

## **DRAFT minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 20 March 2019 at Ascot United Football Club**

14 Parish Councillors attended

20 Residents attended

7329 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and made an announcement regarding safety matters applicable to the meeting. She explained the purpose of the Annual Assembly as being an opportunity for the electorate to hold their Councillors and local charities to account and to find out about the Parish Council's activities, finances, role and structure.

7330 The minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 21 March 2018, were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7331 A presentation was received from the Parish Council regarding activities during the past year and future plans. The presentation began with Councillor Robert Ellison outlining the Leisure Committee's activities, including the refurbishment of the pavilion, installation of new play equipment, improvements to the steps and footpath leading from Oriental Road to Victory Field and the addition of a new bench and lectern to commemorate 100 years since the end of the First World War. A long term programme of works had begun at the Blythewood Nature Reserve to maintain and improve the area and following on from the Parish Council's support of the Wildlife in Ascot Kingfisher Project, work was underway at the Blackmoor stream. Future projects included replacing equipment at Cheapside Play Park and the Borough is at present in the process of organising a new lease for South Ascot Recreation Ground. Councillor Barbara Hilton outlined improvements that had been made to the allotments and then went on to explain the role of the Parish Council in local planning applications, with the significant developments of Heatherwood Hospital and the Gas Works site in Sunninghill touched on. Councillor Robin Wood then gave an overview of the finances of the Parish Council, drawing the Assembly's attention to the use of reserves to ensure a balanced budget. He set out the proposed use of the Community Infrastructure Levy to support a 'green corridor survey' project and an outdoor learning room at St Michael's school in Sunninghill. Next the Chairman explained the grant giving process, informing the Assembly of the grants that had been given to local charities over the last year. The recent Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre was deemed to be a great success, with the proceeds all being donated to local good causes. The forthcoming summer Parish Party in the Park was then advertised. The Chairman ended by thanking the Parish Councillors, Parish Council staff and all those who had worked with the Parish Council over the last year.

7332 The Chairman invited Richard Pilgrim, Head Teacher at Charters School, to present an overview of the events at the school. He began by saying that it had been a busy year for the school and that their numbers would be increasing from 1,700 to 1,850 over the next year and that they would be taking an additional 300 new students in September 2019. The schools 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations had been a great success and the temporary maths and science buildings replaced with a new set of classrooms, which had been opened by Professor Robert Winston. A new lecture theatre, The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, had also been opened. Good progress had been made on exam results, with the school being in the top 25% nationally, and the broad curriculum offer including, sports, arts and outdoor pursuits at the Tyr Abad centre maintained. Parent Ambassadors had been developed and links with the local police strengthened. The Chairman asked Mr Pilgrim to speak about the recent decision to close the school at 1.30pm on Fridays from September 2019. Mr Pilgrim briefly outlined the reasons for this, which did include cost savings, but emphasised that whilst the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead was supportive, nationally school budgets were under pressure. The Chairman thanked Mr Pilgrim for taking the time to come and speak to the Assembly and asked Inspector Warbrick to report on local policing issues.

7333 Inspector Louise Warbrick explained that she was in charge of the Ascot police neighbourhood team and gave an overview of key crime statistics and policing priorities within the Parish. These priorities were burglary, exploitation and violent crimes. There would be a new Police Constable and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) for Ascot, along with the Police Sergeant, with the PCSO having a base at Charters School. The police were working with Charters school on restorative justice schemes and crime prevention. There would be new social media sites containing information on police campaigns, crime prevention schemes and matters of concern to residents, such as scams and home security. A volunteer scheme had been created where retired police would be helping with such awareness schemes. The Chairman thanked Inspector Warbrick for her presentation.

7334 The Chairman then asked to receive a report from the Borough Councillors. Councillor David Hilton spoke on the progress of the Heatherwood Hospital site, with the new hospital due to be completed by 2021, at an estimated cost of £98 million. A significant contribution would be made for affordable housing, with the councillors pushing for an allocation on site. Councillor Hilton also spoke about the judicial review of the Heathrow third runway (to which he was opposed), which would be taking place within the next two weeks. He reported on the work of the Neighbourhood Action Group stating that the neighbourhood team were planning to hold regular surgeries in Sunninghill and Ascot. Next Councillor John Story outlined the changes that had been made to the electoral wards within the Parish, following the recent boundary review, stating that the wards had changed from three to two and that the Borough Councillors had also been reduced from seven to five. He announced that a weekly bin collection would remain within the Borough but that improvements to recycling could be made. Councillor Story noted that whilst the Council Tax was to go up by just under 3% it was still lower than ten years ago and the lowest outside of London. Councillor Lynda Yong then spoke about the work she had been doing with Radian Homes regarding affordable housing for key workers in the Parish. All three Borough Councillors expressed their enthusiasm for the proposed new 'Oaks' leisure centre, to be located next to Charters school. The Chairman thanked the Borough Councillors for their presentation.

7335 The three charities within the Parish were then invited to provide their accounts. Councillor David Hilton, Chairman of the Ascot Fire Brigade Trust, was in attendance and presented their accounts, briefly explaining the aims and activities of the Trust, including grants made to Family Friends, Thames Hospice and Ascot United for their 3G pitch. He noted the Parish Council's allocation of Section 106 funds for the pitch, as part of a strategic overview of sports provision within the Parish. Councillor Hilton invited grant applications from charities and good causes in the Ascot area.

The Chairman stated that accounts had been received from the Sunninghill Parochial Charities and the Sunninghill Trust which were available for inspection.

7336 The Chairman opened the floor to a Questions and Answer session. A resident asked about the progress of the proposed development of Ascot High Street. Councillor David Hilton answered that the south of the High Street was within the green belt and that this land could not be released until the Borough's Local Plan had been adopted. He referred the resident to the Ascot Centre Development Brief. In the meantime, a survey and review was going to be carried out on the traffic down Ascot High Street from Heatherwood Hospital.

Parish Councillor Barbara Story said that there were many residents concerned about drug dealing within the Parish and asked what the best way to report this was. Inspector Warbrick suggested calling 101 in the first instance, but appreciated that it was sometime difficult to get through on that number. Flyers were available at the meeting with the numbers for Crime Stoppers and an email address of the Ascot neighbourhood team, where reports of any form of anti-social behaviour could be made. Inspector Warbrick emphasised that the reports the police received informed them as to where patrols should happen.

Another resident asked if there were any statistics on scams within the area. Inspector Warbrick stated that she did not have such statistics for this area alone, but that neighbourhood teams and community wardens were holding sessions locally to try to raise awareness of scams and that they were visiting those targeted to offer support.

Councillor Barbara Story asked where residents should go if they wanted to speak to the police face to face. Inspector Warbrick replied that if residents did not want to travel to either Windsor or Maidenhead stations then they could email the Ascot neighbourhood team and the police would endeavour to meet with them.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Assembly and Ascot United for their hospitality. The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Refreshments followed.

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Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman