

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, YORK STREET, SELBY.

PRESENT: Cllrs E Lambert (Mayor), M Rofidi, L Rofidi, J Shaw-Wright, K Arthur, I Lawton, M Davis, M Dyson, M Fagan, S Shaw-Wright, C Laskey, S Cahill, K Franks, S Andrew and J Proud.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs G Harding and F Matthews.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Town Meeting held on 21 May 2018 were considered.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 21 May 2018 were approved as a correct record.

3 MAYOR'S REPORT

Council received the report of Councillor Eva Lambert.

"It's amazing to think that it's one year that I've been Mayor of Selby. One year for all of us to figure out how we work best as a team, working together.

One year, too, for our community groups, our charitable projects to get to know me better, get to know the council better and build the historic relationships that this council values with its community sector.

And so it's understandable that we look back on my term as Mayor of Selby.

I have lived in Selby for over 30 years and feel part of the strong sense of community amongst the town's residents; being appointed Mayor of Selby has been a great honour, one I have relished and thoroughly enjoyed.

It has been an honour to meet so many community projects, groups and dedicated local people passionate about supporting others. In a time, almost a decade in, of enduring a government of austerity, the most crippling economic downturn since the Great Depression these people are still driven to support others. When many charitable groups and mainline services find funding dissipated there is still an under-pressure but people-power voluntary and community sector in Selby, who are enthusiastic and compassionate for others; I whole heartily thank you.

I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to help with and enjoy the 950th celebrations of Selby Abbey. I would like to thank Cannon John Weetman and send my best wishes to Bishop John for continued good health; two of the kindest people I am proud to say I know.

I would like to thank the Poppy ladies (Samantha, Christine, Sapphire and the team of helpers) who brought the town together at the 100 years WWI Remembrance service. Over 48,000 poppies were knitted in memory of our fallen; the images of the Abbey draped in a sea of red poppies will for ever be a reminder of the sacrifice others made on our behalf.

I would again like to thank Samantha and her team for the knitted jumpers for the return of the Tour de Yorkshire spread wide across the town and for the knitted hat I wore proudly on the day. I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who made the Tour possible and attended on the day, it may have rained but our spirits were raised high.

I would like to thank the staff at Selby Town Council at every single level, from the face that meets you at the desk, to the caretakers and grounds men doing an outstanding job for us and the community. In their dedication in the town events held during the year, from Funday to Bonfire night to the Christmas market, the success of these events being your endless support.

I would like to thank all Councillors for all the hard work in all those committee meetings this year, particularly those that support the many events organised for the enjoyment of local people by the town council.

I would also to thank Malik, my Deputy Mayor and wish him my very best wishes in his year as Mayor.

Our values of celebrating our Towns diversity and respecting all communities is something we are proud of, but we know are values that are facing challenge.

Personally, I worry too about the toxicity that is creeping into our society, that is creeping into our politics, promoted by the rise of fake, discriminative, distorted and cynical news. We mustn't lose our respect, our tolerance or our humanity for each other. When I speak about some of the challenges I've faced in the past year, people say 'well that's politics, what do you expect?'. But politics doesn't have to be antagonistic and hostile. We can get on with the job we've been elected to do, work collaboratively and challenge each other so that we can, together, achieve the ambitious programme we're all committed to.

And so I thank those who are leading by example. Despite all the challenges thrown at them, they continue to resist division, continue to come together, learning from one another, bringing communities together. Thank you all for your continued support, friendship and solidarity.

Cllr Dyson proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Lambert for her time as Mayor.

4 TOWN RESIDENTS' QUESTIONS

An allotment Tenant from Stonebridge Allotments was in attendance to appeal against an instruction to remove racing pigeons from his plot. The Tenancy Agreement and Allotment Rules state that only chickens (x15) and rabbits can be kept on the plots at Pymble and Stonebridge, in accordance with the Allotment Act 1908 -1950.

A representative, speaking on behalf of the Tenant, advised that he did not understand why he could not have pigeons on the allotment. He was a member of the local pigeon club and the birds were very well kept.

He further advised that the Tenants son had autism and asked Councillors to consider allowing the pigeons to stay in his case, as having the pigeons was a very calming experience for the child and made improvements to his general behaviour.

A member advised that the allotment tenancy agreement stated the restrictions on livestock and this ruling came about several years ago following a court case where a tenant had kept lots of different types of birds. The issue here was understood and sympathised with, but the rules are clear on what can be kept. The Rules needed to be clear to enable the staff to manage the allotments and enforce the terms of the agreement. If the rules were changed for one tenant, they would have to be changed for every tenant and that situation would be unworkable.

A member enquired whether the tenant could keep the pigeons in their own garden. It was noted that the garden was only small and there was not enough space.

The Chair advised that following this request, Council would further consider the issue in Part II of the Town Council Meeting and would advise the Tenant of the outcome in due course.

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