

Axminster Town Council

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

Mayor: Cllr Jill Farrow
Town Clerk: Paul Hayward

www.axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk



THE GUILDHALL
WEST STREET
AXMINSTER
DEVON
EX13 5NX

Tel. 01297 32088

Email: Clerk@axminstertowncouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held Monday 4th April 2022

Draft Minutes – yet to be approved

45 persons present

Introduction:

Introduction by the Mayor of Axminster, Cllr. Jill Farrow who welcomed all present to the Annual Parish Meeting and highlighted fire exits, Coronavirus health precautions and also reminded those present that meeting was being “livestreamed” and so asked speakers to be mindful of their language.

Cllr. Farrow expressed her pleasure and honour in representing the town as the Mayor and thanked all of the speakers who had come to along this evening to share their experiences and thoughts on the evening’s topic “Axminster’s Community Spirit”

Apologies received:

Apologies received from Cllrs. Burrough, Huskisson, Leat and Mynard.
Also from DCC/EDDC Cllr. Ian Hall, Hon. Footpath Warden, John Vanderwolfe, Kerry Morgan (Project Food) and Cindy Furse (Light up Axminster).

Minutes of the last meeting:

Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held 24th May 2021 were considered and noted. Cllr. Farrow proposed adoption. Resolved unanimously. Cllr. Farrow signed the minutes as a true and accurate record of that meeting’s business.
No matters arising raised or commented upon.

Town Mayor’s Report:

Verbal report from Cllr. Farrow. A hard copy transcript is available on the Council’s website and from the Clerk (if requested). No questions or representations from those present.
Chair also announced the appointment of the new Town Clerk, Paul Hayward.

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Reports from Committee Chairs:

These reports had been received and circulated. They have been published online on the Council's website and are available, upon request, from the Clerk to the Town Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Report:

Presentation from Cllr. Andrea Sedgewick, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Cllr. Sedgewick thanked all involved to date (Councillors, officers and members of the public). No questions/representations from those present.

Reports from County and District Councillors:

Verbal reports from Cllrs. Jackson and Moulding to support the paper reports submitted and published on the Council's website. No questions/representations from those present.

Report from Chair of the Guildhall Management Committee (GMC):

Presentation from Mary Darlow, Chair of the GMC on the past 12 months activity, fundraising and future opportunities for the Guildhall. Ms. Darlow introduced Leigh Conley as the Guildhall Manager (appointed October 2021). Ms. Darlow thanked the Town Council and EDDC for their financial support, during and after the pandemic closure period. Special mention was made of the recent redecoration and carpet installation which has breathed new life into the building. Members of the public were encouraged to visit the Guildhall, partake in events and support fundraising initiatives. No questions/representations from those present.

P3/Footpath Report:

In the absence of Mr. John Vanderwolfe (Hon. Footpath Warden), Cllr. Holt kindly presented the annual P3 report. This is also available online via the Council's website and via hard copy upon request. No questions/representations from those present.

To receive presentations from community groups and organisations on the theme of "Axminster's Community Spirit":

Continued overleaf.

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In order of presentation:

Sarah Shepley	Axminster Health and Wellbeing Centre
(Dr.) James Vann	Axminster Care Service
(Revd.) Kay D'Albertanson	Pippins Community Hub
Karen Taylor	Nourish Axminster
Martin King	Rotary Club (Axminster)
Kay Pike	Plastic Free Axminster
Beverly Love	Axminster and District Lions Club
Simon Smith	Waffle (Axminster)
Jane Rockett	Axminster Chamber of Commerce/Totally Locally

Cllr. Farrow thanked all speakers for their presentations and for the incredible work they collectively do to make Axminster a vibrant, friendly, welcoming and caring town.

Public Forum:

Representation from Leigh Conley seeking requests for the use of the Guildhall as an event venue during the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June. The building has been hired by the Town Council and is available for organisations to use in conjunction with the Guildhall Manager. With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Cllr. Farrow closed the public forum session at 8.50pm

Continued overleaf.

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To consider any Parish Polls as requested by those present:

The Clerk had not been made aware of any parish poll requests and none were made by those present. As such, Cllr. Farrow closed this part of the meeting.

Closing statement by Town Mayor, Cllr. Jill Farrow:

Cllr. Farrow remarked upon the number of residents who had taken the time to attend (or were watching online) and thanked all the speakers once again for their participation. Cllr. Farrow highlighted the need for strong and active voluntary sector and encouraged everyone to give a little time to help their neighbours and fellow citizens for the wider benefit of all.

“Axminster truly is the home of Community Spirit”

With no further business to attend to, the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm.