

**EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of the EARL SHILTON ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING**

Held at 7:00 p.m. on

**Tuesday 25 May 2021**

*At The Independent Chapel, 89 High St., Earl Shilton, LE9 7LR.*

**Members, officers and public present:**

Councillors: Deputy Town Mayor Cllr ME Leman

Mrs C Allen\*, R Allen\*, Ms D Almey, Mrs A Burton, A Darker, I Faver, B Granger, Mrs G Granger, R Hills, C Ladkin\*, K Lapsley, and Ms S Mannion.

In attendance:	Town Clerk	Mr ME Jackson
	Office Clerk	Mrs C Houghton
	Office Assistant	Miss AL Dowell
	Members of public	2 as separately recorded

**AEM 21/1.** *Deputy Town Mayor's welcome.*

Unfortunately the Town Mayor is currently unwell so the Deputy Town Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting including the members of the public, particularly, recently retired County Cllr Mrs Janice Richards.

***Noted and received.***

**AEM 21/2.** *Motion to accept the minutes of Electors' meeting of 14 May 2019 as a true record of proceedings, (No 2020 meeting due to the Pandemic lockdown). Resolved: to accept as a true record the tabled minutes of the meeting of 14 May 2019.*

**AEM 21/3.** *Town Mayor's annual address for 2020/21.*

Minute 21/3 is the Town Mayor's written report, which in the first instance was read out in full to the meeting by the Town Clerk and now form part of these minutes.

***Noted and received.***

**AEM 21/4** *Annual addresses from County and Borough Councillors.*

Former County Cllr Mrs Janice Richards:

- Station Rd speeding, HGV traffic and accident records remain issues still to be resolved.
- Doctors Fields/Hinckley Rd corner parking issues are being considered for yellow line parking restrictions.
- Barrow Hill (redundant) Quarry and approach road are still to be looked at for nuisance use cum ASB and a scene of a serious accident involving the Regional Air Ambulance.



- Public Toilet Wood St Library. It's disappointing that it is still not operative but if the delay can soon be overcome then it will prove that the effort has all been worthwhile.
- Mrs Richards hopes that her County Cllr successor from the 06 May 21 election, Cllr R Allen, will take up the baton and make good on this Division casework.

Borough Cllr C Ladkin:

- The private car park (aka *Shilton Lakes*) behind the Wood St park side shopping parade remains a disgrace to the Town's public realm. The owner has done nothing for well over 5 years or more to maintain their property to a reasonable standard that befits the not just the public realm but health and safety too. There has to be a renewed effort to remedy the situation.

Borough & County Cllr R Allen:

- Compliments to Janice Richards for all her fulsome and successful work for residents over many years of Council service across the board. Janice's shoes will prove big ones to fill as a County Cllr. May she have a long and happy retirement.
- *Shilton Lakes* – purchase of this private land may be pursued through future meetings of the HBBC Town Team Working Group.
- Much of the work of HBBC over the past 14 months has been devoted to combatting and alleviating the Covid19 Pandemic and its adverse effects.
- HBBC Housing Planning faces serious ongoing challenges, viz., the constant threat of sanctions for not proving a 5 year land supply for the Borough and delivering dwellings to target.
- HBBC have a new Mayor: Cllr Ted Hollick.

Borough Cllr Mrs C Allen:

- Heart felt thanks go out to Janice Richards for all her guidance and advice to Cllr Allen since she became a Borough Cllr 2 years ago.

The meeting Chairman congratulated Town Cllr Ross Hills for his election as a County Cllr in a neighbouring Division.

**AEM 21/5** *Electors' Time.*

A local resident came to state to the Annual Electors' meeting that he was and is very dissatisfied with Officers of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) regarding a planning application for a property adjacent to his own. Citing past present, and claiming future significant pollution issues and highways degradations, the resident sought reassurance that the Town Council will still support his objections made to HBBC, (the Local Planning Authority (LPA)). The resident did state that Cllr R Allen was at least engaging with his submissions to the LPA as his Borough Council representative. Cllr R Allen stated he will continue to pursue this Ward casework on behalf of the resident. Town Cllrs and the Town Clerk assured the resident that they have submitted detailed and comprehensive objections to the application calling on HBBC Building Control and Environmental Health services Officers to attend to the matter in person on site.

***Noted and received.***

The Deputy Town Mayor thanked all present for their attendance, contributions and closed the meeting in good order at 7.42 p.m.



EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE 2020/2021 ELECTORS' MEETING

As we reach the beginning of another year for Earl Shilton Town Council, few of us could have imagined the year we had lived through. I reported on the Coronavirus Pandemic last year and now words and phrases like 'lockdown', 'tier 3' and 'social distancing' have become common parlance. However, our High Street stepped up to the challenge and with take away meals, deliveries and moving to the internet, most businesses have managed to survive. The Tuesday market, although small – provided for our fruit, vegetables etc as has the popular Thursday visit by the mobile fresh fish man.

Unfortunately, due to the lockdown restrictions, East Midlands in Bloom as a competition was understandably cancelled, but our 'Bloomers' still did us proud, throughout the town, and encouraged by them, the residents joined in and lots of flowers were to be seen in the local gardens.

All of our Town Council Events had to be cancelled this year in line with Government advice, and this was a great disappointment for all concerned, but hopefully this Summer should see our excellent offerings starting again in July, as long as the 'road map' allows for the full unlocking on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. The one thing which did happen, although, not in its planned form, was the VE75 Event. The community were encouraged to have a 'front garden party', with social distancing, of course. The day was fine, and the celebrations continued throughout the day, and in a small way made up for the cancellation of the original party.

It was very sad that we were unable to have our act of remembrance in November, in the normal way, but wreaths were laid on the Cenotaph at various times on the Sunday and on the 11<sup>th</sup> itself.

We were unable to have the usual Christmas Light Switch On, but, nevertheless our lights were lit, and we finally had our longed for real Christmas Tree, which was an environmentally friendly arrangement with a local supplier, and which was removed at the end of the season. Next year we will be having the same system, and it is much thanks to the commitment of our Events Committee and in particular Anne Dowell the Town Council *Office Assistant*.

Moving on to some of our continuing projects, once more we have been told by the developers that an Outline Planning for the Sustainable Urban Extension should be placed before Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council probably in April 2021.

However, as April has been and gone, we have to ask again which April is being referred to. As a part of this scheme, discussions have been held once more with the Barwood Group, regarding the Pavilion scheme for Weavers Springs Park, but,

although they seemed to get off to a good start, the talks seemed to have petered out.

The Hinckley National Rail Freight Interchange is currently undergoing another online consultation. We are opposed to this plan which would see so much countryside concreted over, would bring pollution of all kinds, and would very likely become just more huge warehousing space.

I reported last year on the arrangements for the premises for our indoor staff and the public toilet which is a tripartite agreement between ourselves, HBBC and LCC. We are almost there now, just waiting for County and Borough Council lawyers to produce the final lease documents to sign so we will be able to have our up to the minute offices and meeting area, plus the public will have their toilet. Unfortunately, everything has to be signed off at the same time to allow this to happen.

Apart from the excellent work done by the aforesaid 'Bloomers', the private car park to the rear of the Wood St shopping parade is still as much of a mess, and although it is still discussed at Town Team meetings, there seems to be little progress.

One of the good things in Earl Shilton is the amount of unlet property. However, this has its drawbacks as it has led to Earl Shilton Amateur Boxing Club being forced to find accommodation in Barwell. We are still hoping that once we have secured a permanent home for our ground care team, this will encompass sufficient space for the club to return to their roots.

The new development on the Westfield Farm Site has really taken off now, and it is becoming a pleasant area on the verge of the countryside helping the Borough Council, as *Local Planning Authority*, in meeting their current strict Central Government house building target.

List of beneficiaries for Volunteer Community Group grants:

- Earl Shilton Town Cricket Club      £1,000
- Earl Shilton Camera Club            £300
- Citizens Advice Leicestershire      £250
- Earl Shilton Rangers (Guides)      £200

We continue to fully support Helen Cobley as our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, and Peggs Close Community House. In the last month we have had news that a replacement *Early Intervention Worker* is being sought, (significantly part funded by the Town Council on a 3 year basis), to steer young people away from substance misuse, and we, of course, are committed to supporting this excellent and worthwhile work, which is so important for the welfare of the local youngsters.

Our indoor staff have continued to work in their excellent fashion, despite the need to social distance, shield and whilst the Office could only offer restricted in person access to the public. Office Clerk, Carrienne Houghton achieved a top pass for her



Certificate in Local Council Administration examination in less than 6 months which by any standards is outstanding. We thank Mark Jackson, our Town Clerk, and Anne Dowell, our Office Assistant who all perform so efficiently together, and have done much more than just keep the wheels turning, sometimes in the most difficult of circumstances, such as a minority of residents not understanding the need for overall public safety by temporary closure of some of the most enclosed tactile play areas.

*The legacy legal issue has continued in the background, but due to the pandemic has taken far longer to go through its various stages than would normally be the case.*

Despite more than our fair share of staff sick absence this year, and one member moving on, the general consensus is that the Open Spaces and the Cemetery have never looked as well. During the time we have a new employee in Guy Bennett, an excellent worker, and whilst we have been short staffed, our old friend Chris Newlyn, has joined us on a part time basis. Our thanks go to Warwick Asbury and Rob Marston for all work that they have put into the area over the year. We have had a refresh trade-in with our plant equipment, which has enabled us to have tools and machinery more suitable to the work.

As a council, and in line with Government advice we continued to hold 'virtual' meetings, and these worked out well, but I think that it will be a relief to us all that this evening we are back to meeting face to face, albeit in a more spaced way.

At the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Elections we gained two new Town Council Members and are now up to our full contingent of 14 members. One of whom, Cllr Chris Ladkin is well known to us through his work as a Borough Member of many years and Cllr Ivan Faver and we welcome them both to our number.

I cannot finish this report without mentioning the retirement of County Cllr Janice Richards. Over the years, as a Town, Borough and County Cllr she has fought for things which the community needed, and deserved, and we are grateful for the time and passionate energy she has expended representing us on all levels of local councils, including her time as Mayor of HBBC and Chairman of LCC.

Another sad passing last year was a stalwart of Earl Shilton Town Council, HBBC and LCC, Denis Bown. I had known Denis for many, many years, and although we were poles apart politically speaking, we shared a deep concern and commitment to our Town and the community.

I thank everyone, including the Committee Chairs and their Deputies, and other members for the work they put in and for supporting me throughout this challenging year..... And I will finish with a final quotation from Shakespeare's 'All's Well That Ends Well' – NO LEGACY IS SO RICH AS HONESTY.

Cllr Mrs CM Coe



