

War 1 were read out prior to the lighting ceremony – something to remember – a mix of pride and emotion and a sense of such loss to all those families affected.

- Christmas Lights Switch-on and Yuletide which sees so many visitors and residents flock to the town centre and the wonderment of children in seeing the lights go on.

This indeed reflects the fun side of being your Town Mayor, but in closing he went on to thank all of the staff at the Town Hall who work so hard behind the scenes to make things happen and also a big thank you to all the grounds team who maintain and protect all of the council's open spaces in the town which are a great source of pride.

84 **Alton Town Council's Corporate Strategy Annual Review**

The Town Mayor asked for comments on the Corporate Strategy Annual Review, stating that he had read the document thoroughly and expressed the opinion that it was a comprehensive and open document which defined what the council does and its strategy for moving forward.

Councillor Pam Jones also commended the time and effort which had been put into producing such a comprehensive and well thought through review of the Corporate Strategy; a view endorsed by Councillor Graham Hill who added that it was an aspirational and ambitious strategy and again recognised the work that was put in by officers to deliver the strategy.

NOTED

85 **Alton Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Annual Review**

The Town Mayor asked for comments on the Corporate Strategy Annual Review. Councillor Graham Titterington commended the work of officers in establishing the monitoring group with Councillor Graham Hill stating that in talking with other local parishes quite a few of whom do not monitor their Neighbourhood Plans and therefore Alton should be commended for so doing.

NOTED

86 **Alton Town Council's Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018**

The Town Clerk tabled the latest set of audited accounts for Alton Town Council for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. The annual accounts were subject to internal audit by LitaTouch on the 20th April 2017 and presented to the Full Council for approval on the 26th April 2017.

The annual governance statements were subsequently approved by members at the AGM on the 24th May 2017 and submitted along with all of the required supplementary documentation, to BDO, external audit, at the end of June 2018.

The conclusion of the external audit was duly sent back to the Council with no comments being made by the auditors and were approved at the Full Council meeting on the 26th October 2017.

The Accounts were accepted as presented.

NOTED

87 **To receive questions and statements from Electors**

The Town Clerk confirmed that no questions had been received prior to the meeting.

Mrs Ginny Boxall made a plea, rather than a question and asked that councillors do not forget the “fringes” of the town and the gateways into Alton explaining that she along with Mr. Rod Eccles of the Alton Society had conducted a review of the entrances to the town and undertaken a lot of work including photographs of how these could be enhanced with greenery, planting and trees. The Mayor stated that this is something the “new council” could look at in May following the local elections taking place on Thursday, 2nd May bearing in mind the land ownership and maintenance questions which would arise.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 7.11 pm.

DRAFT