** How will Council meetings be managed with the ending of the current legislation allowing local council meetings to meet on-line? How are decisions validated and when can they be ratified? What are the prospects for the future?

The Chairman advised that at its meeting on 28th April, Sleaford Town Council had considered a report from the Town Clerk and advice from LALC on this issue. The Council felt that it would not be possible within the government's guidance on meeting indoors and had resolved to carry on meeting remotely beyond the 7th May deadline when the legislation ceases. The next three Council meetings would be held remotely and decisions would be ratified at the full Council meeting in July.

- 4.2** When will the letting of rooms open up to community groups in the Town Hall?
The mayor replied that this would be the case. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Hall rooms will be opened for hire from 21st June when government guidelines on meeting indoors are lifted.

- 4.3** Could Sleaford provide parking for motorhomes to encourage tourism to the town?
The mayor replied that this request could be considered as part of the Council's project to renovate Eastgate car park. It was suggested that NKDC could respond to this suggestion.

There were no more questions and the meeting closed at 7.47 pm.