



7 April 2022

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 21 April 2022 at 6.00 PM in the New Millennium Chamber, Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton

2021 to 2022

Agenda

1. Evacuation Procedures

2. Filming of Council Meetings Use of Social Media and Mobile Phones

During this meeting the public are allowed to film the Committee and officers only from the front of the public gallery, providing it does not disrupt the meeting. Any items in the Exempt Part of an agenda cannot be filmed. If another member of the public objects to being recorded, the person or persons filming must stop doing so until that member of the public has finished speaking. The use of social media is permitted but all members of the public are requested to switch their mobile devices to silent for the duration of the meeting.

3. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Members of the Town Council or other organisations.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2019, circulated herewith, pages 3 to 8. In accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders, Section 9a, Members are reminded that no discussion of the draft minutes of a preceding meeting shall take place except in relation to their accuracy.

5. Town Mayor's Report and Presentation of Town Merit Awards

6. To Hear Questions From The Public of which Notice Has Been Previously Given

7. To Hear Questions From The Public of which Notice Has Not Been Given

8. Report From Representatives of Local Organisations

Note: The Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Town Meeting shall assemble annually between 1 March and 1 June in every year. It is a meeting of Local Government Electors of the town for the purpose of discussing the town's affairs. The Town Mayor presides at the meeting and the Council's Standing Orders apply. Each elector has one vote.

Electors attending are requested to enter their names and addresses in the attendance register provided.

Councillor Molloy
Town Mayor



**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting Held in the New Millennium Chamber,
Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton on Thursday 21 March 2019 at
6.00 PM**

Present: 89 members of the public including
Cllrs B Blanchard-Cooper – Mayor,
Ayes, C Blanchard-Cooper,
Buckland, Chester, Squires, Tandy
and Dr Walsh KStJ.

2018 to 2019

1. Evacuation Procedures

The evacuation procedures were noted.

2. Filming of Council Meetings, Use of Social Media and Mobile Phones

The procedures were noted.

3. Apologies

There were apologies from Town Councillors Northeast, Purchase and Warren QVRM, Mr Simon Vickers, Co-Chair of Littlehampton Town Traders, Carol Taunton, Littlehampton Town Chat, Mr Nigel Lynn, Chief Executive Officer of Arun District Council and Inspector Kris Ottery, Sussex Police.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 19 April 2018 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

5. Town Mayor's Report And Presentation Of Town Merit Awards

- 5.1.** The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the format for the evening. He emphasised that this was a meeting for residents of Littlehampton and not a meeting of the Town Council. The meeting was therefore intended to provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions, or comment upon, any issues affecting the Town. Acknowledging that Local Government Elections were imminent he reminded attendees, particularly current Councillors and prospective candidates that the Town Council was not permitted to provide publicity or a forum for electioneering during purdah.

5.2. Commenting on the past year, the Mayor was pleased to report the success of many events in the Town. These included Armed Forces Day, two Screen on the Green evenings and events to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One. The new year brought with it the completion of the Littlehampton Wave, plans for a new skate park at the sea front and a new youth centre and community facility to replace the Keystone Centre in Wick. He was pleased that Arun Youth Projects would be joining the meeting and giving a presentation about the local youth sessions they ran and their priorities in the coming months. Littlehampton had a vibrant amateur dramatic scene and the Mayor congratulated the local groups on their recent successes.

6. Merit Awards

6.1. Turning to the Town Merit Awards, the Mayor explained that Councillors had nominated those who deserved recognition for their contribution to the Town. The awards once again highlighted the commitment that many individuals and groups had to the Town and he proceeded to present the awards. The first individual award was presented to Michelle Bly in recognition of the support that she, through her business, The Flower Shop in Wick gave to local groups and community activities fundraising for good causes. The Mayor thanked her for her help at Wick events and for the £1,400 raised this year alone through charity days. Accepting her award, Michelle acknowledged the support of her team, thanked Members for the nomination and residents for making the charity fundraisers successful.

6.2. The Mayor then presented the first Group Merit Award to the Wick Friends of St Barnabas House for over twenty-five years of fundraising and awareness-raising this year. The group organised their own events which included line dancing, a friendship club, fashion shows, coffee mornings and bucket collections. The Mayor was pleased to present this award to the Wick Friends of St Barnabas House and the group of volunteers who had raised over £152,000 for the hospice since they formed. Gladys Bourne, founder member, accepted the award on behalf of the group and said it was an honour and very special to receive the recognition.

6.3. The second Group Merit Award was presented to the Stage Door Theatre Company – SDTC. The group was formed in 1997 following the demise of Jubilee Productions when a number of members reformed this new society to continue to provide their hobby of amateur dramatics. They were the only company in the town producing a range of stage shows for residents of the town to enjoy. The Mayor was pleased to present this award after the society celebrated its 21st Anniversary in 2018 and looked forward to seeing the society continue going from strength to strength. Accepting the award Alan Moss, Chairman of SDTC, said it was an honour and that he was pleased to accept it on behalf of the society.

6.4. A further Award would be presented at a later date.

7. Presentation By Arun Youth Projects

The Mayor welcomed and handed over to Arun Youth Projects who gave a presentation on local youth provision and services.

- 7.1 Jon Jolly, Manager of Arun Church, introduced the Arun Youth Projects – AYP team and described how they worked with young people in the area. Beginning in Rustington in 2012, the service had grown and was able to provide targeted support for young people and a variety of activities.
- 7.2 Emma Biffi, Littlehampton Team Manager for AYP, outlined the range of universal activities available and explained how focused projects such as soccer school and code club enabled young people to gain skills and develop interests outside of school. The Young Leader Programme looked at supporting young people aged 14 to 18 to further their personal development, work towards awards – for example Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Outset, or Football Association Coaching – and acquire skills for the future such as budgeting and effective communication. In addition, two bursaries were available that offered financial support that allowed disadvantaged young people to pursue their interests under the Sports Accessibility Bursary and the Creative Arts and Social Club Bursary. Arun Youth Projects also aimed to deliver mentoring and targeted support for those who needed it the most. It was noted that Outreach detached Work was planned outside of the youth centre activities to encourage young people join in and feel part of the community.
- 7.3 The meeting then heard from two Young Leaders who outlined the work they were involved in and what it meant to be a Young Leader. They explained that they actively volunteer and help lead youth sessions and events. Since becoming Young Leaders, they had become more confident and developed a voice through the planning and leading of youth sessions. They had also improved their communication skills, gained self-esteem and developed new relationships.
- 7.4 Emma Biffi explained the priorities for the service were to continue to provide and adapt services to meet the needs of local young people including developing a Detached service to connect with young people in public spaces and expanding the Young Leader Programme.
- 7.5 Acknowledging the many positive aspects of the service provided by AYP, the Mayor thanked the team for their presentation.
- 8. To Hear Questions from the Public of which Notice Has Been Previously Given**
- 8.1 There were two written questions, the responses to which had been provided and were circulated at the meeting – copies attached to the minutes.
- 8.2 A resident sought the creation of an alcohol-free zone on the High Street to deter anti-social behaviour.
- 8.3 In response, the Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer had confirmed that Littlehampton was currently subject to a Public Spaces Protection Order which gave the power for authorised officers to remove alcohol from persons if deemed appropriate or necessary. This was not a complete ban on alcohol and meant that the consumption of alcohol in public areas was permitted. However, if behaviour became problematic and alcohol

was being consumed, authorised officers had the power to confiscate the alcohol. Failure to comply with such a request constituted an offence and details of the scope of the Order were published on the District Council's website at <https://www.arun.gov.uk/pspo>.

8.4 Mr Glicksman, a resident of White Horses Way had raised several questions regarding responsibility for street lighting in respect of changes to lighting times that he felt were necessary to curb vandalism. Addressing the meeting directly, Mr Glicksman stated that he and his neighbours had been subjected to numerous incidents of vandalism over the last 18 months and that he felt let down by the authorities. He had been seeking street lighting throughout the night to deter vandalism and had been unable to get any explanation of the rationale for the current policy in this respect.

8.5. Inspector Turner, Sussex Police explained that whilst not responsible for street lighting, he would investigate whether it was possible for them to get the relevant authority to change the lighting regime. He emphasised that in doing so, this would only be for a limited period and as part of targeted activity to address specific issues. He agreed to speak to Mr Glicksman after the meeting regarding the recent activity in White Horses Way.

9. To Hear Questions From The Public of which Notice Has Not Been Given

9.1. Describing the delays experienced in using 101 to report crime, a River Road resident asked why despite repeated assurances, the service had not improved. There were also further reports of lengthy responses to incidents and a failure to follow up on reports of an abandoned vehicle.

9.2. Inspector Turner sympathised with the questioners. He explained that the Police remained committed to investing in initiatives to improve the service but emphasised that call handling could suffer during periods of heightened activity when calls would have to be prioritised. Highlighting the importance of gathering information, he urged residents to continue to report incidents.

9.3. A Beach Crescent resident lamented the lack of investment in much needed infrastructure required to support the housing growth in the area. She also called for wider use of the Banjo Road coach parking out of season to address the need for parking along the seafront. The Town Clerk responded that the resident's views mirrored those of the Town Council and agreed to pass the parking suggestion to the District Council.

9.4. The meeting heard from a Church Street resident who called for a public meeting on anti-social behaviour to highlight the need for more resources to provide law enforcement, tackle the underlying issues and compensation. In response, Inspector Turner again emphasised the commitment of the Police to investing in training and resources but added that this would take time to implement.

9.5. Regarding plans for the regeneration of the Town, a local resident commented that she was happy with the current maritime theme.

- 9.6.** The meeting heard from the Littlehampton Town Centre Regeneration Officer who reported that there would be further consultation with residents, traders and other stakeholders on the regeneration plans once the outcome of the current bid for grant funding was known. He also stated that future investment would aim to halt the trend in the decline of the local high street and improve the appearance of the public realm.
- 9.7.** In response to reports of an increase in begging in the High Street, Inspector Turner explained that the Police were working with their partners to address this and other issues such as homelessness. This latter issue was reported to be increasing and was considered detrimental to the survival of local businesses. It was noted that local traders had been provided with a direct point of contact in the Police to report these issues.
- 9.8** A Gloucester Road resident reported that following the recent cutting back of hedges and bushes next to the railway, the area had become overcome with rubbish. This presented a terrible view of the Town to visitors and he sought assistance to get the area tidied. The Town Clerk agreed to speak to the resident after the meeting and take this forward with Southern Rail and or Network Rail.
- 9.9.** The Joint Chairman of The Littlehampton Traders Group addressed the meeting on the impact that high rents were having on the ability of local businesses to survive. She called on landlords to do more to support growth and work with local traders to assure the long-term survival of a vibrant business community. It was also commented that the existence of large empty premises e.g. the former Waitrose supermarket site and the Tamarisk did not inspire confidence in the Town. It was however noted that there were proposals to redevelop the former supermarket site.

10. Report from Representatives of Local Organisations

- 10.1.** Mrs June Caffyn, Manager of Littlehampton Shopmobility, spoke on behalf of the Chairman and the Trustees of the Board and thanked the Town Council for their grant funding and support. Outlining the services that Shopmobility provided she was pleased to report that the service had received national recognition for its scooter registration service. The Group continued to provide services in Littlehampton and Bognor and last year had once again been shortlisted for the Tom Hillier Award. She thanked customers and residents for their continued support of the scheme.
- 10.2.** Tyndall Jones, representing the Littlehampton Bonfire Society, was pleased to announce that the Society had raised £8,531. Thanks were given to the many people that had contributed to the collection and helped to achieve this goal. The ever-increasing burden in terms of costs and securing on going volunteer support meant that staging the annual bonfire and fireworks display needed even more effort to secure sponsorship alongside other means of generating income. The Society thanked LOCA for their support last year with the artisan market, increasing town centre participation and widely promoting the event. It was noted that the May Fair would take place on Saturday 11 May 2019 and this year's display would be held on Saturday 26 October.

- 10.3.** Mr Terry Ellis, Chairman of the Littlehampton Heritage Group, outlined the group's main aim to protect buildings and conservation areas. Mr Ellis explained that volunteers were needed to help with researching local buildings and recording their heritage.
- 10.4.** Mr Derek Fish, Chairman for Littlehampton Badminton and Squash Club, thanked the Town Council for its grant funding support. The Club was flourishing, and membership had grown to over 400. The Club was well represented in various local leagues and its activities had recently been the subject of an article in the "All About Littlehampton" publication.
- 10.5.** Mr Richard Jeffries, Littlehampton Veterans Breakfast Club, reported that the Club was growing and developing strong links with other veterans' groups. They looked forward to attending and supporting other local events in the Town.
- 10.6.** Ms Staci Mendoza-Quinn, representing LOCA, spoke of the variety of talent and representation of arts and craft groups in the town. She urged residents to support these local groups who presented such a positive image of Littlehampton.
- 10.7.** Mr Kevin Paige, representing the Votes for Women Centenary Group, sought support for an initiative to get trees planted in recognition of local suffragettes.
- 10.8.** Mrs Marian Ayres, representing the Town Centre Chaplaincy, explained that this was a relatively new initiative which aimed to provide support for those in need in the Town. Members could be identified by their distinctive jackets and hoped to provide expanded coverage in the coming months.
- 10.9.** The Mayor thanked everyone for their support, congratulated the recipients of the Merit Awards and brought the meeting to a close.

The meeting concluded at 7:45pm.