

# Axminster Town Council

Office Hours  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10am – 12 noon

Town Clerk:

[www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk)



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## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Meeting opened by Mayor. Cllr Jill Farrow. Tributes to Douglas Hull, Anni Young. Barry Draper.

Apologies: Martin Mynard, County Cllr Hall. 2 members of public.

Approval of the minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were proposed by Cllr Farrow and seconded by Cllr Sedgewick. (There being no meeting held in 2020 due to COVID restrictions)  
Unanimous.

There were no matter arising from these minutes.

The Town Mayor Cllr Farrow presented her annual report in which she referred to the production of the newsletter and the fact that no council meetings were missed but carried out online.

The Town Mayor Cllr Farrow presented her report as Chair of the Finance & Strategy Committee including, the introduction of Covid protocols. A report was still sought regarding the Arts Café fire. Arrangements were in place for the cleaning of the war memorial. Senior Citizens Centre had closed.

Cllr Spurway presented his annual report as Chair of the Cemetery Committee. Tree and shrub maintenance work carried out. Consideration for path maintenance in the future and possibility of a pathway through the field adjacent to the cemetery. New project of digital mapping the cemetery will take place. Thanks to John Hoden who was retiring after 32 years and to John Jeffrey for servicing and maintaining equipment.

Cllr Walden presented the Operations Committee report starting with allotments and advising there is a waiting list. Looking to provide more benches. Removal of old bus shelter at Millwey Rise. Planting paid for by the Town Council and carried out by Brian Ball and his team with John Jeffrey carrying out the watering. Jubilee field will be taken over by the Town Council.

Cllr Farrow in the absence of Cllr Leat presented the Planning report.

Cllr Sedgewick presented her report as Chair of the Employment Committee. Overseeing employment and recruitment of staff and employment policies.

The annual P3/Footpath report was received from the Hon. Footpath Warden Mr J. Vanderwolfe and read out by Cllr Farrow.

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Cllr Sedgewick reported on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Made up of councillors and local residents. Consultations to include views from local residents.

District Cllr Moulding spoke and thanked Cllr Sedgewick for her work on taking over Neighbourhood plan.

District Cllr Jackson spoke also thanked Cllr Sedgewick for taking over the Neighbourhood plan. Matters raised: Installation of electric charging points. Grants for businesses available to help business recover from Covid.

Report received from County/District Cllr Hall which was read out by the Town Clerk.

## **Public Forum**

Member of the public asked about a timescale for the re-opening of the Arts Café.

Request for CCTV to cover the entrance to the Old Court House.

Member of the public asked about the removal of tables from the outside of the Arts Café.

Member of the public spoke on behalf of Action in Axminster variety of projects identified, including benches on the green, planters, banners, gift cards to spend in local businesses.

Member of the public asked about the Senior Citizens centre, wants it to remain as a community venue. Town Mayor responded that no decision has been made with regards to this Centre. Another member of the public also requested it remains as a community venue.

Member of the public spoke on behalf of the Men's Shed asking for help to find a location/workshop for them to work from and as a place for the local community to come to. Member of the public asked about timescales for the Arts Café. The Clerk responded that no timescale had been given by the contractors.

A member of the public raised the issue of speeding traffic through the town. Town Mayor responded that the town council are looking into the purchase of mobile VAS signs.

Member of the public asked if the bench opposite Pisani could be dedicated to the late George Pye.

Town Mayor made a plea to the public present to consider standing as a councillor as there were 5 vacancies; also request for snow warden volunteers.

Town Mayor thanked the 22 members of the public who had attended.

Jeremy Walden wished a vote of thanks to all staff for hard work during covid to keep the council running.

Meeting closed at 20.05