

ASHBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 1st MAY 2024 AT 7:00 PM IN THE BALLROOM, TOWN HALL, ASHBOURNE

PRESENT: Twelve Parish Councillors, The Clerk and Assistant Clerk to the Town Council
Representatives from Ashbourne Arts; Ashbourne Aztecs; Ashbourne Street Bunting and Defibrillators for Ashbourne; Mr Dobbs, Derbyshire Dales District Cllr.

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

Mr Bates welcomed everyone to the meeting.

(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 25th May 2023

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th May 2023 were previously circulated and approved.

(c) Ashbourne Arts to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

Mr Walker thanked the Town for the opportunity to give an update on Ashbourne Arts and how the funding was used. He said that this year was their 25th Anniversary, and that they had been honoured to receive a Mayor's recognition Award.

Mr Walker said that the Festival is a 17 day event; which starts with an Art Exhibition in the Town Hall, Internation Streetfest over the middle weekend and Picnic in the Park on the final weekend; other events include a comedy night; American Highway Rock Festival; Explosive Food Show and Shakespeare's Julius Caesar to name a few.

Mr Millman said that Ashbourne Arts had received two different pots of funding from the Town Council; one for the annual Arts Festival and Lantern Workshop and the other for It renewal; which was used to purchase five new laptops; three of which would replace obsolete PC's.

Mr Millman and Mr Walked thanked the Town Council for their continued support over the years, and also to all the other groups and organisations who support them.

(d) Ashbourne Town Band to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

No representative was in attendance.

(e) Ashbourne Community Transport to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

No representative was in attendance.

(f) Ashbourne Aztecs to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

Mr Brown thanked the Town Council for the invitation to give an update on Ashbourne Aztecs; he said that the number of players had increased from 300 – 420; with 120 of those being female players; and over the next three years the number of teams was likely to increase from 23-30 which was approximately 500 players.

Mr Brown said that there was an open invitation to attend Aztecs presentation day on Sunday 19th May; and showed a photo of the 300 players from 2023 who had attended.

M Brown said that Aztecs had committed to invest £13,000.00 in local pitches and the long-term goal was to have a 3G pitch in Ashbourne.

Mr Brown thanked the Town Council for their continued support.

(g) Shrovetide Committee to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2024.

No representative was in attendance.

(h) Mr Spencer – Ashbourne Sheep Fair Ltd to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

Mr Spencer was not in attendance.

(i) Report from Ashbourne Street Bunting Committee on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

Mr Clayton said that he had taken over Ashbourne Street Bunting five years ago; and each year they put up 5 miles of bunting. Mr Clayton said that in 2023 the group had set up a GoFundMe Page; and with the donations from individuals and organisations they purchased new bunting for the town.

Mr Clayton said that the groups were always looking for volunteers to help put the bunting up each year; he thanked the Town Council for their funding adding that once you have an offer of funding it seemed easier to get others to contribute.

(j) Lilian Hainsworth; Secretary RBL, Ashbourne Branch to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

Lilian Hainsworth was not in attendance.

(k) Defibrillators for Ashbourne to give a report on how the funding from Ashbourne Town Council was used in 2023.

Mrs Smith said that Defibrillators for Ashbourne had started 10 years ago to supply Ashbourne with Community Defibrillators; with each being checked monthly, and all are linked into East Midlands Ambulance Service ensuring lifesaving equipment is safe and ready to use.

Mrs Smith said that as well as the 9 defibrillators she has been providing free CPR and defibrillator awareness sessions, not just for Ashbourne residents but also surrounding areas including Sutton on the Hill, Bradley, Doveridge, Hlland, Cromford, Matlock, Clifton, Snelston and many more with many families, clubs and businesses having benefited from these sessions.

The group then agreed that a 10th defibrillator be purchased and placed on the wall at QEGS 6th Form Centre which will ensure that all of Green Road and up to the top of the Punch are covered. Permission and location permission was approved by Mr Garrity Head Teacher at QEGS and fund raising has started. Another £2500.00 is required for the purchasing, which is in a vandal proof cabinet with a spare battery and £56.00 per pair for the pads. To date we have approximately £1500.00 towards this which includes the £500.00 from Ashbourne Town Council for which we are extremely grateful.

We are very proud to say that every penny ever given towards the defibrillators has been used solely for this purpose. Nothing has been claimed for anything else.

Mr Bates thanked the representatives for attending and giving an update; he added that it was a requirement of received funding to attend the meeting, and he was disappointed that quite a few people were not at the meeting.

(l) Members attendance at Town Council Meetings from May 2023 – May 24 (14 meetings)

Councillor	Attended	Absence	Total Possible
BATES. A	12	2	14
BROWN. D	14	0	14
BROWN. E	12	2	14
CHELL. P	11	3	14
CLARKE. G	13	1	14
CURRIE. R	12	2	14
COOPER. C	14	0	14
KEYNE. J	13	1	14
MICHALEK. B	14	0	14
MOORE. S	12	2	14
SMITH. A	9	4	14
SPENCER. M	12	2	14
SPENCER. S	14	0	14

(m) Mayors Report

Mr Bates said that it had been an honour and a great privilege to be Mayor for the past year; he had attended over fifty events during this time as Mayor and raised over £1,000.00 for Meningitis Research Foundation and £265.00 for Ashbourne Play Away.

(n) Community & Environment Committee Report

Mr Brown said that during the past year as ‘chair’ of the C&E Committee, he had taken great care to ensure the committee work to promote the town in a favorable light. He added that the committee is responsible for the planning and executing of events and also supporting outside groups with their events including road closures and insurance.

Mr Brown said that once again the Town Council were promoting the Hanging Basket scheme in the town with the Town Council subsidising the scheme to help keep the cost down for local businesses. An on-going planting scheme in Bradley Wood saw the planting of saplings in November 2023; with the sapling being applied for through the Woodland Trust scheme.

The committee also joined others in the UK planting a tree as part of The Queen’s Green Canopy, with the planting an Oak Tree on the recreation ground.

Other highlights throughout the year included the first lighting of the Commemorative Beacon; sited on Fishpond meadow; which was lit for the Coronation of King Charles, the next lighting will be the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on Thursday 6th June at 9.15pm.

The annual events such as the Fireworks Events; Christmas Light Switch-On and lantern Spectacular continue to grow in popularity; and he thanked the office staff for keeping everything safe, legal and coordinated.

(o) Planning Committee Report

Mrs Brown said that this is her third year as Chair of the planning committee and during the year the committee have considered a total of 98 plans; in her first year it was in excess of 200 plans and last year 98.

The Committee is careful when considering applications to keep in mind the character of the town and existing residential areas without stemming the growth. Impact on health provision and schools are also taken into considered with larger planning applications as well as listening to comments made by the public and neighbours on the application and the impact any development large or small will have on them. We have had successfully objected to several plans this year. Unfortunately, some plans then get resubmitted so it is important to keep our eye on the ball. We take into account design, impact on neighbouring properties, traffic impact and in recent years the potential to add to Ashbourne's increasing problem with flooding. More buildings mean fewer ways for water to drain away.

Along with applications for developments and extensions we have also had to consider requests to fell and remove established, indigenous trees. An important consideration is weighing up the value the tree has in the area against the current health of the tree or safety of the property. Any comments made by the planning committee are then passed on to the District Council for their consideration and the final decision rests with them.

As planning consultees, the Town Council's local knowledge is welcomed by the District Council to support their committee with appropriate decisions, whilst they don't always agree the Town Council have at least put forward concerns and issues raised by resident's and ourselves. Mrs Brown said that whilst she couldn't ever remember any planning comments submitted saying that they thought the application what a fabulous idea, the comments did state the impact the plan may have. These comments are of immense value as the District Council can't be aware of every area or the history of the area and it is important to raise their awareness of any negative impact a proposed plan may have.

The planning committee has worked well and supported my year as chair with dedication and extreme professionalism, and she thanked the committee for their support and enthusiasm in meetings.

Mrs Brown thanked members of the public who have attended and spoken on applications which would affect them. The Town Council's planning committee is always delighted to have members of the public attend and put forward their views and concerns. Engagement is always of value on anything contentious and the public often highlight worthy issues, that DDDC planning committee may not be aware of.

Mrs Brown also thanked the 'back room boys' aka the Clerks and admin who see to it that she is fully informed of applications prior to the meeting, adding that it has been a pleasure to be the chair of the committee.

(p) Finance Committee Report including Accounts for 2022/23 and Precept 2023/24

Mrs Spencer said that during this last financial year she was pleased to announce that bookings for the Town Hall have remained stable. There are two new bookings: Tai Chi and a Meditation class and another potential booking which has yet to be confirmed.

The valuation and proposed selling of part of the Town Hall is still on going, and hopefully can be moved forward this next year. Then we will be able to move forward with the works we would like to do to the remainder of the building. Work on the Millennium Square project will be starting later this year.

Donations have been given under S137 section of local government, to six local organisations with other funding being given to three organisations. The total amount of funding given £24,032.00.

The precept for this financial year is 2024/25 is £325,060.00 and was put together during November 2023.

Mrs Spencer thanked the office, Town Hall staff and committees for their continued support, loyalty and hard work during the past year.

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

No questions were raised by the Council or Local Government Electors.

Mr Bates thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting closed 7.52pm