

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Town Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Daventry Town Annual Parish Meeting held at Mercure Court Hotel, Daventry a 15:00 on Saturday 22nd May 2021

PRESENT: Cllr Karen Tweedale– Chair and Town Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE: 9 Members of the Public
5 Daventry Town Councillors
0 Member of the Press
Deborah Jewell, Chief Officer
Sarah Fox, Responsible Finance Officer
Charlotte Jones, Community Ranger

1 WELCOME

The Chair, Cllr Karen Tweedale welcomed everyone to the meeting gave a brief introduction on her role and aims in her mayoral year and invited members of the Town Council to introduce themselves and the wards that they represent.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Annual Town Assembly held on 15th April 2019, were signed as a correct record.

3 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Chair referred to the Annual Town Report (Appendix 1) and advised those present that, if they were an elector of the parish, they could ask any questions relating to the town in the following item on the Agenda.

4 OPEN FORUM

The Chair asked those present to open the discussion on Town matters.

A resident from Daventry West Ward advised those present that she represented the Re-opening of the Outdoor Swimming Pool Group, a group that had over 1600 people supporting their aims to bring back what was once a very valuable asset within the community, that had been paid for by the community and closed by Daventry District Council, without any consultation with the community. The representative advised that the group had a vision for a multi-use outdoor venue, that could be used throughout the seasons for a variety of activities including swimming and they had tremendous support from residents with over 2000 signatures on a petition for the relevant local authorities to consider including this facility within their development plans. The representatives asked if the Town Council was now in a position to give the group their support.

The Chief Officer reminded those present that the group had already made representation to the Town Council earlier in the year, members agreed that due to the election in May and changes in local government for Northamptonshire they were unable to consider any proposals at that time. The Chief Officer continued to advise that as the cost of a project of this size would be outside the financial capabilities of the Town Council, the group should lobby their West Northamptonshire Council representatives to ensure their aims and the aims for a new leisure facility in the Town Centre Vision 2035 document remain on the Agenda for strategic planning in Daventry and West Northamptonshire.

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The Chair thanked the Chief Officer for the clarification and advised the group that the Town Council did support a swimming pool, within a leisure facility that was detailed in the Town Vision document adopted by the District Council and subsequently West Northamptonshire Council in March 2021.

Action: No further action required by Town Council, as full response given at meeting.

A resident from Daventry Central ward, asked what plans the Council had to resolve the issue of litter in the Town. The Chair advised that she was very active in relation to arranging litter picks and promoting litter campaigns in Middlemore and the wider community. The Chief Officer advised that the Town Council had invested monies that hadn't been spent on events in 19/20 (due to Covid) to enable residents to clear litter in their areas. She further advised that the campaign had been very successful and 90 litter picking kits had been distributed and the grounds maintenance contractors a noticeable reduction in litter when they cut the grass, hedgerows and street cleaning. Sadly, although the schools continue to educate their pupils there are still a percentage of individuals that have no regard for their environment.

The resident further advised her dislike of numerous purple bin bags being heaped at the end of the High Street, making the street look untidy. The Community Ranger advised that this was where the location where the Grounds Maintenance contractors brought all the litter bags for collection by their waste vehicle.

Action: No further action required by Town Council, as full response given at meeting.

A further resident from Daventry Central Ward, gave her concerns in relation to the possibility of West Northants Council charging for parking in Daventry. The Chair concurred with the residents concerns and advised that the Town Council had not been made aware of any changes to the current parking arrangements. The Chief Officer advised that the current Parking Order did not state any charges to the parking bands allocated to the car parks in Daventry Town centre, therefore there will need to be changes to this order and a consultation, which would include the Town Council, for any charges to come into effect.

Action: Note; should there be proposed changes in the Parking Order residents object to the introduction of parking charges as this will result in a loss of footfall to the town.

A resident from Daventry Central Ward asked why his requests for streets to be named after prominent Daventry residents had not been accepted on recent developments.

The Chief Officer advised that the process for street naming is the responsibility of the principal council, who will advise the Town Council that it has received a request from the developer for street names for its development. These names are usually based on a theme, for example Monksmoor streets are based on a theme of Abbeys. The Chief Officer clarified that the developer is not compelled to use the name(s) suggested and that they can choose to use other themes/names, an example is a small development off Staverton Road, where the Council put forward The Rivers (as the area has many roads named after rivers) and the developer chose Staverton Manor.

The Responsible Finance Officer confirmed to the resident receipt of the list of names of prominent Daventry residents and advised that the list had been put forward for consideration by members of the Planning and Development Committee in relation to the

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development of Badby Road West, whereat the theme of flowers was chosen. The RFO confirmed that the list would continue to be put forward for consideration by the Planning & Development Committee, as and when the Town Council receives requests for street names.

Action: That the list of prominent Daventry Residents be put forward for consideration by members of Daventry Town Council on receipt of a street name request where there is no theme.

Residents asked how they could stay updated with Council business and decisions. The Chief Officer advised that they published a newsletter twice a year, with details of events, meetings, and operational matters. All Council meetings, Agendas and Minutes, reports and documents were available on the Town Council website. She acknowledged that in the modern era technologies had diluted communication by virtue of there being so many ways to communicate rather than a single local newspaper read by every household. She confirmed that the Town Council promoted all its meetings via social media and put hard copies of Agendas in the Town Council window and the door of the office was always open for residents to pop in and ask questions.

Action: Town Council to advertise the Parish meeting in the local newspaper to ensure it reaches all the electorate.

A resident from Daventry West Ward raised concerns with the increased usage of e scooters within the town centre and the lack of respect for pedestrians advising of a situation where he had almost been knocked over himself.

The resident also raised concerns with cars, which had been adapted to run to make more noise and emissions, using the wider highway as a speed track with no respect for other road users or pedestrians. He also advised that Performance car companies located on Daventry Industrial estates were using the A45 as a test track, which was generating excessive noise and safety issues in this area.

The Chair shared his concerns and advised that she had already written to the Daventry Neighbourhood Team, asking for a meeting to discuss community safety issues and perceived community safety issues in the town and she would ensure she, personally would raise these with the Inspector.

The resident continued to advise that he and others were increasing concerned about groups of youths that gathered in large numbers making it very intimidating to walk into town to enjoy the night-time economy. The Chair concurred with these concerns and asked the Chief Officer to raise them at her next meeting with the Neighbourhood Police Team. The Chief Officer asked all present that any anti-social behaviour must be report on 101, or online, as the Police used this to manage its resources to deal with these issues.

Action: Town Council raise these concerns with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

The Chair, Cllr Tweedale thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 16:30 hrs.

SIGNEDChair/Town Mayor

DATE