

# TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL



## **MINUTES AND REPORTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018**

### **PRESENT:**

#### **For Tenterden Town Council:**

Town Mayor Cllr. Mrs. P. Smith, Cllrs. M. Carter, J. Crawford, Mrs. J. Curteis, H. Edwards, Mrs S. Ferguson, M. Freeman, Miss N. Gooch, M. Hickmott, R. Isworth, C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge, K. Mulholland and J. Nelson. Town Clerk Mr. P. Burgess, Deputy Town Clerk Mrs. C. Gilbert, Accounts Clerk Mrs. J. McCollum and Administrative Assistant Ms. S. Ratcliffe.

#### **For Kent County Council:**

Cllrs. M. Hill.

#### **For Ashford Borough Council:**

Cllrs. M. Bennett and J. Link. Highways, Parking and Transport Manager Mr. C. Miller.

#### **For Kent Police:**

Inspector Jason Atkinson and PCSO Kate Richards.

#### **Also present:**

70 members of the public.

- 250 **WELCOME BY THE TOWN MAYOR.** The Town Mayor was in the chair and welcomed all attendees. The Councillors of Tenterden Town Council introduced themselves. Members of the Town Council staff were introduced by the Town Clerk with a brief overview of their roles.
- 251 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies had been received from Town Councillor, Mr. A. Sugden. Ashford Borough Council Councillor Mr. P. Clokie, Community Warden Ms. J. Vos, Reverend Canon L. Hammond, Tenterden Active retirement scheme, Ivy Court Surgery, Jo Fox and Sheila Davison from Ashford Borough Council.
- 252 **MINUTES.** The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were proposed by the Town Mayor and seconded by Cllr. Nelson. They were duly agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 253 **MATTERS ARISING.**
- (a) Minute 246(a) & 241(d) – survey of High Street trees. An update with regard to a survey of the trees in the High Street. Cllr. Hill is awaiting the results of the survey which was carried out by Kent County Council.
  - (b) Minute 246(b) (from 241(e)) - precept. Mr. M. Pearson of High Street requested clarification as to why the precept had increased by this year considering it had been reduced last year. The Town Clerk reported that the precept was dropped in 2017 in anticipation of interest received on the windfall from the Tent1 sale. Precept increased again this year as the town council was advised to invest no more than 20% of proceeds to produce a good income. Remainder does still attract interest. Precept increase averaged over 2 years was 6% p.a.

- (c) Minute 246(c) (from 241(a)) - power to the Christmas Lights. The Town Clerk reported that following Kent County Council decision not to allow the attachment of cables to their lampposts a new electricity supply had been installed. This has enabled Tenterden to continue to illuminate the town's trees at Christmas. In order to improve street lighting the Town Council are now considering taking over some of the lamps along the High Street; particularly those on East Cross Gardens.
- (d) Minute 247(a) - soft landscaping maintenance. The responsibility for many of the soft landscaping tasks carried out by Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council were adopted by the Town Council in April 2017. The Town Clerk explained the main reason for doing this was to improve the town. Although he reported that the improvement had not been delivered in 2017 it is hoped that a recent change in the management of the maintenance team and a new member of staff will ensure that these improvements are made in 2018. This will be reviewed at the end of the summer.
- (e) Minute 247(a) - website. Cllr. Dr. Lovelidge reported on the Council's new website which has now been running for 12 months. Public feedback would be welcomed if any improvements are warranted.
- (f) Minute 247(a) - Regeneration Projects.
- (i) *Recreation Ground re-ordering.* Cllr. Mullholland reported that there had been several meetings of the focus group to develop a re-ordering program. Implementation depends on finding a replacement football pitch (indications are good that the proposed 3G pitch at the Homewood School site will provide a sufficient replacement for 2019/20 season, but TTC is also seeking a site for extra grass pitches in the longer term).
- (ii) *Town Hall Repairs.* The Town Clerk reported that the requirements have now been decided and the final brief was ready to be given to the architect. A decision was made not to extend but to re-order and re-furbish to keep costs down in line with public consultation wishes. The group has identified suitable community uses and requirements for different organisations.
- (iii) *Virtual Hub.* Cllr. Nelson reported that this was a project identified by the consultation. It would be a 'one stop shop' to show all that was available in Tenterden. Information on the various hireable spaces had been collected and collated and is due to be updated to the TTC website in the near future.
- (iv) *Cinema.* Cllr. Mrs. Ferguson explained that this was in the very early stages of development and was a group that had no money and no venue. They would be meeting with the architects to carry out a Stage 2 report for the Council and External Committee.
- (v) *Project Monitoring.* The Town Council will be discussing on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 implementing a simple system for monitoring progress of each project and publishing updates via the TTC website and notice boards.

- (g) Minute 248(a) - Annual Town Meeting. This year the Annual Town Meeting was moved from April to June, any comments regarding this change can be made at the Town Hall. The Newsletter is now being delivered earlier and banners are being used to publicise the meeting.
- (h) Minute 248(b) - Community Emergency Plan. Cllr. Nelson reported that a Plan was in place and is available to view on the Council website. Anyone interested in volunteering as a Street Warden/Co-ordinator is invited to contact the Town Hall or Cllr. Nelson.
- (i) Minute 248(c) - East Cross Clinic. Cllr. Isworth reported on the NHS Sustainability Development Management Plan. The Town has three things in Tenterden which meet the wish list. (i) local clinic for local people, although this is not being used efficiently; (ii) greater use of rehabilitation units for those being discharged from hospital. The lower ground floor of West View Hospital has never had anyone in it and could hold up to 30 beds. (iii) Tenterden Social Hub, providing home meals, home help, and transport to hospital appointments etc. There is currently no liaison between East Kent Hospitals and Tenterden Social Hub, despite the Social Hub office being manned five days per week. Another meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board is due in 10 days.
- (j) Minute 248(f) - Loss of Businesses across the Town. A Destination Management Plan has been presented to Borough and Town Councillors and officers, members of the Chamber of Commerce and other interested parties on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and would be discussed with a view to implementation at the next meeting of the TTC Tourism and Business sub-committee on a date in the near future yet to be fixed.
- (k) Other Matter Arising
- (i) Cllr. Nelson thanked everyone for their support during his time as Mayor in 2017/18. His full report is available in the latest Newsletter.
- (ii) Cllr. Mrs. Smith, the new Mayor for 2018/19 thanked everyone for their support and for making the community what it is.
- (iii) The Police Forum has been re-instated; a meeting will take place at the Town Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- (iv) A Casual Vacancy position has arisen following the resignation of Mr. R. Lusty. The Council thanked Mr. Lusty for his service as a councillor.
- (v) The Annual Civic Service (Mayor's Sunday) will start at 12pm this year. There will be a procession to the Recreation Ground after the church service. The art project 'Sow and Grow' will be on display at this event and over the weekend.

## 254 **REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.**

- (a) Kent Police. PCSO Kate Richards reported that crime in Tenterden remains low. She encouraged residents to report all crimes by phoning 101 or 999 or by using the online facility. The police do not actively monitor social media and unless crimes are officially reported they will not be reflected in crime statistics. Without accurate figures on crime there is a risk of losing policing in Tenterden.

A Community Speedwatch team has been set up on Woodchurch Road. There is a mobile traffic monitoring system available, from the Town Council. Groups wishing to borrow this should contact the Town Clerk.

PCSO Richards also encouraged residents to continue to take security seriously and not to leave themselves open to crime.

Inspector J. Atkinson also provided a report:

- (i) There had been an appeal from Andrew Judd, Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer of South East Kent Police, for residents to come forward to volunteer for neighbourhood watch. A meeting will soon be held in Costa in Tenterden and details of this will be published on both the Kent Police and Town Council websites.
  - (ii) The behaviour in Town Centre public houses is generally good.
  - (iii) The Rural Liaison Team is also active in Tenterden and encourage residents to be proactive in their approach to crime.
  - (iv) Following a question from a member of the public Inspector Atkinson confirmed that the police do talk to youths and make themselves known to them. They take a multifaceted approach and deal with things if they are reported.
  - (v) At the request of Ms. Jessett, who had a recent near miss using the pedestrian crossing near Orvis, Inspector Atkinson agreed to approach KCC Highways to look into issues regarding speeding traffic at this junction.
- (b) St. Michaels Community Group. Cllr. Curteis reported that the St. Michael's Community Group had had a very successful year. The very first 'Tributes in the Park' was a great success thanks to all the support received from ABC, TTC, KCC and the local ward councillors on ABC, plus other very generous sponsors.

The Group had a planter installed at Ox Lane Green, which has been planted and is tended by Friends of the Group. The group held its annual Christmas tree switch on followed by a children's party with entertainment in the Village Hall. During the year, the Group has produced two issues of the St Michael's Bites, a community magazine which is delivered to every household in St Michael's.

Further grants are being applied for and fund raising is taking place to raise money for this year's 'Tributes in the Park', due to be held on St Michael's recreation ground on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018. This event is free of charge and all are welcome. Any donations are gratefully received and will be used to help ensure that this even can be staged again in 2019.

Cllr. Curteis gave thanks to all who have supported St. Michaels' Community Group.

- (c) Tenterden Rotary Club. Meetings are now held on Thursday evenings for dinner at the Tenterden Club, and 7.30 am for breakfast on alternative weeks.

- (d) Tenterden Community Hub. The Hub is there to help any member of the community with social problems or financial difficulties. They meet every Friday morning in St. Mildred's Hall by the Church.
- (e) St. Michael's Village Hall. Cllr. Mulholland provided a brief overview of the following report.

"In November we celebrated our golden anniversary; 50 years providing a great service at the heart of the local community. Perhaps, quite fittingly the year proved to be the most dynamic and successful since the hall first opened its doors back in 1967! Whilst regular traditions such as coffee mornings and the 100 club continued unabated many major fund raising events were held consisting of Bingo nights, quizzes both at the Hall and the Fat Ox pub and of course the ever so popular Garage Sale Safari. Additionally, our Anniversary Tea attended by several hundred villagers and councillors was a huge success with a plaque being unveiled by the Mayor of Tenterden to mark the occasion. The 60's Evening "after party" and our Christmas Fayre with Santa and Donkeys from the Rescue Centre all added to our financial resources. To promote awareness of our cause two editions of Hall Aid were published and delivered to homes in Tenterden and St Michaels, the cost of print & distribution being largely covered by business advertising.

Successful grant applications were made to Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council for £10k and £45k respectively. This coupled with £10k from our own fund raising, a generous donation from Mid Kent Windows of £1000, £457 from Waitrose and a £40k low interest loan from Tenterden Town Council enabled the installation of a new fully insulated roof, ceiling redecoration and LED lighting. In addition, just prior to this, the main hall floor had undergone major refurbishment. The above investment completed delivery of our Stage 1 Refurbishment Plan.

During the year we successfully converted the status of our charity from that of "unincorporated" over to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The main benefits being protection for the Trustees and the ability for us as a management team to run the Hall in a more flexible and business-like fashion. A big thank you to Nelson McLean of Tenterden for donating their expertise and time to enable this to happen.

As our Treasurers report shows the charity is in a healthy position. Our fiscal year ended on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 after which some transactions with grant receipts and payment of contractors' invoices may have taken place. Irrespective of this however, and after all stage 1 refurbishment outgoings the charity remains financially stable and I have confidence in the future. During the year due to the closure of HSBC branch in Tenterden we decided to switch to Nat West. This together with a change to our charitable status which required a new charity number, added some administrative complexity.

In March, in memory – Doreen Mary Mortimer 1929 -2016, we held the dedication of "Doreen's Bench ". Attended by her close family and many villagers, the bench was blessed by Rev. John Emmott. This neatly coincided with a donation of 100 purple crocuses from Tenterden Rotary Club which were planted around the bench on the very same day. A lovely morning commemorating a long standing former trustee of the Hall.

A big thank you to my fellow officers, trustees and hall supporters for their individual & collective efforts throughout the year. I'd particularly like to pay tribute to Trevor Bingham of Arts Inc for tirelessly donating his design skills and efforts on our behalf. Having delivered the first stage of the sustainable community hall program, progress in 2018 will prove even tougher. We need to recruit more volunteers and supporters to help with our fundraising and from these hopefully future trustees will emerge thereby ensuring succession planning. Our key priorities should be:

1. To plan a continued program of low risk events
2. To revisit the detail of Stage 2 & 3 refurbishment & extension plan
3. To create underlying operational guidelines that supplement and supports the new constitution
4. To progress development of a bespoke website for more effective PR and Marketing."

- (f) Tenterden & District Museum. Mrs. D. Greaves provided a report.

During the winter closure of Tenterden & District Museum they undertook a major building project to upgrade the accessibility through the ground floor and to improve the facilities for the volunteer team who run the Museum. It is now possible for mobility impaired visitors to access the whole of the ground floor where before they could only use the Entrance Room. The volunteer Stewards now have a brand-new work area and much improved toilet and tea-making facilities. The exhibits in the Entrance and Tapestry Rooms have been re-displayed to great effect and enable wheelchair access.

In parallel with the internal refurbishment, Ashford Borough Council undertook a major facelift to the outside and improved internal Fire, Safety and Security.

The Museum Management Team raised a budget of £40,000 to deliver the project with grant funding coming from Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council and South East Museums Development Fund. The generous support of people of Tenterden was evident by making donations and becoming Patrons. The Museum are also grateful to the many volunteers who helped by painting, making display stands and establishing the new exhibitions.

The plans for the coming years include a brand new permanent exhibition on the 20th Century. The Museum welcome the ongoing help of the Town Council and local people to achieve this new project.

Tenterden & District Museum has been delivering exciting new services and facilities in the years and have ambitious plans for the coming years. They are determined to maintain their position as one of the leading tourist attractions to the town so that local businesses can benefit from the additional revenues generated. In turn, the Museum appreciate the support to enable them to achieve their goals.

- (g) Tenterden Schools Trust. Ms. S. Lees, Chief Executive Officer of the Tenterden Schools Trust, provided a report.

The Tenterden Schools Trust has now been in existence for 18 months. It is comprised of the four schools in Tenterden and St Michael's – Homewood School & Sixth Form Centre, Tenterden Primary Federation (Tenterden CE

Junior School and Tenterden Infants' School) and St Michael's CE Primary School.

The Trust was set up to bring together the work across all the schools, providing coherence in the learning experienced by our local children, building strong links with the community and ensuring all the schools continue to provide an excellent education.

The Trust were delighted to be able to report to the Town Council a very successful year. All of the schools have current "Good" grades from Ofsted and they have been able to build on this success over the year, continuing to improve outcomes for pupils and students whilst providing them with a rich curriculum and programme of activities to allow them to develop the skills they need to be successful and fulfilled throughout their lives.

Highlights of the year have been:

- A Tenterden Schools Trust production of "Oliver" which took place in the Sinden Theatre in March. This was a great success, playing to full houses every night and gaining enthusiastic applause and feedback. It was a joy to see pupils of all ages working together so supportively and producing such an excellent outcome.
- Our Community Arts Project comes to its climax with exhibitions of work from pupils and students and members of the community being displayed in the Church, Town Hall and local shops from 8 July. This has been a wide-ranging and very successful project. Working in partnership with community groups including the Dementia Café and the Lions Club, the pupils and students from across our schools have been producing Art work alongside members of the community on the theme of "Sowing and Growing".
- All of the Trust schools are part of the Headstart project, looking at how to support the mental health and wellbeing of young people. Teams of our pupils and students have been trained as peer mentors, information events have been held for parents and training received for all our staff. Raising the profile of mental health amongst young people has been identified as a national priority and the Trust Schools are committed to providing the support our young people need to help them in this area.
- Independent learners are successful life-long learners, so they have a focus in the Trust on developing resilience, self-motivation and independence in all their learners. A key strand of this is focused on the I-College at Homewood and the I-learning going on in our primary schools. The pioneering work of the I-College in establishing a student-centred approach to learning has been recognised nationally this year. Mrs. Farrell, Director of I-College was nominated for a national Teaching Award and has been successful in gaining a Silver Award for her work in leading I-College and demonstrating Outstanding Use of Technology in Education. She now goes on to the National Teaching Awards Ceremony in London in October where the Gold Award winners will be announced.

Two other local primary schools have made applications to the Department for Education to join the Tenterden Schools Trust. It is hoped that Academy Orders will be granted by the Regional Schools Commissioner in September and that the two schools will join the Trust by February 2019. As the Trust

grows, they will maintain their ethos to be a Trust serving the local community of children and their families and providing excellence in education across all our schools.

The Trust is working with an ever-increasing range of local businesses and organisations and it is hoped that the community focus of the Trust is evident. The Trust is very grateful to everyone in the local community for their support and willingness to work in partnership with them. They are looking forward to another exciting and successful year.

- (h) Tenterden Primary Federation. Ms. S. Crinnion, Executive Headteacher of the Tenterden Primary Federation, reported that one of the Federation's priorities this year was to connect with the community through art. An art project was developed with the Dementia Café where community members came into the school to do art with the children; they are now looking at ways to develop this further. The artwork will be on display in the church and shops in the town.
- (i) Tenterden Macular Support Group. Mrs. J. Crickmore-Porter presented a report. This group is run under the guidance of the Macular Society to support people with central vision loss. The group meets every third Tuesday each month from 10.30 am to midday. There is a professional speaker, demonstration of a variety of aids and general exchange of information between members. The atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. Numbers have increased since the group was founded in 2017. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Town Hall or by phoning: 01580 765630.
- (j) Tenterden Charities. The following report had been circulated with the agenda. Tenterden Charities incorporating Dr Curteis's Schooling & Clothing Foundation, The Charity of Ann Shelton, Hariot Pomfret, Dame Frances Norton and Jane Maynard.

The Trustees met twice during the course of 2017 and made 11 educational grants totalling £4300.00 and Relief in Need grants of £800.00.

The Trustees met in March 2017 at which time the accounts for 2016 were approved and signed. The Trustees at present are Dr Raymond Crawford (Chairman), Revd. Canon Lindsay Hammond, Mr Jack Gillett, Cllr. Jean Curteis and Mrs Judith Harper. Clerk for the charity is Michael Wells who can be contacted on 01580 762353 or by e-mail [wells.associates2@gmail.com](mailto:wells.associates2@gmail.com).

- (k) Tenterden Lions Club. The following report had been circulated with the agenda. The Club had recently celebrated the Diamond Anniversary of its founding and being Chartered as a charitable organisation in the town and serving our local community. We are proud and fortunate to have one its founder members still active in the Club today, Lion Roger Champion.

The Club meets on the first Wednesday of every month in the White Lion and membership is currently 25. The Lion's Business year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July through to 30<sup>th</sup> June. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July the President of the Club will be Lion Mike Caridia, and the Secretary will be Lion Karen Groves. Contact details may be found on the Club's web-site.

The Club will be participating in Tractorfest in Biddenden on 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August. After its very successful launching last year, the Club will once again

be running a Classic Car Show on the 16<sup>th</sup> September, together with a dog show, under the banner 'The Pistons and Paws Show'. During the build-up to Christmas the Club will be undertaking collections for charity by taking Father Christmas out to meet the children around the town and surrounding villages.

Earlier this month, the Club has recently organized its Annual Primary Schools Choir Competition, which was won by Woodchurch CE Primary School. We are currently involved with the Tenterden Schools Trust in the community art project which will be displayed next month in the Town Hall and St Mildred's Church. Later in the Autumn, the Club will be conducting its annual exercise of planting bulbs in the High Street, Oaks Road, St Michaels which are favourably commented upon every Springtime.

The Club are always looking for new members of any age and anyone who is keen to serve our local community is welcome. Please consult our web-site and follow the contact instructions or simply just turn up at one of our meetings if you wish to investigate how to become a Lion!

- (I) Ashford & Tenterden's Citizens Advice. The following report had been circulated with the agenda.

Ashford & Tenterden Citizens Advice helps people to solve problems: through advice and education provision, as well as our campaign work. Our service provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone on their rights and responsibilities. We value diversity, promote equality and challenge discrimination.

Clients can access our service face-to-face, by phone and via email. Some clients are empowered to solve problems by themselves; those requiring more support receive specialist casework. In order to prevent problems re-emerging, we also run educational services such as financial capability or energy efficiency training sessions in collaboration with local partners. We have a working partnership with a number of organisations including ABC, DWP, MAS, Shaw Trust, Porchlight and Job Centre Plus.

Our clients often come to us with more than one problem. As we deliver holistic support, we are able to help address multiple issues, with our services targeting the underlying issues as well as the symptoms of clients' problems.

By offering advice and education across key areas such as benefits, debt, housing and employment, we aim to bring about positive changes in people's lives. This ranges from advice outcomes, such as maximising household income and improving health and wellbeing, through to softer benefits, such as improved family relationships.

Currently in 2017/18, Ashford & Tenterden Citizens Advice advised on over 12936 problems.

We have seen 24% increase in clients requiring help with their debts. With a 6% increase in employment matters in comparison to last year.

65% of our clients visit our advice offices. 35% of our clients receive telephone advice/email advice.

## Our top five advice issues to date



Under **Other Issues** – mainly consists of Food Vouchers and Macmillan Grant applications. Food Vouchers have increased by +207% in comparison to previous year to date.

**Welfare Benefits** – The top issues are Employment Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credits and Personal Independent Plan.

**Debt** – The top issues are 40% Rent Arrears, Council Tax Arrears, 25% Debt Relief Orders and 22% Credit Card/ Pay Day Loan Debts.

**Relationships** – the top issues are Divorce/separation re financial and housing problems and child contact problems.

**Housing** – the top issues are threatened homelessness in particular with private landlords, disrepair issues, homelessness and securing private/rented accommodation.

6.9% of clients have **mental health** issues.

**Form Filling Service** – Friends of Ashford & Tenterden Citizens Advice fund our form filling service. Volunteers give 16 hours per week of their time assisting with the form filling to our clients.

Ashford & Tenterden Citizens Advice has been part of the local community since 1941. Our service is an independent charity run by 2 full-time and 8 part-time paid staff and 50 volunteers. Together, our team makes a huge contribution to the locality. Volunteers have given this year in excess of £240,000 economic value to local community.

255 **QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS.**

- (a) Mr. Clement of Rogersmead raised the issue of increased traffic, vehicles and pedestrians making the crossing of the High Street by Highbury Lane and Station Road extremely difficult. He questioned whether there was a crash report on this site. He also pointed out that visibility is obscured by stopped buses and parking in the High Street. Mr. Clement asked if it would be possible to undertake a feasibility study to put a crossing here as the nearest pedestrian crossings are some distance. This would make access to Tesco, K&ESR and the museum easier. Cllr. Hill, of KCC, will ask Kent Highways to look again at the current layout of crossing to see if they might be adjusted.
- (b) Caretaker Scheme. M Pearson, of High Street, asked the Chair of the External Committee, Cllr. Carter, to confirm the annual cost to Tenterden Town Council of the Caretaker Scheme. Cllr. Carter will arrange to meet with Mr. Pearson and put this information on the minutes of the next Town Council meeting. The Town Clerk re-iterated that the purpose of the Caretaker Scheme was to improve the greens and not to make a profit. The scheme will be reviewed again in 6 months and if it is not successful will consider returning this to ABC. Ms. S. Welch, of Readers Bridge Road, wondered whether the task could not be done in partnership with ABC helping during busy periods. The Town Clerk will look in to this but

suggested that the busy periods would probably be the same for both TTC and ABC.

- (c) Tenterden Footpaths Group. A representative from the Group asked when the map of the Tenterden footpaths would be available again. In 1992 a map was presented and displayed on the High Street (between M&Co and Phase 8). All the footpaths were marked and walkable. The map is no-longer visible it is just an advert for London Beach. The Deputy Clerk will look in to finding a replacement for this map.
- (d) Speed Indicator Devices (SID). Mr. Pickford of Haffenden Road asked why the A28 was not being considered for a SID. The Town Clerk explained that a feasibility study had been undertaken by KCC and only three suitable sites had been identified. The A28 is not suitable as the speed limit is greater than 30mph at that point. The Town Clerk encouraged residents to liaise with the Community Speed Watch Team who co-ordinate with the police to carry out a traffic survey. A mobile unit is available for this. Ms. Miller commented on 'boy-racers' speeding on the A28 at night. Any resident concerned with speeding, should report this to the police.
- (e) Christmas Lights. Mr. Parkin of Appledore Road asked for clarification over the increased cost of the Christmas Lights from £23,000 last year to £40,000 this year. The Town Clerk explained that the increase included the estimated cost of taking over the lamp standards on the High Street. The new power supply for this could then be made used for other events in town.
- (f) Highbury Lane Road Surface. Mr. Weller asked whether this was scheduled. Cllr. Ferguson was able to confirm that the drainage channels are on KCC's list and should be carried out very soon.
- (g) Bridewell Lane Car Park. Ms. Jessett of Woodbury Lane asked whether the car park could be gritted more regularly in the winter. Parking and Transport Manager at ABC, Mr. C. Miller, explained that KCC 'winter works programme' struggles to keep on top of main routes and roads and the schedule does not include car parks. However, he will report back to ABC the comment about ice caused by drains being higher than the surface of the car park.

256 **CLOSE**. There being no further business the Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. Attendees were invited to remain for refreshments.

**The meeting opened at 7.30pm and closed at 8.59pm.**

The foregoing Minutes and Reports were confirmed and signed at the Annual Town Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Chairman ..... (24.06.2019)