**Minutes of an Annual Town Meeting in Market Drayton held on Monday 11 May 2015 at 7.00pm in the Festival Drayton Centre, Frogmore Road, Market Drayton.**

**Present:** Councillors: T. Beckett (Mayor), R. Hughes, L. Ridgway, D. Minnery, D. Erwin, M. Erwin, K. Brown, R. Smith, M. Whittle, S. Glover, R. Aldcroft, and J. Cadwallader.

**Clerk:** Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk.

There were also approximately 14 members of the public present (See appendix A).

1. **Welcome by the Town Mayor**

Councillor Tim Beckett welcomed all residents and asked them to sign the attendance register.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies have been received from Councillors J. Beckett and V. Taylor.

1. **To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 19 May 2014**

The Mayor asked if everyone is satisfied with the minutes.

Councillors and members of the public said they were.

Councillor D. Erwin proposed, Councillor R. Hughes seconded and it was **RESOLVED:**

**To confirm the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 19 May 2014.**

1. **To receive the Annual Report from the Town Mayor**

Councillor Tim Beckett introduced himself. He said he has a remaining four days as Mayor; he has been doing the role for two years and has found it most enjoyable and rewarding.

If any of you were here last year you might remember that there was some uncertainty about the nature of the meeting and about the way that it was conducted. We wanted to make sure that this did not happen again and so some of us have been to a training session on annual town meetings, and I shall now briefly summarise what the legal position is.

The Annual Town meeting is not about what the Town Council has been doing over the past year. There is already a mechanism in place to do this throughout the year during the public session at every meeting. We always welcome requests to speak at the meetings of Council.

This meeting tonight serves two purposes; the first is to allow the Town Council to present to you some information about what has been going on within the town over the past year, and you will see from the agenda that there are a number of representatives of local organisations who have agreed to talk to you about the work that they do for the community.

The second purpose is to allow residents the opportunity to raise any issue that is of interest generally (in other words not something like a particular planning application which would only have an impact on a small part of the town) and to have this debated, although in debating a topic it is important to note that this meeting cannot pass resolutions that are binding upon the Town Council; their only obligation is to note what the feeling of the meeting is.

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Eric Davies from Market Drayton Senior Citizens Forum to the meeting.

Mr. Davies said in 2004 Market Drayton Senior Citizens Forum was formed and have charitable status; they work with members 50+ and meet up every first Tuesday in the month. The meetings are well attended and have a speaker attending most months covering relevant topics. The objective of the charity was to reach out to an increasing amount of lonely and isolated older people.

Olivia Matthews, who is now reducing her commitments due to ill health, as a Market Drayton Forum member kick started our own Community Car scheme. This is subsidised by Shropshire Council without this this and the other Community Car schemes would not be viable. Even though they are manned entirely by volunteer drivers. However, one car is not sufficient to meet the needs of the residents to keep hospital and doctor’s appointments.

Other groups which have set up under the Forum are Walking Football which takes place at the Maurice Chandler sports centre and Men’s Sheds. These are predominately for men as they seem to suffer more with isolation than women who are far more gregarious in their outlook after retirement. Another Forum member is now offering basic IT training and due to a small grant from Market Drayton Town Council and the use of a room at Charter Court this is now set up.

Mr Davies said there are many other activities carried out by the Forum and its partners to enhance the quality of life for older people.

Mr Davies said funding from Shropshire Council and the Big Lottery has now come to an end and with this in mind we have now formed the Market Drayton Seniors Enterprise which has a business plan and it applying for Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). For this new group to be successful it must generate 51% of its income from trading.

In order to identify what services, activities, facilities and products are needed by the elderly of Market Drayton a survey will be undertaken which all Councillors will receive. Some services we provide will be gratis others will be chargeable.

Mr Davis said more training will be undertaken to improve the Enterprises knowledge of economic growth, better opportunities and other management activities.

Mr. Hillidge asked if there been any charity events held to raise funds.

Mr. Davies said no charity events have been undertaken as of yet.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Davies for his report.

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Christine Jupp; Community Care Co-ordinator to the meeting.

Ms. Jupp said she is based at Market Drayton Medical Practice; she has worked at the practice for over 20 years and her new role as Community and Care Co-ordinator is going really well.

She said her role is linked to the health care within the community; if a patient has been discharged from hospital she will contact them to make sure they have everything they require such as their medication and a home plan if required.

She says she also spends time with people that are lonely and isolated in their home; is beneficial as it often improves their health and so reduces the burden on the doctors surgery.

Ms. Jupp says she re-connects people with the appropriate help available to them within the community and gives advice, help and support to the many carers within the town.

In the future she is planning to organise a Dementia road show on the Medical Practice car park to give people living with the disease and their carer’s direction.

Councillor Glover asked since she has been in this position have you found peoples personal pride has got in the way of receiving any help.

Ms. Jupp said it’s possible but the people she deals with are more than willing for the help and support.

Mr Hillidge said he has been on a lot of dementia courses and is happy to become a volunteer.

Ms. Jupp thanked Mr. Hillidge and said there is a new service at the Library; they have a section of specialist’s books which are all approved by doctors.

The Mayor thanked Ms. Jupp for her report.

The Mayor said Inspector Klair from West Mercia Police has been invited but unfortunately is not here.

The Mayor welcomed Mr. Chris Smith from The Road Safety Group and Speed watch.

Mr. Smith said he has been working alongside Market Drayton Town Council since the purchase of the speed camera three years ago.

The aim of the camera is to monitor ‘problem roads’ in the town.

The camera has been recently stationed at Quarry Bank Road, Christ Church Lane, Buntingsdale Road, Prospect Road and more recently on Farcroft Drive. The findings of the results do show specific trends and all information has been passed on to the local police.

Mr. Smith said he is aware the police have looked at the trends and is pleased to say they have been assessing them. He is also pleased to announce that the police are now using the speed gun in the town purchased by the LJC and fines have been issued.

He went on to say that the camera has been hired out to another local Parish; which has raised some money towards the running of the Road Safety Group.

Councillor Whittle asked if any other Parishes were interested in hiring the equipment.

Mr. Smith said Woore and Loggerheads have already hired out the equipment and Stoke-on-Tern have shown an interest.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Chris Smith for his report.

The Mayor welcomed Dr. Richard Priestley from Market Drayton Community Partnership and Artsfest and also as Chairman of the Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Community Partnership

Dr Richard Priestley gave a brief Power Point presentation:

Appendix …

He introduced Mrs Kate Woodward who presented a Power Point on **Drayton Arts Fest**

Appendix …

She said there is still time to get involved with the coming event. She said last year’s first Arts Festival was very successful and the committee were encouraged to hold another this year in September.

Dr Priestley then gave a brief presentation on the **Neighbourhood Plan:**

Appendix ..

He said he was asked to Chair the Steering Group for the town’s Neighbourhood Plan which he was happy to oblige. He said this is a vision for the future of the town which after consultation would be completed by the end of 2016. This would then go to a town referendum and if a majority vote for it the plan will be become law. He said some professional help would be needed along the way such as Planning experts.

Mr Hillidge said professional experts would be expensive.

Dr Priestley said that some of the costs would be raised by external grant aid.

The Mayor thanked Dr. Priestly and Mrs Woodward for their reports.

The Mayor welcomed Mike Smith for Radio True Gold.

Mr Smith said he runs the Drayton Crier on a social media page; it is up to the maximum 5,000 followers and covers all variety of topics in Market Drayton. He said he wanted to progress this facility for the town and came up with an idea to set up Market Drayton’s own radio station covering the same topics but on a larger scale with the help of Barry Davies who has previously been a radio presenter.

As a result Radio True Gold was started; the Radio is based in a shop premises in the town.

He added to help finance the station we have asked shop and businesses within the town if they would like to advertise on the station some have done so.

He said we are trying to keep the station to 90 per cent news and are always looking for interviews to cover different events and activities around the town; people can either come into the studio to do an interview or we can come on site; for example we covered the Market Drayton 10K event.

The Mayor thanked Mike Smith for his report.

The Mayor welcomed Geoff Vernon for Festival Drayton.

Mr. Vernon said it has been a very exciting venture and Festival Drayton has progressed in so many ways since he has been a part of it; at present the centre is run on 4 full time employees and 110 volunteers.

He said in 2011 the centre switched from film projectors to digital with the help of a grant. This gave the facility of having 3D films, they are able to satellite stream events from all over the world which has become a great asset to the centre bringing in a lot of revenue.

In 2012 they built on the last bit of available land belonging to them to build a store at the back of the kitchen using their own funds and employed their first apprentice; which worked very well and has now become a valid full time position.

In 2013 the centre built a first storey block which has transformed the centre, it has been let out to various organisations and gives an overall 15 to 20 per cent return.

In 2014 the centre under took a refurbished project to provide space above the coffee shop; again to be hired out. He said the centre now has 6 spaces to hire out at one time.

Mr Vernon went on to say last year the centre received the Queens Award for voluntary service which is on trip advisor.

The Mayor congratulated Mr. Vernon for all his hard work.

1. **To receive a report from any other organisation based in the town.**

There were no other organisations present to give a report.

1. **To consider any other matters within the jurisdiction of the Town Council put forward by a member of the public.**

Mr. Hillidge asked how much funds are available for people in the town and how do you qualify to receive it.

The Mayor said the Town Council do issue small grants out within the town and said people should contact the town Clerk who will be able to give advice on the certain criteria required to qualify.

Mr. Smith asked about the results from The Child and Parent Parking consultation and were the Council auctioning anything.

Councillor Minnery said this item will be put on his agenda at his next meeting; members of the public are more than welcome to attend.

Mr. Smith said there are not a lot public here tonight; has this meeting been advertised?

The Clerk said yes the meeting has been advertised correctly. It has been advertised in the Market Drayton Advertiser, The Shropshire Star, on the Town Council’s website, on the Town Councils noticeboard and on an A frame in the front of the office reception.

1. **Closing remarks by the Town Mayor**

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.