

EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the EARL SHILTON ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

Held at 7:00 p.m. on
Tuesday 15 May 2018
At *The Stute*, Station Rd., Earl Shilton, LE9 7GA.

Members, officers and public present:

Councillors: Town Mayor Cllr Mrs CM Coe

Cllr C Newlyn, Cllr Ms L Panton, Cllr P Statham, Cllr M Tebbett, and
Cllr Ms A Williams
Borough Cllr C Ladkin

In attendance: Town Clerk Mr ME Jackson
 Members of public Nil

AEM18/1. *Town Mayor's welcome and apologies for Councillor absence.*

The Town Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting and announced apologies for absence from County & Borough Cllr Mrs J Richards; Borough Cllr R Allen; Town Cllrs, Ms D Bailey, Ms E Harrison and Ms B Hutt.

Welcome and apologies noted, received and accepted.

AEM18/2. *Motion to accept the minutes of Electors' meeting of 16 May 2017 as a true record of proceedings.*

Resolved: to accept the minutes tabled of the meeting of 16 May 2017 as a true record.

AEM18/3. *Town Mayor's annual address for 2017/18.*

Cllr Coe before giving her address remarked how vibrant the Town Centre looked this morning in the spring sunshine with a bustling well-attended Farmers Market and Church Stalls. All in all a 'good reflection' on the Town.

The Town Mayor delivered her annual report as read.

(A typewritten copy of the verbal report will form part of the minutes of this meeting)

The report was noted and received.

AEM18/4 *Annual addresses from County and Borough Councillors.*

Cllr C Ladkin noted that Cllr Mrs Richards was absent due to her final engagement in a busy year when she has fulfilled admirably the duties of Chairman of Leicestershire County Council. Cllr Allen was absent due to his commitment to attending the Annual Full Council of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. On a short theme, to be repeated at the subsequent Town Council's Annual Full Council, Cllr Ladkin stated that local County, Borough, and Town Councillors must continue to work together as they have done in the past year in the overall interests of all residents.

Noted and received.

AEM/17/5 *Electors' Time.*

No public/resident matters were tabled or presented.

The Town Mayor thanked all present for their attendance, contributions and closed the meeting in good order at 7.17 p.m.

Allee

ELECTORS' MEETING 15TH MAY 2018 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2017/2018

It's difficult to believe that another year has passed, and I am writing the Annual Report on the Town Council's progress through 2017/2018.

This has been a year of consolidation regarding our staff. You may remember that last year I reported that the indoor staff were a team of three – Mark Jackson our Town Clerk, Karen Miller who worked conscientiously, under Mark's tutelage and with training through Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils (LRALC), to gain her CILCA qualification, and Angie our Office Assistant, who covers amongst other duties front desk and working with the Events Committee. Our outdoor staff/Ground care team has increased with the arrival of Graeme Sloman to head up the team, and in April Tom Packer joined us as under the National Apprenticeship Scheme. Laurence Denis continues his work with us, adding to his skill set by attending various courses – some through Brooksby Melton College and others with LRALC.

There has been a change in Church Ward councillors during the year, one was to replace John Brown, who decided to stand down after over twenty years' service as councillor. During this time he served twice as Town Mayor and three times as Deputy Mayor, and we thank him for his commitment to our community. Our new councillors are Angela Williams and Emma Harrison, and we hope that they will be equally committed to the residents of both Church Ward and the wider community.

As part of our desire to bring our parks, cemetery and open spaces up to a high standard, we have this year invested in not just new staff, but also in new plant. Not least of these was a John Deer tractor and lawn mower and also a new Isuzu tipper truck. Regarding the new vehicle, we discussed at length the possibility of moving to electric, but it was decided to wait for the next version to be marketed before making this change, but we are committed to make this environmental change as soon as possible. Capital funds for these purchases come from housing developer contributions and not the Council taxpayer.

I come now to the perennial subjects of the Sustainable Urban Extension, Dalebrook Farm, and new office premises for the Town Council. Regarding the S.U.E. there have been periods of hope which have inevitably, it seems, come to nothing for one reason or another. Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC), the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the developer's consortium would appear to be unable to come to any agreement which would bring this stalemate to an end. This impasse is causing stagnation in the Earl Shilton Town Centre Vision, our local economy and of course our plans for utilising the revenue from the land option in Weavers Park to fund the long planned pavilion project.

During the year there has been little positive news on the thorny issue of Dalebrook Farm Gypsy and Romany Traveller site, but we continue to monitor the situation and hope that the conditions within the planning consents will be achieved in the not too distant future.

The project to provide office premises for the Town Council has continued through the year. The Feasibility Study was carried out for our preferred option

of shared premises. This, unfortunately, foundered as costs were too high. Our second Town Centre option failed due to being unable to secure a shared vision for the siting the premises, which would have included the longed for public toilets, on a virtually redundant area of Wood Street car park. After a summer of hard work by the Planning Committee and councillors in general, we arrived at our final resolution which is to build the premises on Weavers Park. It is hoped that this will eventually be joined by the long awaited pavilion, but funding is key, as is the future progress of the S.U.E.

More positive planning news comes from the progress of the proposed Westfield Farm site, off Heath Lane, which will bring around 350 new homes to our town. Work has already started on another smaller development by a local builder for 25 or so homes, again off Heath Lane. Another planning application for a site of 100% affordable homes on Birch Close is nearing conclusion and will provide 16 homes. The other good news during the year relates to the Heathfield School buildings on Bellevue Road. Leicestershire County Council decided that the original art deco building should remain, but that later additions would be demolished. This was very much what the Town Council had lobbied for, as the building is included in our preferred heritage list. On the subject of Heritage, our planned trails with a Town Centre Information Board, are nearing completion, thanks to the work of working party members including not only councillors but also volunteers from the community.

Last year I reported that we had committed to fund an early intervention worker for three years. Lynn Adderley started work in September last year, and we have had updates from her which show just how valuable a service she is providing for the students in all age groups at Heath Lane Academy. We continue our financial commitment to both Neighbourhood Watch and the Community House, and we have been instrumental in the provision of regular Citizens Advice sessions at the House. Earl Shilton Boxing Club had a difficult few months when their home at the former Wiltshire Carpets building was sold, and they were given notice to quit. Councillors were very active in helping them to find a new home in Earl Shilton, and they now operate out of the Parish Hall.

Earl Shilton in Bloom continue year on year to provide wonderful displays in our town. Last summer they improved on their previous results, being awarded a Silver Gilt in the East Midlands competition, as last year, but missing out on the Gold by just four points. We thank all of the volunteers for the hard work they put in, and we are proud to support them through our community grants.

Earl Shilton Town Councils events have their own special following, the Picnic in the Park last year was full of music from the sixties, Shilton by the Sea was, as usual full of everything seaside, for the young and young at heart. The Town Show categories challenge the growers, bakers and crafters of Earl Shilton, and the improvement in entries makes the judges decisions more difficult year on year. November sees two very different community gatherings. The first is the Remembrance weekend, with the main service on the Sunday finally having the benefit a road closure. This meant that this time of community reflection was not disturbed by passing traffic, and the growing numbers attending were able to

spread out all around the cenotaph to remember the sacrifice of the men and women of the village. The end of November saw the Christmas Light Switch On with everything Shilton have come to expect - children singing, Christmas music, hog roast, hot dogs, hot drinks, mince pies and, of course, an early visit from Santa Claus. My thanks must go to the Events Committee for all of their efforts throughout the year.

I am proud to have made many visits over the year representing Earl Shilton Town Council and community, listed more fully overleaf. I see this role not only as a way of learning what other people are doing, but also of raising the profile of Earl Shilton, and telling others what is happening here, and what our aims and desires are. Attending functions with other Mayors at civic events, including 2 at Leicester Cathedral, I am constantly surprised by the number who have no idea that we are a town which has its own Mayor, but gradually our town insignia is being recognised. I have enjoyed this time, especially the December visits to our residents in the local care homes, and at Age UK, where Geoff and myself enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch followed by dancing. We have sadly lost one home, Ivydene, but very soon a new one, which is currently under construction on the High Street, will be opening.

In closing can I say, that despite the inevitable ups and downs of each year, I am very positive about the future of Earl Shilton and its Council. My thanks to all of our staff and to fellow councillors and to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Beverly Hutt for their support throughout 2017/2018. I endeavour always to be honest in my life, my work for the Town Council and in my dealings with the wider community and so I will finish with a quotation which is close to my heart.

"No legacy is so rich as honesty." William Shakespeare

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List of engagements attended on behalf of Earl Shilton Town Council

16 th June 2017	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Community Awards at the Concordia Theatre
24 th June 2017	Armed Forces Day Service at Leicester Cathedral
16 th August 2017	Funeral of James Wheatley
16 th September 2017	Open Day at Rainbows Hospice
23 rd September 2017	Earl Shilton in Bloom Presentation Afternoon at Age UK
27 th September 2017	County Chairman's Lunch at County Hall
1 st October 2017	Leicestershire County Service at Leicester Cathedral
10 th October 2017	Ada Lovelace Day at Kirkby Mallory Race Track
14 th October 2017	Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Band Concert at St Phillips & St James Church, Ratby
5 th November 2017	All Age Remembrance Service at St Simons & St Jude's Church
11 th November 2017	National Two Minutes Silence at Earl Shilton Cenotaph
12 th November 2017	Remembrance Sunday Service at Earl Shilton Cenotaph
13 th November 2017	Schools' Remembrance Service at Earl Shilton Cenotaph
12 th December 2017	Visit to Parkhouse Grange Residential Care Home
19 th December 2017	Visit to Bethel/Bethesda Residential Care Home
20 th December 2017	Visit and Christmas Lunch at Age UK
11 th March 2018	Commonwealth Service at Leicester Cathedral
15 th April 2018	Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Civic Service at St Philip & St James Church Ratby
10 th May 2018	Mayor of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Civic Dinner at the 'Dog & Hedgehog', Dadlington