



**Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly
Held on Monday 15th April 2024 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall**

Present:

Cllr E Tyrer Town Mayor – presiding
Cllr S Taylor, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr S Frazer, Cllr A Westby, Cllr P Wenham,
Cllr S Mackinnon, Cllr N Thwaites, Cllr G Dalton,
In attendance – Sharon Smyth – Town Clerk, Anne Willett – Clerks Assistant (minute taker),
Paula Witham - Admin Assistant, John Ketley, Tim Jonas, Richard Futter– Grounds Staff,
Reverend Matthew Jackson, St Marys Church, PC Damian Wicks (Norfolk Constabulary),
Sam Chapman-Allen, Leader Breckland Council, Cllr T Taylor, Public x 16

013/2023) Welcome by the Chairman – Cllr Tyrer thanked everyone for attending and thanked Guest Speakers for their attendance.

014/2023) Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 25th April 2022

On the motion of Keith Martin, seconded by Cllr Westby, it was
RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 25th April 2022. On agenda stated 25th May 2022 in error.

015/2023) To receive the Mayor's Report –

Cllr Tyrer thanked all here for attending, it is important as a Town Council we are here to support Community, I would like to thank Matthew, Sam, and Damian for attending tonight as this is the opportunity for you the public to question the role of organisations. I would like to express the loss of Cllr Joe Ellis and also welcome new Cllrs but also express what our role is to support the Community, and may I personally say it has been an honour and a privilege for the past twelve months to have been Mayor and Chairman of this Council and I'm sure the new Chairman and Mayor will also do the same. The role of the Council is to support the Community and work together with key stakeholders. I would like to say welcome to Megan Free whose been appointed by Breckland as Attleborough Partnership Programme Manager and that is a massive step forward working with Breckland as a Town Council we have limited powers all we can do is represent the position of the public and work with partnerships to make that happen. As part of that one of the successes has been the improvement of the Sports Centre and again Breckland thank you very much for that and we have worked with the Attleborough Academy and the Education Trust to facilitate a new 3G football pitch which is now happening with the financial involvement of the Town Council so that is a massive project going forward. Also I invite Cllr Taila Taylor who is Chair of the Environment Committee on what they are looking at in terms of developing open space play areas so London Road we have done that, also looking at other projects Jubilee Wood and working with Breckland and Norfolk Wildlife Trust so a lot going on and I thank other Cllrs for doing and undertaking. There is the Eco project at the Church, Matthew thank you very much for being involved in that and Council fully support that. We have also supported other local groups through grants and as a Town Council our role is to support local groups. One of the most successful ones is the Community Book Sale thank you to Sue and everyone else who has been involved. We are looking to improvements to the Town Hall in terms of accessibility. Bloomers and Norfolk Wildlife Trust, the Bloomers have done fantastic work that goes sometimes under the radar, but can I thank all of you and some of you are Cllrs for doing that, making the Town beautiful and improving it. When we had the flooding in October, where the Town Council, Breckland and others came together to support the Community, that shows I think the Community of Attleborough came together and that makes Attleborough unique and everyone involved in that, Breckland, the police, fire brigade. So finally, as a Council we have a new

Town Clerk Sharon and the support team, the Grounds people, everyone behind the scenes makes Attleborough great.

016/2023) To approve the Attleborough Town Lands Charity Account (Rev Matthew Jackson)

Reverend Matthew Jackson, Chairman of the Attleborough Town Lands Charity Account presented the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021.

- In the year 2023 income from rent, deposits and the investment portfolio managed by Barratt & Cooke was £13,990 compared to £22,658 in 2022
- The Trustees granted £39,467 to individuals and groups serving the community, compared with £21,945 in 2022 and £39,467 in 2021
- The main criteria for individual applications are genuine need, the receipt of state benefits and residency in the town. We would encourage organisations serving the people of Attleborough to apply on behalf of clients who meet these criteria to the Secretary, Mrs Pat Buttolph, at St Mary's Church office.
- I would like to thank the Trustees and Treasurer, who give freely of their time and experience.
- I would say we have given away less last year because less people asked for money and our real problem is identifying people who are in genuine need. If we advertised would you like some money, we would not be short of applicants but identifying people who are in real need is a problem for us and we are developing partnerships with the schools Citizens Advice and other people who make referrals and hopefully we can give away a bit more money this year.

017/2023) Guest Speakers

• **PC Damian Wicks (Norfolk Constabulary) –**

PC Damian Wicks introduced himself as the neighbourhood police officer for Attleborough and explained together with his colleague PC Dion Phillips are Beat Managers and are supervised by their Sargeant from Thetford. As we are based in the Town our role is to deal with Community issues, provide visibility in the Town and get involved in Events that are happening. To promote our involvement monthly we have 'Coffee with a Cop' here at the Town Hall, once a month we are at the Library. We have recently been working with Trading Standards, Norfolk County Council, Licensing Breckland Council, and immigration service, we work with schools offering talks on County Lines, On-Line safety, age of Criminal responsibility, we cover approx. twenty Parishes. We also get involved in public events; we attend fetes including Old Buckenham Air Show. Dion has been dealing with the Laser offences against the Air Ambulance Service and is still and ongoing investigation. Finally, we hold our SNAP meetings the next one is being held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 18.30pm at Rocklands Village Hall and is an opportunity for the public to bring any issues to the forum, our current issue we are dealing with is road safety across the whole area.

• **Sam Chapman-Allen (Leader Breckland Council)**

Sam Chapman-Allen stated there were three areas he would be covering tonight, one is around a future Breckland Project, Breckland Council 500 square miles, 47,000 residents, 114 parishes across the District and part of what we do is to ensure all 5 of our Market Towns have a really strong identity and looking at the new branding for Attleborough Town Council you've absolutely hit the nail on the head. So, part of our future Breckland work was to ensure that Breckland should not been doing things to the Community, so what we set out to do was to ensure that the Community would set out how it wanted its Market Town to look. So, across our future Breckland Programme we worked and consulted with 20,000 residents from across all of our Communities businesses, voluntary sector, young people, and schools to determine what you want your Town to look like. So, we delivered our future Breckland programme and each market

town has that as it moves forward and that's the document we use as a Council but the Town Council use the County Council and other agencies is to ensure that we guiding our work and activity around that to make sure that's the principles we work towards. Some of that has been alluded to by the Mayor so one of the big things we have been doing in partnership with the Town Council, the Football Foundation, and Attleborough Academy is the improvement to leisure the Town has been desperately asking for many years. Three million pounds of investment to improve the existing public leisure at Academy school but to also introduce the 3G pitch, a much-needed asset. Beyond that we have been really pleased with being able to work with Elizabeth from AttCare, local MP and other organisations to ensure that we are dealing with the future provision of health improvement so through the Urban extension and the growth we are going to see in the next ten to fifteen, twenty years is a substantial contribution to moving forwards, so we do we look at a new stand-alone facility or do we look at expanding the existing facilities within the Community, I just want to praise Elizabeth for her absolute herculean effort over the many years which has been immensely challenging difficult but she has never allowed that to remove her from her direction of travels. You have heard about Homes England; they are the current body who are leading on all the growth within the Community of Attleborough, so working really hard with Homes England and Town Council to understand how to ensure our community does not feel a bolt on to the existing market town of Attleborough but is integrated fully into that and part of that are around the infrastructure of the Link Road, Primary schools, health but actually some of those wider well-being facilities that Cllr Taylor has been pushing really hard with others across the Town around the Linear Park which is that kidney shape open spaces and we were really insistent that Homes England came and delivered an in person consultation session which they have done recently in Queens Square regarding what does the Community need for future generations to ensure it is supporting the existing Community as we move forward. We have also heard the change to Attleborough Development Partnership, this is all tiers of Government, County Council, District and Town Council sitting together with a fantastic jointly funded officer, I am so pleased for the Mayor's work, through his stewardship we have been able to achieve that, it is great to have Megan here tonight to ensure we are driving forward on all the Communities activities, we have spoke about the future Breckland Plan, the Urban Extension with the funding coming forward for that, keeping a watchful eye on Homes England and their activity but also supporting the Town Council and it's Neighbourhood Plan and more importantly communicating to you as a Community of Attleborough. The renewed Neighbourhood Plan is a really important document, Attleborough Town Council is one of the first across Breckland to adopt a Neighbourhood Plan and that allows local policies for what you want your community to look like now, protecting those open spaces, protecting those historic locations across the town and everything we are doing at the moment is around partnership, more recently I am really pleased we were able to support the Town Council with ALMK (A Little More Kindness) project, a fantastic addition. One of the big tragedies was the flooding and I just wanted to praise Stepen Fraser, Sam Taylor, and Taila Taylor for all their herculean effort and being a public face for all those residents who found themselves in immensely challenging circumstances and I am pleased Breckland was able to with our officers. As a Council we deliver about 86 services, we support residents in most need offering help with Mental Health and Social Isolation, Domestic Abuse, Homelessness, Food Hardship Scheme, Mobile Food Bus, Citizens Advice supplying officers for debt advice, helping residents across the whole of the District. We continue to deliver our Mindful Towns programme supporting communities in towns delivering mental health training which has been immensely successful. Our work with Domestic

Abuse which sadly can go unnoticed includes working and supporting Daisy Programme a local charity in the Breckland area. Just wanted to end on a bit of a high, Fly tipping is a big concern as a District we are reinvesting further into Anti-Social behaviour and Fly Tipping Officers, and we are one of the top 100 Councils performing in the East of England.

Cllr Tyrer thanked guest speakers and before opening the Open Forum wanted to state as a Town Council, we appreciate all the Town Councillors, we appreciate the input of individuals, community, businesses and appreciate working with key stakeholders not least Breckland ADP and key stakeholders and looking forward to the future.

Rev Matthew Jackson, St Marys Church

Rev Jackson stated they had been involved in Eco Church at St Marys and wanted to thank the 'Bloomers' and Town Council and everybody who has been involved, you see some more changes in the Church yard this year, it managed slightly differently so please do not complain about the grass that has been left uncut, enjoy the wild flowers, there are some particular unusual ones that were identified by Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Ladies Bed Straw, so thank you to the 'Bloomers' who have worked so hard.

018/2023) Open Forum (30 Minutes)

A general question was asked about Communication, how do you communicate to people who do not use social media?

Leaflets are a good method, posters in Church Halls, Breckland have a magazine, flyers in Doctor surgeries, Local Radio, BT Open Reach display board.

Cllr T Taylor praised the Grounds team members for their contribution during the flooding delivering over 400 sandbags in 4 days.

Cllr Tyrer thanked Town Council staff for everything they had done during his Term and during the floods everyone coming together illustrated the community spirit of Attleborough and working with Breckland, due respect Sam, Rob, colleagues at your Council for reacting to that was remarkable and we can only thank you sincerely. Personally, as Chair of the Council, I would like to thank you Sam Rob, Megan, everyone else District Councillors and Community.

Cllr S Taylor added that during the flooding last year was the first time ever the Council had to enact its Emergency Plan, not only was Rob here at the drop of a hat to nearly eleven at night, our Clerk was only on a temporary contract then and she pulled it out of the bag together with office staff. So, I think we all did really well.

Elizabeth from AttCare stated that she had worked as part of a team along with George and Mary Ridgway, Breckland Council and the Town Council had been incredibly supportive.

Resident asked the best way to contact Norfolk police if concerned about particular Trading Standards issues

Best way is to email or Control Room 101 or contact Trading Standards direct

Cllr Tyrer thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 7.52pm