

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7.00pm held in The Pump Rooms, off Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8BA

PRESENT: Mayor Cllr E. Hudson, Deputy Mayor Cllr. D. Patrick, Cllrs. S. Booton, S. Bowkett, G. Brittain, A. Corfield, L. Davies, M. Davies, J. Fielder, N. Ingram, J. Morgan, R. Plested.

IN ATTENDANCE: The Mayoress, Mrs D. Thomas, Cllr. D. Chambers WCC, Cllr. Bridget Thomas MHDC, 16 members of the public, the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk.

1. APOLOGIES

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr. C. Slade due to a family commitment.

2. MINUTES

Proposed by Cllr. S. Bowkett seconded by Cllr. M. Davies and unanimously

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4th April 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor presented his report. Attached [**Appendix A**].

4. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Thomas, representing Malvern Hills District Council presented her report. Attached [**Appendix B**], which had been circulated.

There were no questions.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr D. Chambers, representing Worcestershire County Council presented his report. Attached [**Appendix C**], which had been circulated.

There were no questions.

6. LOCAL POLICE REPORT

The Mayor read the report Safer Neighbourhood Team, which had been circulated. [**Appendix D**]

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

One member of the public raised a concern over road and pavement repairs, stating that they were not being reinstated appropriately.

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Cllr. Chambers, stated that the County Council are aware of patches of black tarmac being used in the red tarmac areas and this will be corrected, however there is no stock left of the pavement slabs and the county council are currently trying to source a supply.

8. MAYOR'S COMMENDATIONS

The Mayor presented his Commendation Awards.

Lt Col (ret'd) James Keating OBE

In recognition of distinguished military service and your dedication to the Royal British Legion in Tenbury.

Jane Allen

In recognition of your stewardship of the Regal Tenbury Trust and your efforts to promote the Regal as a centre for cultural events.

Alan Dale

In recognition of your work in distributing charitable donations to many organisations and people in Tenbury and to your important work in helping to establish and support Tenbury Swimming Pool for the benefit of all.

Tony and Janet Penn

In recognition of your many good works, both public and private, for the benefit of both Tenbury and St. Michaels and for your unstinting efforts to ensure that St. Michaels Church remains a viable and important spiritual presence in the community.

Melanie Parker

In recognition of your service to Tenbury Town Band, its contribution to the civic life of the town and for nurturing the love of playing music in our young people.

Mark Yarnold

In recognition of many years' service as a Chair and Governor of Tenbury Infants School and your understated good works in the town.

Julie Cook

In recognition of your work in support of St Mary's and St Michaels churches and work in the community of St Michaels.

Ros Plested

In recognition of your work in setting up 'Keeping in Touch with Everyone' to support vulnerable people and leading the growth of the Village Hall as an important centre for the community of St Michaels.

Meeting closed at 7.38 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix A

The Mayor's Annual Report – April 2023.

It is with some regret that I am coming to the end of my term as Mayor of Tenbury. I have been a Town Councillor for twelve years, deputy Mayor and also, Mayor for the last four years.

It has been a very eventful time in the recent history of Tenbury. As a community, we have had to deal with flooding, which is still a concern whenever there is a period of sustained rainfall, a pandemic, from which I hope that lessons have been learned for the future and a war in eastern Europe which impacts us all in cost of living rises..

You will all be aware that a flood defence scheme was mooted back in 2019 and is still in the process of being prepared by the Environment Agency.

As you will know, there is a deficit in the funding for the scheme but at my last conversation with our Member of Parliament, she remains confident that Government will resolve that issue.

The Council have been informed by EA that various measures are being implemented to make the proposals more cost effective and therefore deliverable.

It is known that there have been issues in finding a defence solution to Church Street and its impact on St Mary's Church that is acceptable to the Church Authorities.

A further report from EA will be presented to the Council meeting, following this meeting.

Businesses in Tenbury have made valiant efforts to recover from past flooding and the town centre is looking bright and attractive.

When the Mayoress and I attend civic occasions representing the town, it is frequently said that Tenbury is a lovely town.

One of the Town Councils' big successes has been in pressuring Severn Trent to find the cause of the 'Great Stink' in Teme Street.

Our Town Clerk deserves great credit for this.

The continuing growth of the Regal as a multi entertainment venue is a particular source of satisfaction.

As this is a Town Council owned building, The Mayor and Town Clerk attend regular meetings of the Regal board of Trustees and follow with great interest, how the venue is being managed and its plans for the future.

The forthcoming Beatles Festivity weekend has been largely generated by the Regal, which should bring many visitors to our town.

The Mayor and Town Clerk have been invited to attend committee meetings of Tenbury Chamber of Trade and we are very supportive of their hard work in organising the Christmas lights and Santa Parade.

I took part in the parade, collecting donations, as did the Mayoress who insisted on giving oranges to the children rather than Quality Street which of course, they would have preferred.

As in previous years, The Mayoress and I were privileged to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade to lay a wreath on behalf of the Town Council and a well attended Armistice Day service was held in the Civic Garden.

I have led discussions with the GP Surgery over their need for expansion space, leading to a proposal to lease an under used part of the Civic Garden to the Surgery in order to provide additional Consulting Rooms.

Whilst many plans are being aired about the future of the Doctors Surgery, I remain convinced that this proposal, which could keep the surgery in its current location, most desirable to the majority of patients, is a practical medium term solution and I hope that my successors will continue to make this offer available.

In memory of Queen Elizabeth II, I invited members of the community to attend a short service as a moment of reflection on the eve of the funeral of her late Majesty. Following the service, it was my duty to read the Proclamation of the King's Accession.

One of the last civic duties for the Mayoress and I will be to attend a service of celebration at Worcester Cathedral, on the weekend of the King's Coronation.

I am pleased to be present at and support the 'Warm Space' initiative, held here every Friday from 10.00 until 1.00pm.

A regular group of residents as well as tourists in the town come along, which after retirement, I intend to continue to visit for coffee and cake and a bit of gossip.

The Mayor's Fund in support of Tenbury Charities and local people in need, does not raise huge sums of money but I am indebted to those who provide donations.

Through this fund, I have been pleased to give donations, amongst others, to:

Tenbury Food Bank.

Tenbury High School.

Tenbury Primary School.

Tenbury Cricket Club.

Tenbury Town Band.

Regal School of Creative Arts.

Regal Community Theatre Group.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Councillors, all of whom are dedicated servants of the Tenbury people.

They do not seek reward but give up their time, experience and knowledge for the public good.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the support of David Patrick, the Deputy Mayor.

I would like to record my appreciation for the support from the other authorities with whom we work.

Our County Councillor, David Chambers, whom I feel, particularly looks out for Tenbury
For our District Councillor Bridget Thomas who does not switch off in pursuing the issues where she feels that she can make a difference.

When Lesley Bruton, our Town Clerk, indicated that she wished to stand also as a District Councillor. I had to consider whether that dual relationship would be an impediment to her role.

I was confident that it would not and I have been in countless meetings where Lesley has been able to say ‘ I think that The District Council might be able to help’ and has followed it up by contacting the appropriate officer.

Finally, a huge thank you to Susan, Dave and Roy, our Council employees and especially to Lesley Bruton, our exceptional Town Clerk for their application and support and most cordial working relationships.

Thank you.

Eric Hudson,

Mayor of Tenbury.

ANNUAL REPORT MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT COUNCIL APRIL 2023

Cllr Thomas has continued to pursue all aspects of planning, working closely with the officers at Malvern Hills District Council.

The South West Development Plan has now been ratified, which should allow more control over the amount of new housing. This, hopefully, will impact on the number of houses to be built in Tenbury in the future.

There is a new Apprenticeship Support System which is online, to enable the prospective apprentices to connect with apprenticeship providers.

Individuals who obtain an apprenticeship from signing up will be eligible for the £500 Bursary to help with the initial costs etc.

Visit: www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk.

The Easter Bunny Trail, organised in partnership with the Tenbury Tourist Information Centre, will take place from the 3rd to the 10th of April. Local businesses will display the windows trail and the Tourist Office volunteers invited Tesco in Tenbury to provide the prizes free of charge. MHDC hopes to continue these popular trials throughout the year.

During a successful visit to Kyrebrook Daycare Centre, Cllr Thomas met with Kirsty Hughes, who is the Dementia Meeting Centre Manager for Age UK Worcester and Malvern Hills. This resulted in open sessions in the Pump Rooms..

After three successful taster sessions, it was decided to open from 10 to 3 from the 17th of April on the second, third and fourth Monday of the month.

A very informative meeting was held recently at Saint Michael's College. This was to discuss with the owner and agent the future plans for the site.

Representatives of Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council were present, along with the Mayor, the Manager of the College site and a representative of St Michael's village.

Cllr Bridget Thomas.

**Worcestershire County Council Report
Meeting of Tenbury Town Council Annual Town Residents' Meeting 3rd April 2023**

New Special School for Children with Autism

A new special school that caters for the needs of pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is to be built in Malvern. The successful bid from Worcestershire County Council was announced last month by the Department for Education.

The new special free school will provide 120 full time places for pupils aged 5-19 with autism, who are able to engage with mainstream curriculum with extra support and who would also benefit from a specific environment and staff dedicated to a holistic approach. The capital funding for the new school will be provided from the Government's Free School Programme.

County Council Budget 2023/24

At the Budget meeting of the Council, the County Council approved the following recommendations:

- a. A budget of £400.813 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
- b. A Capital programme of £432.720 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
- c. An increase in Council Tax Precept of 4.94%, broken into two parts:
 - i. 2.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan.
 - ii. 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services, in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service

At a recent meeting of the Fire Authority the Chief Fire Officer reported that a pay offer of 7% for this year and 5% for next year had been offered to the unions. He is hopeful that the pay offer will be accepted following consultations, which will hopefully mean that there will be no further strikes within our area.

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

I sit on the above Committee and it has been challenging to say the least for the last two years. At our monthly meetings we call in senior managers from the Acute Trust, the Health & Care Trust, the Ambulance Service and other sectors relating to the provision of health in the county.

We are all aware of the consequences of Covid on health services, not least, delays in operations and treatments, and of course waiting times for ambulances. I am "pleased" to be able to report that there are signs of improvement in all of the above, though there is much still to do. The newly founded (in July 2022) Integrated Care Board is slowly making a difference. The government provided funding for a new 30 bed "Referral Unit" which opened just before Christmas at the Worcester Royal, and a new Emergency Department is due to open at the Worcester Royal in June.

Bus Services Review

The County Council is currently conducting a major review of Bus Services in the county. It is thought that Community Transport Groups will be called upon to provide substantially more services. Whilst Tenbury has good provision in regards to Community Transport, many areas have no such provision at all.

There is also a separate major review taking place for Home to School Transport. The cost of this service continues to escalate and is currently £25million each year.

Defibrillators and CPR Training

During the last year I have taken two Notices of Motion to Council regarding the above. I urged all County Councillors to promote the use of Defibrillators in their Divisions and to purchase at least one from their Divisional funds for their own communities. I have been able to fund three, in Tenbury, Bockleton and Abberley.

Foster Carers & Buddy Carers

There continues to be a very real shortage of Foster carers in Worcestershire. I am bringing to this meeting some leaflets which give information highlighting the huge impact Foster Carers have on children's lives and how many children are saved from being placed into Care, as result of the support and care given by Foster Carers.

There is also a new Buddy Carer scheme in place, which is also outlined in the leaflet and which gives respite to Foster carers and additional new support for children living with Foster carers.

Local Issue

1. Kyrebrook Daycare Centre provide an excellent service to elderly residents who are in need of day care service, which provide stimulation activities, games, arts and crafts, gentle exercise and much more. Unfortunately, the number of clients has reduced significantly since Covid and the Centre is now at risk of closure. There is an urgent need for us all to support and promote the work they do, if we wish to see the Centre continue its work.
2. Highways continues to be high on the list of priorities of residents and I hope they feel that improvements continue to be made in and around Tenbury.

One issue which is very difficult to solve is the regular road closures in the Town for utility works. Other than road repairs or resurfacing, it is very rare that the Highways Department actually close roads. The closures we experience are usually undertaken by one of the utility companies, with Severn Trent Water being by far the most prolific. Utility companies have the lawful right to close a road in order that they can undertake "emergency" repairs. They are notorious however, for poor communication with work crews, companies who provide traffic lights systems and so on. I and other County Councillors are now asking the Cabinet Member for Highways to consider penalising these companies for their gross inefficiencies.

David Chambers, County Councillor, Tenbury Division

Martley and Tenbury SNT report April 2023

Reports from the Tenbury area of the patch remain relatively low at the moment. The main concerns that we have received are regarding vehicles on Oldwood Common and on the swimming pool car park, littering and drug use/supply. The team have been carrying out patrols in this area and this has disrupted and disturbed any activity that may have been taking place. As yet we have had no reason to review footage from the CCTV installed locally. This is an issue high on our priority list and it will be addressed when we have a larger team onboard.

A serious incident occurred in March at Market Street involving two local residents, the offenders were quickly identified using local intelligence, response units attended from Leominster and arrests were made. This is an ongoing case and no more information is available to the public.

Patrols around Wheelers Orchard are being carried out to address an ongoing issue where a vehicle is being tampered with on a regular basis.

Community engagement

The team has been stretched in recent months whilst PC Sykes has been restricted to desk duties, this has limited their availability. PC Sykes has now taken up his post in Worcester and PC Paul Lawman is due to join the SNT in April. Surgeries will continue and we remain available to the public via email, phone and social media.