

MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
held on Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.00 pm via Zoom

Councillors

Present

N Morton (Mayor, Chairman)
C Bovey
J Dallow
C Hooper
N Houghton
L Lambeth
J Leibrandt
N Mills
C Palmer

J Satterthwaite
S Taylor
D Watkins

In attendance

L Blake – Town Clerk
L Wall – Minute Clerk

1. MAYOR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town meeting.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2020

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11 March 2020 were approved and will be signed later as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020/21

The Mayor started his second annual report by saying how his two years in office could not have been more different. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Town Council operations and services had been maintained and the Mayor thanked Councillors and staff for their hard work in enabling this. The pandemic had also meant that most events had had to be cancelled, but it was looking hopeful that there would be some events held this year.

Some projects had been completed such as the removal of the fountain in Malvern Link and its replacement with a much-appreciated Christmas tree, lit up for the festive season. This was a demonstration of the good working relationship that had been forged with the district council and it was hoped that these links would be maintained in the future. The Mayor commented that he had been pleased to see district and county councillors attending some of the town council meetings.

At Christmas time, in collaboration with MHDC, a window trail had been put on in the three town centres and was well received, being one event that everyone could take part in safely when many other Christmas events were cancelled. The lead up to Christmas also saw 100 festive cheer bags being distributed to local families and the Mayor thanked all those who had contributed funds towards this, especially as not holding the usual events meant that there had been no fundraising for the Mayoral charities over the past few months.

The Mayor also mentioned that the projects at Victoria Park – new basketball courts and the redevelopment of the pavilion - were progressing, albeit slowly and he looked forward to the completion of both.

Remembrance day was commemorated in a much reduced way but still very much appreciated by residents and the Mayor thanked the Priory for opening to enable a small service. MHDC and its Chairman Dean Clarke had worked with MTC in putting on the Remembrance event.

The Council had delivered the budget and worked to set the precept at the same level as last year. He hoped that residents would be satisfied with how money had been spent. Any savings made by not holding events had been used on other projects to benefit the town, such as new bike racks that would soon be installed in various locations throughout Malvern.

Over £70,000 of grants had been awarded including two special grants given during the start of the pandemic to Community Action who provided a home delivery service, and Age Concern, which supported vulnerable people in their homes.

The past few months had seen the completion of some other projects such as the refurbishment of the flats at the back of Belle Vue Terrace which had since been re-let; a review of the council's IT structure and replacement with a much more secure system which would also allow more working from home if required; and the distribution of a newsletter to inform residents where they could get help during the pandemic.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Peter Smith for this work on the Jenny Lind memorial fountain which would hopefully be in place in Rosebank Gardens next year.

The Mayor said that overall it had been a strange year for everyone and he was pleased that we seemed to be through the worst of it and able to look forward to upcoming events such as Bands in the Park and the Mayor's Peak Challenge walk.

4. **REPORTS FROM WARD REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILS**

There were no reports from ward representatives of county and district councils.

5. **OPEN FORUM**

There were no questions put forward, but the Mayor wished to record his thanks to staff and his fellow colleagues on the council, all of whom had embraced new technology to carry on the town council's services and business, and for their patience in difficult times which had made his job as Mayor that much easier.

6. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 7.24 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 7.00 pm. Venue to be arranged.

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(Mayor)