

ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 8TH MAY 2018 AT 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Eleven Parish Councillors, The Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the Town Council and four members of the public.

The Annual Assembly Meeting for the Parish of Ashbourne is to be convened in accordance with Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972

(a) Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting

Mrs Carole Dean was appointed as Clerk for the Meeting.

(b) Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 9th May 2017

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2017 were previously circulated and approved.

(c) Members attendance at Parish Council Meetings 2017/18

Details of Parish Council Members attendances at meetings were given (appendix 1)

(d) Mayors Report to include the presentation of the cheque for the Mayor's Charity - Mind

Mrs Brown welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly Meeting for the Town of Ashbourne. She said that she had had a busy year representing and promoting the town and had attended numerous engagements. She stated that there had been a lot of support from local groups and organisations, which had been enjoyable as she had always been treated 'like royalty'.

Mrs Brown said that one of the highlights of the year had been Ashbourne Treasures, and their achievements.

Mrs Brown said that her chosen charity for the year had been Mind, and the cheque she was presenting included funds raised by her daughter and son-in-law who had completed an expedition to 'Base Camp'. Mrs Brown presented a cheque for £3,122.93 to Andrea Shipley who was the representative attending on behalf of the charity.

(e) Environment Committee Report

Mr Bates said that last year's floral display had been rather disappointing, however this may have been due to the poor summer weather; and this year the number of hanging baskets ordered by business in the town was slightly down on the previous year.

The firework display last year had once again proved very popular and the display was one of the best for a long time.

The Christmas Light Switch-On was very successful and well attended with the lights being turned on by the winner of the Town Hall Christmas Tree decoration competition. Darth Vader and the Stormtroopers had also proved a great success at the event as had the Dalek.

Following the Late Night Shopping event in December 2016, the Ashbourne Christmas Community partnership had been formed to task and organise the event for 2017 and beyond. The Town Council

were a key leader in the group together with traders and Ashbourne Arts and Churches Together. The format for the event worked well and plans are already under way for 2018.

Mr Bates thanked councillors and those who helped make the past year a great success and added that the biggest thanks went to the office staff, as people did not realise the amount of work they put in behind the scenes to make sure events happened.

(f) Planning Committee Report

Mrs Spencer said that during the 2017/2018 the planning committee have discussed 105 planning applications, which was one more than the previous year. There had also been 9 Tree Preservation Order (TPO's) applications.

Mrs Spencer said she wished to thank fellow councillors on the planning committee, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their help and support during the past year. She added that at times it had been a tough year due to low numbers on the committee, but they did manage to remain quorate.

(g) Finance Committee Report including Accounts for 2017/18 and Precept for 2017/18

Mrs Brown said that the Town Council has started the year with a precept of £250,985 for 2017/18; which was a 2.14% increase, equivalent to 4 pence per week for band D property.

Donations for 2017/18 were agreed for the following:-

Ashbourne Arts £2,500.00 plus the use of the Town Hall for the two weeks of the event.

Ashbourne Town Band £300.00, and QEGS FPTA £500.00.

Following a change in the procedure for applying for funding, the window was now open for application for 2019 and the closing date for applications is the 30th September. All the relevant information and forms are on the town Council's web-site.

Regular bookings at the Town Hall remained similar to previous years, however there were a few new one including Yoga, Pilates, Ballet and Fencing.

(h) Parish Matters raised by the Council or Local Government Electors

A resident asked whether Derbyshire County Council (DCC) could be asked to look into Parking Regulations in particular outside the former police station on Compton, as this could now be parking spaces for residents and visitors. The resident also questioned whether the time for parking on Station Street should be raised to 1 hour, and Church Street to 2 hours to try and encourage people to the town. Concerns were also raised regarding the loss of parking spaces from the re-development of the former Bus Station to residential retirement apartments, and the loss of the green space, formerly a bowling green.

The resident asked whether developers could do more to improve play areas for children, particularly at Brickyard Cottages.

Mrs Brown said that those points could be addressed to the relevant authority.

Mr Bates said that the over-flow carpark had not been open over the Bank Holiday weekend and questioned why. It was also commented that the splash park on the recreation ground had also not been operating despite it being forecast a very warm Bank Holiday weekend.

Mrs Brown thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed 7.46pm

Members attendance at Parish Council Meetings 2017/18

17 Meeting held

COUNCILLOR	ATTENDED	ABSENCES
BATES. A	16	1
BATES. I	10	7
BROWN. D	14	3
BULL. S	13	4
CLAYTON.S	15	2
COOPER. C	7	10
GOLDING.A	14	3
HARRIS. J	16	1
HARRIS. N	14	3
MOON. D	9	8
SMITH. A	10	7
SPENCER. M	16	1
SPENCER. S	16	1