

Minutes of the **Bingham Annual Town Meeting** held in **The Old Court House**, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 28th April, 2015**, at **7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: 11 Town Councillors
County Councillor M. Suthers
13 Local Electors and Members of the Public
Bingham Advertiser

CHAIRMAN: Town Mayor, Councillor G. Davidson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ACCEPTANCE:

Apologies for Absence and Acceptance were received from Councillor A. Ashmore.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th April, 2014, were read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Chairman of each of the Town Council's Committees gave an updated report of the work undertaken by each Committee during the year since the last Annual Town Meeting.

TOWN MAYOR'S SUMMARY AND REPORT:

I am very proud to be occupying this position for the fourth time. Bingham is in many ways quite different now from the way it was in 1993, the first time that I was here. Nevertheless, many issues are still with us, as we all know.

The past year saw some notable anniversaries - the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, and the 700th anniversary of Bingham's Market Charter. I was pleased to attend events relating to both of these. In the near future there will be the 70th anniversary of V.E. Day, and I hope to attend the event being organised by the British legion on May 8th.

Our new Health Centre is working very well and providing an excellent service for the residents of Bingham and the surrounding villages. In addition, in January of this year, the newly refurbished Library was opened, together with an excellent Children's Centre, occupying much of the old Health Centre building. Both of these are very welcome additions to the town.

However, on the down side, we have seen the closure of both the youth facilities and the recycling centre at Langar. I regard both of these as short-sighted measures, which are likely to lead to significant problems, in terms of increased anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping respectively.

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TOWN MAYOR'S SUMMARY AND REPORT continued.....

The patterns of shopping in the town are likely to be greatly changed if we have three quite large supermarkets in the town. As you probably know, both Aldi and Lidl have now joined Tesco in being granted planning permission to open stores. My personal view is that, given their current difficulties, Tesco may decide not to come to Bingham. Nevertheless, even two supermarkets will be a big change. Whatever happens, I am sure that the new Town Council will do all that it can to preserve and enhance the historic centre of the town as a retail and service centre.

As we have heard, the Council has been working hard to try to alleviate the intractable parking problems which Bingham faces, and also to try to obtain greatly improved access to the north side of the railway station. In addition, there have been recent suggestions by the Crown Estate that there could be some building development on Warner's Paddock. The Town Clerk is in the process of arranging a meeting with the Crown Estate as soon as possible after the new Town Council is constituted. I fully support all moves to protect this precious green space and will oppose with all my heart any attempt to build upon it.

In connection with the Crown Estates, the Town Council has been very anxious to work with them to ensure that the proposed development of more than one thousand houses north of the railway line is as sympathetic as possible to the environment, and to try to keep Bingham as a unified town - not two separate communities separated by the railway line. This will also be discussed when the new Town Council meets with their representatives.

I have been very pleased to support as my charity for the year Maggie's Cancer Support Centre at Nottingham City Hospital. Before last Saturday's final fund-raising event, almost £1000.00 had been raised, and, after it, the figure now stands at approximately £1,800.00. I would like to thank everyone who has worked hard and given their time, and their money, to support this worthy cause.

The work of the Town Council could not be carried out without the sterling efforts of the Town Clerk, Mrs. Lynn Holland, and all her staff, both in the office and also the ground staff. My sincere thanks go to all of them. The office staff were presented with a plant each in recognition of their hard work.

I would also like to thank all my fellow Councillors, especially my deputy, Councillor Tracey Kerry, and the Chairmen of the various Committees. They have all put in a great deal of effort on behalf of the town. As we are rapidly approaching the end of this Council, I would like to mention those of my colleagues who between them have put in many years of work for the Council, but who are not standing for re-election this time. My thanks go to Councillors Paul Abbey, Allen Ashmore, Malcolm Barham, Ann Bryan, John Eagles, Tony Fox, Sue Hull and Jacqui Marshall, and I wish them all the best for the future.

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2013/2014:

The Town Clerk summarised the Town Council's audited accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2014.

QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST:

01 Previous 35% Increase in Precept

A gentleman confirmed he had written in and received a response back in 2009 about the increase in the precept; however, he was disappointed that there had not been any reduction in the precept, despite the previous over-spends being addressed. The Mayor responded by confirming that the precept contributed to various reserves which were earmarked for specific matters, e.g. play equipment, and the individual per Band D property element of the council tax had remained static.

02 A gentleman felt that policies for the future should be addressed.

03 A gentleman felt that copies of the accounts should have been available. The Mayor confirmed they were available on the website and had been for best part of a year.

04 A lady suggested a residents' parking scheme for Station Street due to the fact that Post Office workers could no longer park on the Post Office site near the railway station and were parking on Station Street. The lady felt that if car parking charges were introduced in the car parks, the problem would only get worse on the side streets.

05 A gentleman thanked the Councillors and wished special thanks to go to Councillors John Eagles and Mrs. S. Hull. He also queried if there had been such a large number of Councillors not going forward for re-election in the past. The Mayor responded by confirming he was sorry so many experienced Councillors were being lost, however, he looked forward to the new Civic Year with new faces around the table. The same gentleman stated that Warner's Paddock should be protected at all costs and it should remain as an open green space with no building on it at all.

06 Other residents supported the statement about Warner's Paddock. The Mayor responded by confirming that Bingham Town Council was in the process of arranging a meeting with the Crown Estate in June, 2015, with a view to discussing Warner's Paddock amongst other Crown Estate matters.

07 It was confirmed that the removal of the trees in Bingham Market Place was a project being undertaken by Rushcliffe Borough Council. Rushcliffe Borough Council had investigated the sustainability of the trees and also the impact on the surface of the market place. It had been deemed necessary to remove the trees and provide specially constructed pits for the new ones to ensure the roots

could thrive without breaking up the surface and thus ensure the future sustainability of the trees.

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QUESTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST continued.....

08 A resident queried whether or not the Crown Estate would provide allotments due to the fact that the ones closed down on the contaminated land had, to date, not been re-sited elsewhere. The Mayor confirmed that an allotment site was part of the plans north of the railway line; however, it was not clear if the finance was also covered for them.

As there was no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.39 p.m.

DRAFT

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CHAIRMAN.

Date.....