

M I N U T E S
of the
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Held at the Town Hall Alton on Thursday 7th April 1994 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillor Mrs. J.L. Mann (Town Mayor)
Councillors P.M.G. Whitmarsh
R.A. Booker
D.G. Farr
D.G. Grenham
J.M.J. Janes
P. Mann
Mrs. J.M. Martin
P.V. Mendham
W.J. Tuck

Together with nine members of the Public.

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April 1993 which had been circulated at the meeting were confirmed as a correct record.

The Minutes were then signed by the Town Mayor.

2. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R. Andrews.

3. Town Mayor's Address

The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs. J. Mann opened the meeting by welcoming her fellow Councillors, Members of the Press and the Public to the Meeting.

She explained that this Meeting gave members of the Public an opportunity to ask questions or comment on Town affairs.

Any points raised would be noted and considered at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council.

The Town Mayor then referred to some of the many items which had been dealt with by the Town Council during the year and she paid tribute to the support given particularly by fellow Councillors, the Deputy Town Mayor and others.

The Town Mayor recalled the sudden death in November of Sir James Scott the Lord Lieutenant. Mrs. Jan Nicholas, the Manager of the Community Centre had resigned after nine years service.

One of her first duties as Town Mayor was to say Goodbye to Peter Fraser who had been Town Clerk for four years and who had taken up a



similar post in Petersfield. In addition Jack and Ivy Cooper had retired and Councillor P. Bicknell had resigned his seat as his work had taken him out of the area.

The Town Mayor had welcomed the new Town Clerk, Mr. Colin Gay and Keith Waller had taken over as Assembly Rooms Caretaker. David Farr had been elected to serve the South West and Beech Ward. Tony Barron had been re-elected to the County Council.

Last year the Sewerage scheme affecting The Butts had been completed and the Inner Relief road was completed in January. Simultaneously, the Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme was introduced which was the subject of a Public Exhibition now being held in the Assembly Rooms. Reference was also made to recent notable developments in the Town.

The Town Mayor referred to the efforts of the Alton Health Group to keep open Treloar's Hospital. She recalled the work of local organisations including the Rugby Club which had reached the finals of the Hampshire Cup.

The Town Council had arranged for lights to be installed in the Public Gardens and for new seating to be provided in the Assembly Rooms, for which the Hampshire County Council had generously given a grant of £1,000. Working parties were currently considering how best to restore the Cairn and to devise a Management Plan for Kings Pond.

Despite significant expenditure including the repayment of an outstanding loan in excess of £130,000, a small reduction in the Precept had been achieved.

The Town Mayor referred to the work of Alton Forum and the Marketing Panel. Also, two visits had been made by Mayors of other Towns and two important visits had been made to the Town by leading Politicians.

The Mayor referred to a Reception she was to hold and she hoped to add a substantial sum to the £365 already raised for her nominated charity.

As this concluded her address, the Town Mayor then invited members of the public from within the elected area of Alton to ask questions on matters relating the Town affairs.

4. Public Participation

Mr. Lambarth sought guidance on a submission to the Local Government Commission about re-organisation.

Mr. Davies reported that land opposite Kings Pond was overgrown. Whilst this was not land in the ownership of the Town Council investigations would be made to identify the responsible authority.

Mr. Armitage referred to untidy grass verges at The Butts roundabout which were the responsibility of East Hampshire District Council. He also referred to a lack of floral decoration in the Town. Councillor P. Mann on behalf of Pride in Alton confirmed that additional provision would be made in 1994.

Mr. Jones sought confirmation that decisions of the Alton Forum and the Marketing Panel were subject to scrutiny by the Town Council.

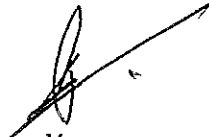


Mr. Turk referred to problems of road safety arising from the use of Butts Road and adjoining roads.

Mr. MacMillan-Staff inquired about the status of the Western Bye-pass and the lack of 30 mph repeater signs on The Butts road.

There being no further questions the Deputy Town Mayor Councillor P.M.G. Whitmarsh proposed a vote of thanks to the Town Mayor for the excellent was she had chaired the meeting.

The Town Mayor then declared the meeting closed.



Town Mayor.

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