

Swaffham Town Council

Minutes of the **Annual Town Assembly** meeting held on **Wednesday, 24th April 2019** at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present: Mayor Cllr C Houghton (Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs B Bowler, Mrs Buckley-Stevens, Mrs S Lister, Mrs S Matthews, Mrs J Skinner, Mr P Darby, Mr R Bartram, Mr S Bell

Town Clerk: Mr R Bishop
Office Administrator: Mrs H Duggan

Breckland District Council Cllr I Sherwood

Community Speakers: Mr D Saunders, Dr S Gattuso, Mrs S Palmer, Mrs S Skinner, Mrs C Cogliatti, Mrs R Leggett, Mr D Wickerson, Mrs J Anscombe

Public: 26 including the Community Speakers

1. **Mayor's Welcome and opening Remarks**
The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Assembly including the young people who had come along as well.
2. **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr A Thorp - unwell
Cllr T Jennison – family commitments
Cllr L Scott – work commitments
Cllr W Bensley – work commitments
Cllr E Colman – work commitments
Mrs C Peak – family emergency
3. **Declarations of Interest** *(for items on the agenda)*
There were no other declarations of interest.
4. **Minutes**
With the addition of Cllr P Darby as attending the meeting in 2018, the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on Wednesday, 25th April 2018 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record by the Chairman.
5. **Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan** – Mrs R Leggett
Mrs Leggett delivered an update on the background and journey of the Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan leading to the Referendum on May 2nd, 2019 - *see Appendix 1*.
The Mayor Cllr Houghton thank Mrs Leggett on behalf of the Steering Group and Swaffham Town Council for her considerable hard work and determination in getting the Neighbourhood Plan to referendum next month.
The Mayor Cllr Houghton presented Mrs Leggett with flowers and a gift to show the Council's appreciation.
6. **Community Reports:**
 - 6.1 **Police**
There was no one able to attend and a report was not given in advance.
 - 6.2 **Breckland Council** – Cllr I Sherwood
Cllr I Sherwood circulated a report to the room – *see Appendix 2*
 - 6.3 **Norfolk County Council**
Cllr Ed Colman was not able to attend; his report was circulated at the meeting – *see Appendix 3*

- 6.4 **Iceni Partnership/Youth Development – Mr D Saunders**
Mr D Saunders read out a report and a brief update on Youthie activities - *see Appendix 4*
- 6.5 **Swaffham Twinning 2018 – Mrs C Cogliatti**
Mrs Cogliatti provided an update on the recent 50 year celebrations that took place in September 2019 in Couhe, France and the signing of the new Charters
- 6.6 **Swaffham Heritage – Dr S Gattuso**
See Appendix 5
- 6.7 **Traffic and Access Focus Group – Mr J Dean.**
Mr Dean explained the background to the Transport & Access Group and the main activities being looked at.
- 6.8 **ESCAPE project and Friends of Swaffham Orchard – Mrs Clare Peak**
See Appendix 6
- 6.9 **Swaffham Swimming Pool – Cllr Jill Skinner**
Cllr Skinner provided a brief update on the progress of the Swaffham Swimming Pool
“News from the swimming pool committee to update you on our progress this year.
We continue to have a strong following and use this successfully as a platform for communication.
After carrying out our own feasibility survey we were really pleased with our response:
There were over 1000 responses in 6 weeks with 98% in favour of the pool.
The town has wanted a pool for a very long time - doctors, schools and businesses are in favour.
We have always said that we will be flexible with plans in order to achieve this goal. For example, in regard to Indoor rather than outdoor or changing the sizing.
We were in discussions with a private business concerning significant funding however without support from Breckland we could not take this any further. We would like to thank those who have been behind us this year, however it is essential that we have full backing from our Breckland councillors.
Without this, we cannot give our community this wonderful asset which they both need and desire”
- 6.10 **Swaffham in Bloom – Cllr Bowler**
See Appendix 7
- 6.11 **Town Team – Mr David Wickerson, Mrs Judy Anscombe**
See Appendix 8
- 6.12 **Breckland YAB – Mrs Sally Palmer**
See Appendix 9
- 7 **Mayors Annual Report**
The Mayors annual report was circulated at the meeting – *see Appendix 10*
- 8 **Accounts 2018, Budget 2018-19**
The Town Clerk tabled the accounts and delivered a report on the annual finances – *see Appendix 11.*
- 9 **Open session**
There was no correspondence received and no questions from the floor.
- The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and expressed his gratitude to those who had given a report.