



Minutes of the Town Assembly held at the Civic Hall 1st March 2023

Present: Town Mayor Cllr Johanna Maitland (JM)

Cllrs; Helen Ellwood (HE), David Kent (DK), Jo Maitland (JM), Miriat Niagra (MN), Judy Snowball (JS), John Stewart (JCS).

Town Mayor; Cllr John Stewart

Town Clerk; Julie Mason.

Town Manager; Harriet Worrell

Administration Assistant; Helen Platt

Public Forum

There were twenty-two members of the public present.

Apologies

Cllr A Stott due to ill health, Cllr A Williams due to holidays, Cllr J Nicholas due to ill health, Cllr K Edwards due to a family commitment, Cllrs Butterworth no apologies submitted and Cllr K Larby due a family illness.

Welcome from the Mayor

Cllr JCS welcomed the audience including the past two Mayors and thanked Jackie Weaver for her attendance.

He showed a selection of pictures over the past year of events and celebrations of which he had attended as Mayor to Bollington. One of his most memorable events was visiting Chester Cathedral to attend the legal service which was attend by presiding high court judges, district judges and the Sheriff of Chester. The most rewarding events were the celebrations to attend of significant birthdays of residents in the community. He had visited the ATC squadron and celebrated the Water Street Nursery anniversary.

This year he was holding a fund-raising event at Hollin Hall Hotel to raise funds for the replacement cricket nets.

The Mayor went of the summarise the achievements of the Council over the year , which included an extra allotment site, planting and installing hanging baskets, creating a Youth Council, taking the Civility & Respect pledge, re investing a group of officers looking at the PROW across Bollington and reacting to the cost of living crisis by creating warm spaces and working with Cr8 to offer a surplus food site for Bollington.

He went on to introduce Jackie Weaver.

Presentations from Jackie Weaver the Chief Officer from Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

JW explained how CHALC was responsible for the support and training to all the Town & Parish Council's across Cheshire. Their sizes varied from a revenue of £2k - £3K up to Crewe TC with £2m. They were all covered by the same rules and regulations. The better more active Councils were dealing with issues such as dementia , climate change and the less active ones in the main dealt with planning applications.

Overall, she felt if you stood as a Cllr you could make a difference and she encouraged a younger audience as statistics showed the Councillors currently in the main were from an older generation. JW explained how to become a Cllr.

- Elections every 4 years
- If these vacancies were not filled they could be advertised as casual vacancies and Co-opted.
- Co option if a resignation arose.

This year was a year of elections on 4th May and if you wished to stand you had until 6th April at 4pm to complete your nomination paper.

This process was all handled by the Elections Team at Cheshire East Council.

The famous Zoom meeting at Handforth Parish Council had made JW an local celebrity and she went on to explain how this had happened and the changes in her life. She always had tried to promote on her journey how the local voice could be heard through the Town and Parish Council and asked the audience to motivate their neighbours to support the Councils.

There was a questions and answer session.

Minutes from 22nd March 2022

RESOLVED the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The Mayor asked for questions and comments from the audience

Questions and Answers from the Public

- After the success of the EVC chargers on Poolbank car park will the TC be installing more points and it was noted there were cars parking illegally in the charging bays
- There was a comment to support the 20 is plenty campaign in Bollington.
- ARRIVA had recently announced that they would be withdrawing from the bus service in Cheshire East which removed several key routes. There was ask of support from BTC. A lady wished to expand the point and ask for BTC to purchase an electric bus to make traffic movements through the town. This would help with traffic, congestion at the high school with drop offs, the climate emergency and a safe route to schools. The Government gave 20% grant funding towards this project.
- Had any action been taken with a shelter for the bowling club?
- There was a concern about the youth and their needs in the town.

Refreshments were served and the Cllrs were available for more questions.

Signed

Date: