

PARISH OF GODALMING

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting **Held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Bridge Street, Godalming** **on Thursday, 18 April 2019**

1. **WELCOME**

The Mayor, Councillor Williams welcomed all those present particularly those Members of the Public present.

2. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 19 April 2018, having been previously distributed, were approved by the Meeting and signed by the Town Mayor as a correct record.

3. **REPORT BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

The meeting approved an oral report by the Town Mayor, Councillor Williams, summarising the work of the Town Council since the last Annual Town Meeting. In addition, a printed Annual Report 2018/19 was tabled at the meeting and a copy of that report is attached to the official record copy of these minutes.

4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS RAISED BY ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTOR CONCERNING THE TOWN'S AFFAIRS.**

Nine questions were raised and answered:

Question 1

A written question was received prior to the meeting relating to the Godalming Wharf, supporting papers providing background to the questions were distributed at the meeting (attached to the record minutes).

Will GTC now use its best endeavours to improve the situation and help keep The Wharf area with its now important pedestrian link a useful place for the public to enjoy by:

- a) making contact with NT Senior Management level to express concerns and offer some suggested improvement options that may be possible with the developer Magna Homes;
- b) supporting and/or facilitating an approach to Sainsbury's for assistance and co-operation, particularly with the future pedestrian/horse bridge reinstatement in mind; and
- c) considering a matched funding assistance offer to improve the declining situation?

The Town Clerk read a written answer to the questions posed (attached to the record minutes).

Question 2

What plans do the Town Council have for the further reduction of greenhouse gases?

The meeting was informed that the primary tool available to Godalming Town Council and residents of Godalming for supporting action to help reduce greenhouse gasses in Godalming is the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan is due to go forward to referendum on 9 July 2019 and those present at the meeting were encouraged to support a Yes vote for the plan. The Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan, which was developed over a number of years by the community, contains a number of policies, which if adopted will contribute to the local reduction of greenhouse gases.

Question 3

Is there a commitment from Godalming Town Council for it to become a 0% carbon council with a 0% carbon footprint at any time in the future?

Godalming Town Council does not have a Zero Carbon Council policy.

Question 4

Is there anything the Town Council can do to prevent the youth of the town from being recruited into gangs and causing trouble in the town?

The meeting was informed that the issues of youth intervention and youth provision were complex and that there are no easy solutions. The Council has agreed to establish a working group to explore, what, if any, actions it is able to take either on its own or in conjunction with other agencies. Those present were informed that whatever solutions that might be sought would need to be relevant, deliverable and sustainable. The audience were reminded that the majority of the town's 2500+ 11-18 year olds were good young citizens, but if people do witness a crime in progress they should call 999 or if a crime has happened and there is no immediate danger then the incident should be reported via the 101 reporting system.

Question 5

Is there anything the Town Council can do to see the double yellow lines in the High Street being abided by?

Those present were informed that when the alterations to the High Street were made in the early 1990's a decision was made not to have yellow lines but rather a no parking zone. It was pointed out that the areas, which many considered as parking laybys were in fact loading and unloading bays. However, it was acknowledged that the level of parking in some areas of the town centre had increased and that this led to difficulties for the buses especially for disability access when the bus cannot draw up to the kerb line. It was agreed that, as the County Council is the Highways Authority, the Town Clerk would write to the relevant Surrey County Councillor.

Question 6

Church Street on a Sunday is lethal, even cars have to go onto the pavement to get past parked cars. Is there anything the Town Council can do?

On-street parking enforcement is a County matter, which is managed for the Godalming area by Guildford enforcement officers. It was noted that the town centre car parks are free to use on a Sunday and it was agreed that the Town Clerk will write to the relevant County Councillor.

Question 7

On the integration of bus networks with rail services, which could help alleviate congestion, it is necessary to achieve the goodwill to bring together many more business services and borough and county planners. Can you help me understand the purpose whereby that aspiration will be brought to happen? Is it something the Godalming Town Council can take on or does it lie elsewhere?

Although transport planning is the responsibility of the County Council, the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan does aspire for greater integration between bus and rail services, as such the Town Council may have a role in providing evidence to support future considerations and decisions.

Question 8

Are the Town Council aware that the fence between the towpath and the Lammas Lands does not follow the legal boundary?

In the Godalming section from the Godalming United Church to Perry Bridge, on the footpath linking Farncombe to Catteshall, Waverley Borough Council own variously up to the mid-point of the towpath or the whole way up to the canal bank itself. The NT between

Godalming and Weybridge has a programme to repair the soft spots along the towpath, but progress upon this section is stalled as land ownership means that it falls to Waverley to fund.

Suggestion made that with an endowment, Waverley should transfer ownership of the full width of the towpath to the N T, so that the Llamas Lands fence line becomes the actual legal boundary and the N T takes on the liability to restore and maintain the path

The land in question is owned by Waverley Borough Council and the National Trust, as such this is outside the direct remit of Godalming Town Council. There are a number of projects that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds could support, although at the present time Godalming does not have any CIL receipts. Once CIL funds start to materialise, the Town Council will consider what projects could be supported and the delivery priorities.

The Neighbourhood Plan was about creating an environment where walking, health and cycling were mainly part and parcel of the Plan. The National Trust is creating a route to take people from centre of Godalming to Guildford.

The Town Clerk is attending the first feasibility planning meeting for the Godalming to Guildford Greenway on 26 April, which has been called by Surrey County Council who are funding the feasibility study.

Question 9

The bridge over the River Wey; talked about in Sainsbury's leaflet. Do we know any more?

The Town Council has included the re-instatement of the 'Horse Bridge' over the River Wey from the Wharf to the Llamas Lands in its submission to Waverley Borough Council inclusion in the Waverley Infrastructure Delivery Plan and will work with the NT as further details on potential options emerge.

Access onto buses. The Neighbourhood Plan covers the considerable number of footways of Farncombe and Godalming. One that came up in particular was by the Mill Medical Practice. Buses stop at the bus stop at this wonderful facility but no dropped kerb until much further along the road. The buses cannot stop outside due to parked cars so the buses are not able to use it the dropped kerb to its fullest. Can the Council pressurize in some way to improve the disabled access off buses?

The Town Council was not aware of this issue. It will visit this area in order to properly inform a response to the County Council regarding this matter.

5. PRESENTATION BY MS CHARLOTTE WALSH, HEAD OF CHARITIES, IN KIND DIRECT

Ms Charlotte Walsh gave a presentation on the work of In Kind Direct. Ms Walsh took questions from those present.

The Mayor thanked Ms Walsh for her presentation.

6. THE MAYOR'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Town Mayor, Councillor Williams, announced the recipients of the 2019 Mayor's Award for Volunteers.

Awards, comprising a framed certificate and town badge were presented to:

Andrew Crawte
Cilla Batters
Vivien Gillman
Ann Ketchell
Claire Marshall
Brian & Mary Mercer (in absentia)