

EARL SHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the EARL SHILTON ANNUAL ELECTORS' MEETING

Held at 7:00 p.m. on

Monday 15 May 2023

At The Public Library, Wood St., Earl Shilton, LE9 7NE.

Members, officers and public present:

Councillors: Deputy Chairman/Town Mayor Cllr M Leman
A Bates and Ms D Deighton.

In attendance: Town Clerk Mr ME Jackson
Deputy Clerk Mrs C Houghton
Assistant Clerk Mrs N Mitchell
Members of public Two as recorded by the
Town Clerk.

AEM 23/1. *Town Council Deputy Mayor's welcome and opening remarks.*

After simple words of welcome and thanks for attending, the Deputy Mayor of the Town Council and Chairman of this Electors' Meeting proceeded to the agenda.

Noted and received.

AEM 23/2. *Motion to accept the draft minutes of Electors' meeting of 09 May 2022 as a true record of proceedings.*

Resolved: to accept as a true record the tabled minutes of the meeting of 09 May 2022.

AEM 23/3. *Town Council Chairman's annual address for the Civic Year 2022/2023.*

Town Council Chairman, Cllr R Allen's written report is attached to these minutes and was read out to all attending by Cllr Leman.

Noted and received.

AEM 23/4 *Annual addresses from County and Borough Councillors.*

The joint annual address from County and Borough Cllrs R Allen, Mrs C Allen and C Ladkin forms a written report to these minutes. Cllr Leman read the address to those attending the meeting.

Noted and received.

AEM 23/5 *Electors' Time.*

The Electors present on this occasion declined the offer to address the meeting.
Last item.

The Deputy Mayor thanked all present for their attendance, the Cllrs for their written contributions and closed the meeting in good order at 7.09 p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL STATEMENT TO ELECTORS MAY 2023.

It has been my privilege to serve Earl Shilton and our residents as Chairman of Earl Shilton Town Council for the last year, and what a year it has been.

We have had a Platinum Jubilee, a period of mourning, and the Coronation of a new King – not to mention three Prime Ministers!

As we pass from one session of Council to a new one following the recent elections, I would like to note and say a huge Thank You to everyone who has voluntarily given their time to serve Earl Shilton on the Town Council over the last year, in particular to my Deputy Chairman Martin Leman for his assistance and support.

The example of Martin and other Councillors, returning or not, reminds us that everyone who chooses to serve on Town and Parish Councils should do so on the basis of what they can put into the role, and not what they may get out of it.

During the last year, the Town Council has been pleased to, once again, stage a series of events for our residents, and it is only right to publicly acknowledge the huge amount of time and effort that Councillors and Council staff have put into making these events the success that they are.

I hope that the Council will continue to provide a range of popular and varied events for the benefit of residents and visitors during this term of Council.

Councillors and Council staff have been pleased to receive a number of compliments from residents about the standard of upkeep of the town parks and cemetery, I would like to recognise the sterling efforts of the Council's small Ground-care Team for looking after our town.

This leads me on to one of the more exciting developments in the last 12 months, which is that the Council are taking positive steps to (finally) secure a fit-for-purpose facility for our Ground Care Team, who currently work out of shipping containers dotted around the town.

After examining several possible sites and premises, I am delighted to say that Earl Shilton Town Council has reached an agreement with Earl Shilton Cricket Club to develop a new facility.

The aspiration is that the building will eventually provide a permanent, purpose-built ground care facility, council offices and meeting chamber, and community room with changing rooms which will also double as the new clubhouse and home for the Cricket Club.

This has been seen by everyone involved so far as a win-win solution, and although the project is in its very early stages, we are looking forward to having something to show and discuss with residents in the very near future.

I would like to close by welcoming all Councillors, new and returning, to this session of Council and look forward to working together to deliver for the residents of Earl Shilton.

Richard Allen
Chairman, Earl Shilton Town Council.

Annual Electors Statement from Borough and County Councillors – May 2023

Richard Allen – County Councillor

As with previous years, one of the principal topics of debate at Leicestershire County Council (LCC) this year has been funding, with LCC remaining one of the lowest funded Councils per head in the country. The County Members of Parliament have recently had a meeting with the Executive of LCC and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss these issues. One potential source of funding remains a “Level 3 Levelling Up Settlement” so LCC and the Government are currently examining ways that this could be achieved without including Leicester City, whose Mayor remains intransigent on cooperation.

I have also dealt with a range of casework over the year, including weeds in gutters, concerns about trees and primarily, highways and traffic issues. Through the LCC Members Highways Fund I have secured improved signage and road markings on Clickers Way at the entry to the 40mph limit towards Masefield Drive and Station Road. More recently, I also have agreement for additional signage and “slow” markings for the west-bound approach to Masefield Drive following a number of incidents in this location.

Other projects I have delivered include new safety barriers at St Peter’s Primary School on Mill Lane, a new permanent VAS sign on Station Road and two winter grit bins on Oaklands Drive and Montgomery Gardens. I am in discussion with the Highways Department at LCC for what they term “hard landscaping” features on Station Road to help control the traffic flow and speed at the Clickers Way end. I hope to have a resolution to this shortly.

The only local application that has come before the DCRB at LCC is the waste transfer site at Bracknell Farm which following representations and working with LCC Planning Officers, was refused as being contrary to LCC Planning Policy. There was also a recommendation for enforcement action.

I look forward to receiving residents’ varied queries and requests throughout the next 12 months and I will endeavour to deliver improvements to the Town.

Claire Allen, Richard Allen & Chris Ladkin - Borough Councillors

Over the past 12 months, we have helped with many issues from residents, including several fly-tipping incidents (we would like to thank HBBC’s Street Scene Team for their prompt response on each occasion), housing queries, homelessness, ASB and the Oyo Hotel.

The first stage of the King William development has come to fruition and Claire in particular has been helping residents with queries/concerns about this site. She will continue to keep a watchful eye over the second part of the proposed development to the rear.

The SUE finally shows some signs of moving forward and there are now three planning applications awaiting a decision by the Local Planning Authority. For those interested, the references are stated below and can be viewed on the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council website:-

20/01225/FUL – Permission Homes off Thurlaston Lane

21/01511/OUT – Bloor and Jelsons for up to 1,000 homes

23/00330/OUT – Barwood Homes for up to 500 homes to complete the development

We will continue to press for the maximum benefits to the town to be delivered should these plans progress to fruition.

We have raised concerns about the Borough Council's lack of a current up to date Local Plan which is now looking unlikely to be adopted until August 2025 at the earliest.

In addition, HBBC is failing to meet its housing delivery targets and is unable to demonstrate a 5 year housing land supply. This leaves the town and Borough open to speculative development. Indeed, the situation is such that HBBC is one of ten Councils in the Country who have received a letter from Michael Gove giving HBBC an ultimatum to show significant improvement or be subject to "special measures".

The financial status of HBBC also remains a concern and we will continue to hold to account Officers and the Administration to ensure the ongoing financial wellbeing of the Council.

The proposed Crematorium has been subject to a prolonged water monitoring scheme which should now have been completed. The future of this project depends upon the findings of these surveys and we will keep residents informed.

Finally, we look forward to raising questions and concerns on behalf of Earl Shilton residents with HBBC over the next 12 months.