

Hedon Town Council

Annual Town Meeting

Held in the Town Hall, St Augustine's Gate, Hedon

5 May 2022

Present: Cllr S Rommell (in the Chair)
Chairmen of Town Council Committees: Cllrs Billany, Dennis and Gallant
Town Clerk: Mrs J Macklin
Mrs S Banks, Mr J Brindley, Mr B Hanson, Mr D Thompson, Mr R Duffill, Mrs C Hunter and J Dunning-Davies (police),

1. Welcome by the Mayor
The Mayor, Cllr Rommell, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
2. To agree and adopt the minutes of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting
The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2021 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings thereat.
3. To consider any matters arising from the minutes
None
4. To receive Town Mayor's Annual Report
Cllr Rommell gave a report on the Mayoral year 2021/2022; the report is attached to the Minutes.
5. To receive Annual Reports from the Chairmen of Committees
Cllr J Dennis, Chairman of the Planning Committee, gave a report on the activities of that Committee from 2021/2022.
Cllr S Gallant gave a report on the activities of the Finance and General Purposes Committee during 2021/2022.
Cllr C Billany, Chairman of the Property Committee, gave a report on the activities of that Committee during 2021/2022.
The reports from Chairmen were attached to the Minutes.
6. Open Forum – to receive Written Questions
No written questions had been received; however, the police attended and gave a report which is attached to the Minutes.

The Mayor thanked those that had attended the meeting, and the Chairmen of the Committees for their reports, and noted that the next Town Council Public Participation Session would be held immediately before the F&GP Committee Meeting on Thursday 28 July 2022.

Chairman _____

Mayor's Report – 2021/22

As a life-long resident of Hedon it was a great honour to be elected Mayor after almost ten years of service on the Council.

During my time on the Council I have dedicated myself fully to the position of Councillor taking less than 5 days absence in nearly ten years. My first priority was always to be active as a councillor and available to the residents.

I am the 9th female Mayor of Hedon out of 674 Mayors. And the first female Mayor to be elected for about 10 years. The last one being Cllr Ann Suggitt.

I would like to thank the Councillors who voted for me to be Mayor and the members of the public who put their faith in me and gave me their vote at the election.

I would also like to thank my Consort, Councillor Jason Brindley, and the Sergeant at Mace, John Dawson. John drove me to and from the civic events I attended.

I would also like to thank my Deputy Cllr David Thompson and his wife Carole. There was very little for Cllr Thompson to do during his time as my Deputy because things didn't really get going until March this year.

Unfortunately, we lost Sandy during my term of office but I'm thankful for the work Sandy did. I would also like to thank the Town Clerk, Judith Macklin and the assistant Town Clerk, Caroline Addy who stepped in to do Sandy's job.

I extend my thanks to the Reverend Dr Sue Pulko for being my Mayor's Chaplin

My term as Mayor has been very unusual due to the covid pandemic. My ceremony was held in St Augustine's church. This ceremony would normally take place in the Town Hall but that couldn't happen as a result of covid restrictions. I think St Augustine's was a perfect place for the ceremony to take place as my family has a long history with St Augustine's Church.

The pandemic dominated my term as Mayor. With most civic events unable to take place until March and April 2022. Unfortunately, I didn't get to attend Yorkshire day as it was cancelled due to covid.

As Mayor I became the president of the Hedon Museum which was a highlight of my term.

My first invitation as Mayor was to the Diamond Celebration at Hedon Museum. This marked the 60th anniversary of the Army cadets receiving the freedom of the Borough. At this event I met colonel Steve Emmerson, Commandant of the Humberside and South Yorkshire Army Cadet force.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Gladys Lewis who was a Code Breaker at Bletchley Park in World War 2. Gladys invited me to pay her a visit so we could talk about her experience of life over the years. I believe Gladys is 99 years old now so we should have plenty to talk about.

It was at this event that I met the Chairman of the East Riding, Nigel Wilkinson, for the first time. I found his conversation incredibly entertaining.

I was asked to judge the Hedon Museum's "Design a Logo" competition to commemorate their 25th anniversary. I was present at the award ceremony which was held at Holderness Academy.

A book was also produced by the Museum showing the competition designs and a history of the Museum. I was asked to do the introduction to the book.

I was invited to the Battle of Britain Reception. I thoroughly enjoyed this visit and met many members of the forces. I got to see a fly by and was given a tour of the barracks.

I launched the Hedon shuttle bus service with new electric bus.

I opened the Inman's School Enhanced Provisions Unit and got to meet the children and teachers and see their brilliant new facilities.

I was sent a personal invitation by Captain John Tindall to have a tour of Trinity House.

I had the opportunity to meet the Mayors and Consorts from all over the East Riding while attending their civic events, and also the Mayor of Hull and Admiral of the Humber, Cllr Lynn Patrini, and her Consort, Graham, and was invited by the Mayor of Hull to a blue service Dinner with the Hull silver in use.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the chance to meet so many people and I hope we all keep in touch.

The chain gang only had the opportunity to meet for events during March and April rather than the whole year so it felt like our time together was cut very short.

During my term we have welcomed Cllr Samantha Banks onto the Council and our new member of staff, Jane Johnson.

As Chairman of the Council, I would like to thank the councillors and staff for the good work they have put in over the last year and the professionalism they have shown. I think we have enjoyed a peaceful and productive year in spite of covid.

Cllr Sarah Rommell
674th Mayor of Hedon

Hedon Town Council

Planning Committee Report 2021/2022

'Planning Applications for the town of Hedon have produced, as is usual, a wide collection of residential property extensions, commercial premises alterations and changes of use. Nothing that would be regarded though, as particularly controversial.

However, we seem to have a number of projects within our Town which are unusual to say the least. The proposals for a Petting Farm and Dog exercise area come to mind. From recollection, as the local Town Council, we have not objected except for asking for reassurances that highways, parking and flooding issues are considered, either by the Eastern Area Planning Committee and/or officers and suitable conditions imposed to protect the amenities of local residents.

It would be a step forward if the issues in our two Conservation Areas were taken somewhat more seriously than has been the case recently by the ER Planning Officers. Although nominated as The Conservation Officer to oversee Hedon's ancient central areas there has recently been a distinct lack of 'overseeing'! There is a worrying relaxation of rules.

Strangely enough, even after a lifetime's career within the property and planning profession, and holding qualifications in the subject, it is only this last few months that I have been appointed as part of the planning process at ER. Up until my retirement I had always been told that I wouldn't be allowed to sit on the committee at County Hall.

This has now, after 20 years, been set aside and you now have all three of your ER Ward Members being on that Committee.

When applications appertaining to properties in Hedon come for our consultation, before going to Committee at Beverley, I have to carefully consider my own position and decide whether being on Hedon Planning gives rise to 'Conflict of Interests' situations and impacts on my ability to actually speak and vote.

So far, while initially being concerned, I acknowledge that while there have been a few coming to both committees, the issue of potential conflicts hasn't arisen.

Hedon continues to consider and recommend as a Statutory Consultee on all sorts of applications as we always have.

Actually though, it seems that applications in adjacent areas seem to have more impact on our residents than the actual Hedon cases.

The traffic light-controlled crossroads in the centre of Preston comes to mind as having indirect, but significant effects on Hedon and all other nearby communities. The proposed take-away at the old Preston Post Office, more or less opposite the existing one in Main Street, is one that, if approved without effective conditions, could give rise to serious traffic issues particularly because of its position at the lights

and a distinct lack of parking in the vicinity. As we all know, the number of cars belonging to both customers and deliverers already causes serious problems.

There would obviously be delays caused to all users of the traffic light-controlled junction, including of course, Hedon's residents. This application will require serious consideration when it comes forward and the effects on all residents' amenities, far and wide, will doubtless be a consideration.

For the record, at this stage I haven't given any opinion, for or against the merits of this case and will, as always, go into the Committee scenario with an open mind.

Work is slowly progressing on the new Crematorium at Sproatley Road and we have to trust that the planning conditions imposed have the desired effect and no noticeable effects on the nearby road network is felt.

Obviously the proposals already approved for the various industrial schemes in the area of Saltend could give rise to a communal effect of an increased number of HGV's. Hopefully the many conditions imposed on such decisions will serve to reduce any impact on roads in our region.

I dread to think, however, just what will happen when there is an incident at one of Hedon Road's roundabouts and just how serious will be the delays caused to neighbouring communities as large number of HGVs queue to get round the corner from Staithes Road into Main Street. It's quite rare but does happen sometimes.

Thank you for listening.

Cllr John Dennis
Chairman of the Planning Committee

Hedon Town Council

Finance & General Purposes Report 2021-2022

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Thanks to my fellow Councillors for entrusting me with Chairing the F&GP Committee for another year.

This report covers the last twelve months and the budget set for the year ahead. But I'd like to give a bit of background context first.

Reserves - When I became Chair our reserves had run down to only £59k or a couple of months of running costs. So, we have made it a strategic objective to build up our reserves gradually over the last five years while addressing some of the major repair and restoration of the Council's valuable assets.

By last year we had managed to reach the point where the Auditor was very happy to report that the "General Reserve is considered to be both reasonable and prudent". That's accountant speak for "well done!" But we haven't built those reserves just to keep the auditor happy. You never know when circumstances might mean they need to be spent. And, unlike governments, Town Councils are not allowed to borrow. We have to live within our means and raise every penny spent.

2021/22 Budget - When we came to set the Budget and Precept for 2021/22, we set a Budget that balanced planned expenditure and income at £237,900 together with ear-marked reserves of £63,000 for various projects and costs.

That meant we were able to set a Zero increase to the Council Tax precept even though that meant our precept income would drop by around £5000. Councillors felt it was important not to add to pressure on people's bills as we emerged from the Pandemic. (By way of contrast Preston increased their precept by 10% last year !).

Overspends – In practice we have had a very challenging year to deal with. We have had to overspend the planned budget in a number of areas. Our Gas and Electric bills have more than doubled. We overspent the Town Amenities budget by over £5000 as the Council funded the small Christmas Trees etc. We have also had to advertise to recruit new office staff including a new Town Clerk to replace Mrs Macklin who retires this summer.

But the biggest overspends have been on the Arboricultural works and on repairs to the Town Hall. When a huge chunk of the ceiling in this 300 year old building comes down, the only responsible thing to do was to go ahead with repairing it to the appropriate standard for an historic listed building. So, in total we have had overspends of £32,700 this year.

Underspends – Because we have had to incur extra spending during the year, we have put some projects on hold for this year, such as painting restoration and improvements to the play area. But we still managed to get the Civic Mace restored and re-gilded as part of the ongoing renovation of the Town's assets. If you have seen the mace being paraded in front of the Mayor I'm sure you agree it looks

absolutely splendid and will do so for many years now. Along with other savings achieved across the running of the Council we underspent by £42,000.

Income – Our precept income came in as budgeted but overall our income was £254,000 as VAT refunds and Cemetery charges came in above budget by £16,000.

Budget 2022/23 – When Councillors met to discuss the budget and precept for the new financial year we were aware that we faced considerable unexpected costs in repairing the Town Hall as well as the increased challenges of inflation, energy costs and rises in the Living Wage all to be factored in.

But we also wanted, if possible, to be able to set another Zero Precept increase.

That involved a few difficult decisions and de-prioritising a couple of projects again. But we have set expenditure plans at £242,750, an increase of £4850 on last year. Our income is forecast to come in at £242,230. So, the income and expenditure are broadly in line. Of course we have yet to finish the repairs to the Town Hall and costs may be a little higher, but we have our reserves to cover any extra costs.

The F&GP Committee's role is to manage the demands of maintaining the town and its facilities and assets within our limited financial resources. I'm satisfied we have set a budget that achieves that without increasing the burden on residents this year.

I would just like to record my thanks to the Town Clerk and Asst Town Clerk who have done an excellent job once again in managing the Council's expenditure and secured an excellent report from the Auditor on the management systems and processes the Council uses. And I'd like to thank Cllr Brindley for serving as Deputy Chair of F&GP and for his assistance over the year.

Cllr Steve Gallant
Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee
May 5th 2022

Hedon Town Council Property Report 2021/22

Here is the Hedon Town Council Property Report covering 2021/2022.

Within the year 2021/22 the Town council has had several issues with the property of Hedon Town Council. The major issue was with the Town Hall itself with a large amount of work needing to be carried out on the infrastructure of the building. The first being to the rear of the building with the guttering and damp proofing needing to be carried out, which led to the chimney needing to be repointed and making safe. It has now been completed to a high standard. While these issues were being dealt with a part of the historic ceiling decided it no longer wanted to stay where it was and decided to fall onto the stairs. This was looking like a costly repair as it first looked like the whole ceiling had to be taken down and replaced with like for like materials; but with specialised experts checking the ceiling they deemed that only patching was required. Therefore, the work to the ceiling will hopefully be completed in the next financial year. During the repair the council will take the opportunity to paint the hallway and landing.

There has been a lot of work carried out to the trees that the council own. This is mainly due to ash dieback or disease; but some of the trees needed to be trimmed for safety measures. This work was carried out in Elsie Gate as a precaution as the council doesn't want any trees falling on residents. The council is also due to change its tree arborist as Tony Whitehead has now retired, but he has stayed on to cover the trees. The Council is currently seeking a new arborist.

The Council's working group which covers the Amenities areas in Hedon have been meeting to discuss the way forward in several areas like Greville Road playing field, where permeable matting has been installed to make the entrance less of a quagmire in the winter, and hopefully new goalposts will be installed before too long as the council has agreed to replace them with similar posts. The next area is Far Bank where

Hedon Town Council Property Report 2021/22

it has been agreed to install some permeable matting next to the bridge, hopefully before Hedfest. The play area, it will be suggested that future funding to invest in making the play area better with up-to-date equipment and looking at maintaining the equipment we currently have. Watson Park, the wildflowers have been sown and hopefully will provide some colour this year. Hopefully some tree trunks will be placed in Watson Park to add to the seating. No man-made structures are allowed within the boundaries, as it was bequeathed to the town with the understanding that it will not be built on and left for the residents of Hedon to use the land for recreation. The other areas will be checked hopefully this coming year.

The council had received a request from a person who wanted to metal detect on council land. However, the person wanted to use land which had historic restrictions. So, the council formulated a Metal Detecting Policy which only allows organised groups to work on these areas.

It is nice to see the orchard coming along after some loss of trees due to rabbits eating the saplings. Elsie gate is a work in progress due to the nature of the layout and the ongoing fight with ash die-back. The cemetery is looking well kept and is a very peaceful place to come and pay your respects.

The council is hoping to open the Town Hall during the Heritage Weekend, which will be over the weekend of the 19-20th September between 12 noon – 4pm. The council has managed to borrow a mannequin to display the mayoral robes and there might be a few surprises to those who come to view the Town Hall.

Last year the council did a survey of all the litter bins in Hedon to find out what state they were in. This was carried out by Sandy to her normal high standard. This survey was going to allow us to paint and repair them. The council contacted East Riding for

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them to do the same for their litter bins not expecting East Riding to carry out all the painting and repairs with no cost to the council.

The council is proud to maintain all of the property on behalf of the residents of the Historic Town of Hedon. Keeping the history safe for the future residents to be proud of.

I will now end by thanking our Town Clerk, Judith, for her service to the town council during her time with us; Caroline for helping Judith keep the Councillors in check, and also with the Cemetery; our late Secretary, Sandy, who will be missed, Tony Whitehead for maintaining our trees, Terry West for doing the work on the Town Hall roof and finally our team of maintenance workers led by Des for keeping the town looking clean and tidy. A special mention to Des as he will be a hard act to follow when he reduces his work commitments later this year.

Cllr Colin Billany
Chairman of the Property Committee

Hedon Town Council AGM – 05/05/2022

Police input from S/Sgt 6096 Dunning-Davies, Hedon Police Station

April 2022

17 thefts

4 burglaries

6 damages (including one arson)

1 drugs offence

12 bicycles stolen.

2 motorcycles

2 cars

2 shop thefts (value over £100)

This is a large increase over previous years around the same time of year, and previous months.

Organised crime groups and individuals identified and shown nationally as wanted.

Current economic climate: Hull based criminals looking for vulnerabilities in more affluent areas.

Barriers

The offenders are in a sense nomadic, and are rarely at their home addresses or those of known associates which we know, as numerous negative arrest attempts have been made. When they are caught, arrested and charged the deterrents from HM Courts often appear insignificant, and the offenders do not care for curfews or respect authority. However HMC – like all Government bodies – has to abide by legislation, policies and sentencing guidelines put in place by Senior Civil Servants and Ministers.

Offenders often use motorcycles/pedal cycles which only a very small number of officers – nationally – are trained to pursue. New legislation has recently been introduced which allows a Judge to serve a life sentence for death or serious injury by dangerous driving. Police Officers are not exempt.

Owners have to be responsible to a degree as well. Garage doors should not be left open for anyone to view the contents, and expensive items not left on display. Quality security should also be used and applied correctly.

There is a lack of reporting – 101 can be difficult at peak times, but online reporting and Crimestoppers available. Please report suspicious activity.

There is an unfounded belief that Police Stations unmanned. There may not be anyone to answer the door, but the stations are manned 24/7. Officers will be out in the community patrolling, being proactive and responding to calls for service.

Initiatives in place

PCSO Bainton will be carrying out crime prevention sessions promoting “Immobilise” and cycle security.

We have increased patrols at peak offence times, using tactically deployed Special Constabulary Officers in addition to regular Officers, as they can often be more flexible.

We use unmarked vehicles from time to time, so that the unwelcome visitors to our town cannot see us coming.

Neighbourhood Watch is developing and has become an excellent source of community intelligence gathering. It has reaped rewards including arrests, successful road traffic prosecutions and the seizure of Class A drugs.

Partnership work with ERYC, MCGA, HMRC, and of course the Town Council and local residents has proven invaluable over time.

Other Matters

- Response to Cycling on the Footpath Question from previous minutes

Following a benchmark case in or around 2009 when the 16 year old son of a London QC was issued a £30 FPN for cycling on a footpath, and the same QC took it to the Court of Appeal, and the High Court, it was ruled that there is no actual offence of cycling on a footpath but rather cycling recklessly so as to endanger other users. Following on from that, the number of prosecutions dramatically decreased.

However, if someone is cycling faster than a steady pace, and failing to acknowledge pedestrians – the primary users of a footpath – then we will report them for the offence.

- Response to Covid breaches Shakespeare public house Question from previous minutes.

I am not aware if any action has been taken with regard to this from either Police or Council Licencing, and therefore cannot fairly comment at this time.

However, the Covid legislation was rushed through parliament and left a number of “grey” areas, and the Police has to consider if it is in the public interest – the taxpayer’s interest – to pursue a case which may cost thousands, and fail.

- Speeding.

Reports seem to have reduced. However, Truvelo have repaired the ProLaser speed gun free of charge as HTC fund the device's upkeep and calibration annually.

Device is used regularly. Discretion is used. However, inappropriate speeds are dealt with, and there are currently 4 individuals awaiting disqualification hearings after offences in Hedon & Preston from last quarter.

20mph limits – as previously discussed – are not enforced. Options? **Councillor Billany asked why Station Road/Preston Road (Preston to Hedon) is not a variable limit. He has a very good point, and Humberside Police would fully support this. However, Preston Traffic Group and Parish Council are opposed.**

- Anti-Social Behaviour.

Persons – Very few reports officially. However, there is constant reporting on social media of dog fouling and littering, particularly in the skate park and in the vicinity of Market Hill and the Church.

Patrols have been carried out on Market Hill. However, no ASB has been encountered. HTC have now moved the picnic benches to Drapers Lane grassed area.

Vehicles – Two Section 59 Warnings have been issued in Hedon in the last month. Reports of motorcycles being used in anti-social manner have been investigated also. If registrations, times and dates are reported, Section 59 warnings can be considered. (For those unaware, Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 gives Police Officers and PCSOs the power to issue a warning (with 12 months validity) to both a driver and vehicle, and if they are caught driving/being driven in an anti-social manner or carelessly or inconsiderately again within 12 months, then their vehicle is seized and they are prosecuted.

- Drug use/dealing

Recent intelligence regarding drug use and dealing under investigation as are some individuals. Priority issue. Work is ongoing, and just because you do not see doors being kicked in at 6am or social media reports showing mountains of white powder, does not mean nothing is being done.

A member of the public asked if motorcycles using the old railway line was still an issue as it had been. In response, the incidences have reduced. However, it is the preferred access point for East Hull OCG members, and invariably they do use motorcycles. It may increase as summer approaches, and we urge you to keep reporting anything suspicious or illegal to 101, Crimestoppers, Humberside Police online and 999 if appropriate.

In conclusion, the world works on statistics. If it is not recorded, then it never happened. Facebook – while it is monitored, is not yet an approved reporting mechanism. Please use it and share information with the community, but be careful what you share. Criminals use Facebook to gather

intelligence too. We do read your concerns and try to act on them. However, it is important to use official channels as shown below. **Please keep talking to us, and reporting everything.**

Telephone - 101

Telephone – 999 for an emergency, where a crime is ongoing or about to happen, or where it is a matter of life and death.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

<https://www.humberside.police.uk/report-it>

<https://www.humberside.police.uk/dash-cam-reporting>