

Thornbury Annual Town Meeting held on
Thursday 29 April 2021 virtually by Zoom

PRESENT:

Cllr Jayne Stansfield (Chairman and Mayor)
Cllr Chris Davies (Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Angela Symonds
Cllr Shirley Holloway
Cllr Bob Griffin
Cllr James Murray
Cllr Clive Parkinson
Cllr Guy Rawlinson
Cllr Matthew Stringer
Cllr Benj Emmerson
Cllr Maggie Tyrrell

Louise Powell (Town Clerk)
Minutes done from recording by Hannah Cornford (Administrator)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Helen Harrison, Liam Williams, Dan Potter

**OPENING
REMARKS:**

The Chairman and Mayor for 2020/2021, Cllr Jayne Stansfield, welcomed all present and made the following remarks: -

There hadn't been many civic events for her to attend in Thornbury over the past 12 months, due to COVID and the restrictions that came with it. She had attended a small, socially distanced Remembrance Service last November. Cllr Stansfield wished to thank the Town Hall staff for keeping services running during this period.

The last year had seen the passing of the late Cllr Clare Fardell, who had been a long standing member of the Council. A memorial tree had been planted for her.

Cllr Stansfield reminded those present that this meeting was not a meeting of Thornbury Town Council, but that there would be reports from the Chairs of Committees.

**MINUTES OF
THE LAST
ANNUAL TOWN
MEETING:**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 28.05.19 were shown, as the last meeting held. The 2020 meeting had been cancelled, as it fell at the beginning of lockdown. Those present voted that the minutes were an accurate record.

**MATTERS
ARISING:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting.

**PRESENTATION
COMPILATION
OF
ORGANISATIONS
THAT ARE
SUPPORTED
AND/OR WORK
IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE
TOWN COUNCIL** A presentation was shown with videos and words from Sight Support South West of England, Rekre8, Over 60's Tea Room, Thornbury & District Heritage Trust, Thornbury Christmas Lights Association, The Chantry Community Centre, Thornbury Volunteer Centre, The Willow Tree Centre, Thornbury Arts Festival, Phase, Krunch, Citizens Advice Bureau, Thornbury Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre, Inspire Arts Trust and Jigsaw. Each gave a summary of their activities and explained how the grant funding helped them achieve their aims and projects.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS:** The Chairman called in turn on Committee Chairs to present their reports.

**TOWN
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE:** The report of the Town Development Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Maggie Tyrrell. She explained that the committee comments on planning applications, approximately three quarters of which were decided by in line with Town Council responses. They had examined the High Street pedestrianisation and responded to South Glos Council's consultation, stating that the committee wanted the town traffic situation reviewed as a whole. Two major strategic documents were being developed, which the committee had looked at, the West of England Combined Authority papers and Local Plan.

**ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE:** The report of the Environment Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Matthew Stringer. He highlighted work that the committee had been involved in, including continuing to run a hanging basket scheme during 2020, which had involved a lot of changes due to COVID. The new Poulterbrook environmental area was progressing well, various bins had been installed and trees had been planted by the Tree Warden. He thanked the Town Hall and outdoor staff for their continued efforts, in particular the Playing Fields Supervisor and Deputy Town Clerk.

**PLAYING FIELDS
AND CEMETERY
COMMITTEE:** The report of the Playing Fields and Cemetery Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Clive Parkinson, who had taken over from Cllr Helen Harrison part way through the year. The playgrounds had needed to close for a period time due to COVID restrictions but were now open again. COVID had caused a delay with some of the plans to progress redevelopment works in the playgrounds, but work had continued alongside the Football Club to improve their facilities, which had included a new stand. There had been investment in new equipment at the Cemetery and plans had started to work on a possible extension. Work continued to care for the closed St. Mary's churchyard. He thanked the Deputy Clerk, Playing Fields Supervisor and outdoor staff.

**FINANCE AND
POLICY
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Finance and Policy Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Chris Davies. Small and revenue grants had been awarded as shown by the presentation earlier this evening. The committee had liaised with the police service, who had been doing a good job. The SLA agreement for youth services within the town had been a vital lifeline for many this year. The town Council had given £35,000 which had helped a number of young people and their families through the COVID crisis, in addition to all their normal works. The Committee had overseen a number of works to land and property, which were being proactively worked on to improve them and better meet health and safety requirements. During the tender process for hiring contractors, questions were now being asked to assess companies' environmental status. An internal audit had recently been carried out and the Council had been assessed as operating to a high standard.

**STAFFING
COMMITTEE:**

The report of the Staffing Committee was presented by its Chairman, Cllr Guy Rawlinson. He explained that Town Council staff had carried on despite difficulties caused by COVID restrictions and had coped well. Staff working for the Armstrong Hall, who had been employed by the Town Council, had sadly had to be made redundant due to the Pandemic. He concluded by thanking the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, office and outdoor staff.

**ANY MATTERS
RAISED BY
ELECTORS:**

Several electors wished to speak regarding the Armstrong Hall and the aims of a newly formed Armstrong Hall Action Alliance group. The feedback given would be passed to the Trustees of the Armstrong Hall Trust.