

Minutes of the **Bingham Annual Town Meeting** held at Jubilee Community Hall, Bingham Arena Leisure Centre on **Tuesday 23 May 7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

The Mayor – Councillor R Bird
Public: 16 including Cllrs T Wallace, F Purdue-Horan,
N Mees, W Stapleton, A Shelton, V Leach, N Jejna,

Town Clerk – Joanne Riddle
Deputy Clerk – Claire Beecroft

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Mayor, Cllr Bird, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 31 May 2022 were proposed, seconded and approved. These were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

TOWN MAYOR'S SUMMARY OF THE PAST YEAR

Summary for the civic year ending 16 May 2023 and financial year ending 31 March 2023

Bingham Town Council has been busy over the last Civic Year. The Council's work has included:

- 44 Council, Committee, and Sub-Committee meetings taking place
- 5 community grant awards were made to local community groups
- Free Room rental was granted for another year to Bingham Food Warriors who operate from the Old Court House
- Continued financial support for Bingham Community Events 2022 summer programme of events
- 10 Civic Awards were given to members and groups that support the community
- The 2022 Summer Fair returned after the lifting of restrictions and the 2022 Christmas Market and Light Switch On was well attended
- Following a grant from the Town Council, Positive Futures worked with local children to deliver a new graffiti project under the Tithby Road bridge, enhancing the Linear Park
- Recruitment of a Deputy Clerk and Ground Staff member in early 2023
- Delivery of Finding Fitness Free Summer Sports Club in August 2022
- Applied for the Foundation Award of the Local Councils Award Scheme

The Council was saddened by the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022, after reigning for 70 years. People were invited to lay flowers at the Old Court House and

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books of condolence were opened. On 11 September 2022 the Mayor read the proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The Town Council have continued to work in partnership with the Friends of Bingham Linear Park to support the Biodiversity Management Plan. The Council continue to add budget each year to enhance the 30 year grant fund to ensure the work of the group is supported.

Alongside its commitment to the Linear Park Nature Reserve, the Town Council continues to take care of its responsibilities for:

- Sports Field and recreational areas at Wynhill and Butt Field
- Town Pavilion and Butt Field Sports Pavilion
- Five play area
- Allotments
- Bingham Cemetery and St Mary's Churchyard
- Town Centre CCTV
- The Old Court House
- Extensive arboreal portfolio
- Town Centre floral display
- Christmas Lighting Scheme

In terms of projects delivered and progressed through the previous year:

- The Town Council have been receiving officer and grant support from Rushcliffe Borough Council to progress plans for a long stay car parking provision at the former allotment site. The Car Park Committee has commissioned transport feasibility reports and meetings with key stakeholders have taken place.
- Stage 1 of the feasibility work for the Chapel Lane Community land was completed and the Council will be looking to progress the project in 2023.
- The Wynhill Re-development have completed a building condition survey on the Pavilion and the Rugby Club are investigating the car parking at the site as the immediate priority.
- The Council have taken the Civility and Respect Pledge and the Member, Officer Protocol was adopted, following on from the advice of the Improvement Board
- Joint working has successfully continued with Bingham Community Events who provided another year of successful events in 2022 including the Classic Car Show and Beer Festival.
- A Cemetery review has been undertaken by the Institute of Cemetery Management, the results of which will be considered in 2023
- Memorial testing plans have been progressed for summer 2023
- A planned Building Maintenance survey has been completed on the Old Court House and a new video entry system was installed
- Inspection of the Linear Park bridges was completed to support planned maintenance work
- Successful in gaining Lottery Funding for the delivery of a Free Summer Sports Club for local children. 160 children benefitted from the Sports Club in August 2022.

The Council is supported by:

- 1 Full Time Clerk
- 1 Part Time Deputy Clerk

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- 1 Part Time administrative assistant. The Council are carrying a vacancy for a second administrator
- In the office the longest serving member of staff has been with the Council nearly 8 years
- 2 full time ground staff
- 1 part-time cleaner

Recruitment of two new staff members during early 2023 has strengthened the team's knowledge and experience and the Council will be looking at the existing office vacancy during the new term of office.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST

The Mayor invited members of the public to ask questions or comment on matters of local interest.

One member of the public raised concerns regarding the Council's CCTV and intrusion into people's privacy. Several Councillors spoke about the protection offered by the GDPR regulations which the Council would be subject to, the usefulness of CCTV to provide evidence of crimes to aid prosecution and agreed there is a need to discuss getting the correct balance between people's right to privacy and using CCTV to protect people, especially more vulnerable residents. The Clerk confirmed that the Council staff do not access CCTV footage, access is given to the Police if they request it.

A member of the public asked what the situation was regarding Warner's Paddock. The Mayor advised that the Council currently have a grazing lease and are looking into changing the terms of the lease to enable other uses of this land. Another member of the public raised concerns about vandalism and dog fouling if the land were opened to the public without restrictions.

TOWN MAYOR'S OUTLINE OF PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR AND BEYOND

Plans for the Civic Year 2023-2024 and beyond

The 04 May 2023 election was uncontested for Bingham Town Council. The new term Council, which currently consists of 13 Councillors, met for the first time on 16 May 2023. A vacancy exists in the South East Ward and is available for co-option to bring the Council back to 14 members. The vacancy is advertised on the local notice boards and website. Expressions of interest should be made to the Town Clerk and the closing date for applications is 11 June 2023.

The Council were joined in early 2023 by two new staff members and work to train those staff and progress recruitment for a second administrator will take place in 2023. The staff play a key role in supporting the Clerk with the running of the Council, to help maintain its assets and deliver its responsibilities.

Although the previous term of Council set a three year reserves plan with an indication of its priorities and ongoing plans, the new term of Council will review these, so they are subject to change.

- LONG STAY CAR PARK PROJECT ON THE FORMER ALLOTMENTS SITE

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In June 2022 the Council voted to progress options for the delivery of a car park with all interested organisations and after a meeting with Rushcliffe Borough Council, the Council agreed to work with officer support and funding from the Borough Council, to progress options for a Long Stay Car Park. The preliminary reports received in early 2022 were shared with the Borough and ITP (Integrated Transport Planning) were instructed to complete an access strategy report. ITP have been further instructed to complete a report on scoping and parking accumulation. Pre-planning advice has been received for the Council to consider and numerous meetings have been held with Network Rail as a key stakeholder in progression of the project.

- **RUGBY CLUB SPORTS AND COMMUNITY USE FACILITIES PROJECT AT WYNHILL**

The Council has completed a building condition survey on the pavilion at the Wynhill site to identify the work that is required to lengthen the life of the building, whilst funding options and plans are progressed. The Council will be continuing to look at funding options to progress the project and car park options are being investigated by the Rugby Club. The Council will be applying for UKSPF funding to assist with feasibility work to progress options for the site.

- **COMMUNITY EVENTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

The Town Council have committed to continue their successful partnership working with Bingham Community Events. Financial support for a series of events on the Market Place during 2023 was agreed when setting the 2023/24 budget, and this will once again include the popular Beer Festival and Classic Car Show. The Summer Fair and Christmas Market will once again be supported by Bingham Community Events and their fabulous team of volunteers.

- **COMMUNITY PLAY AREAS REFURBISHMENT PROJECT**

Bingham Town Council completed two of the planned three Play Area Refurbishments during the last term of office. Orchard Park and the Wychwood Road Play Area remain popular and the Council have committed to work with the Community Play Parks Group to focus on refurbishing the Cogley Lane Play Area during the next term of office.

- **CHAPEL LANE COMMUNITY LAND**

The Council instructed Welham Architects to complete a community consultation exercise with the public and local community groups, to identify opportunities for Community use for an available piece of land off Chapel Lane. The Council will be considering the next stage of feasibility and will be seeking UKSPF funding support to progress options for the land.

There are also many ongoing projects that the Council wish to progress that are detailed in the Council's three year reserves plan, these include:

- Upgrading or replacing the CCTV provision in the town centre.
- Branding launch for Bingham Town Council

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- Introduction of a Social Media Page to increase communication tools
- Security improvements of the Town’s open spaces
- Considering the Cemetery Review and Memorial Testing plans for Bingham Cemetery
- Progressing a maintenance schedule for the Old Court House

The Town Council is not in a position to self-fund all of the above projects. It will look to grant funding and will seek community support through community engagement activities to apply to the Public Loans Work Board (PWLB) for a loan or a series of loans if required.

DRAFT

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CHAIRMAN

Date.....