

45th Annual Town Meeting

To be signed at the next meeting 2019

Minutes of the 45th Town Meeting held in the Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon, 7.30pm, Wednesday 25th April 2018

Present

Cllr L. Little – Chairman of Clevedon Town Council Presiding

Town Councillors G. Hill, J. Middleton, N. Barton, B. Hatch, J. Geldart, G. Watkins, A. Giles-Townsend, C. Francis-Pester, S. Hale, D. Shopland, A. Shopland, B. Cherokoff, L. Fone
Town Clerk – Ms P Heath MILCM,
Local Government Electors x 7
Press x 1

Apologies for non-attendance had been given by Cllr J. Norton-Sealey (family commitments) Cllr C. Blades (another meeting), Cllr J. West (family commitment)

TM 18/1 MINUTES OF THE 44th TOWN MEETING

Proposed and seconded that the minutes of the 44th Annual Town Meeting held on 24th April 2017 are a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

TM 18/2 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL.

18.2.1 Chairman's Report; Cllr L. Little presented her report as circulated prior to the meeting, and thanked members of the Council and public for their support.

18.2.2 Allotment Chairman's report; Cllr Middleton presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

18.2.3 Finance & General Policy Committee Chairman's report; Cllr Francis- Pester presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

18.2.4 Planning Committee Chairman; Cllr Hill presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting.

18.2.5 Property Committee Chairman; Cllr J. Geldart presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting, commenting on the amount of property owned or managed by the Town Council and future plans.

18.2.6 Town Events and Amenities Committee Chairman; Cllr Francis-Pester presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting, thanking all those who worked on the Christmas Lights and the Friends of Herbert Gardens.

18.2.7 Transport & Highways Committee Chairman; Cllr Alex Giles Townsend presented the report as circulated prior to the meeting, commenting on the recent traffic review undertaken by North Somerset Council which would go out to consultation soon.

Proposed seconded and **AGREED** to accept the Chairman's & Committee reports.

TM 18/3 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the circulated audited annual accounts to 31st March 2017, proposed, seconded and **AGREED** by the meeting to accept the financial report

Hither Green – Allotments

In response to a question it was confirmed that no soil testing had been undertaken on the area proposed for new allotments; the Town Council were still awaiting the license from NSC.

Dog and Litter Bins

Several Members of the public raised concerns about the removal of dog and litter bins by NSC without consultation with the Town Council or residents. Comments were made that some of those removed were in high use areas and the effect of the removal was a noticeable increase in litter. Some dog bins removed were adjacent to play areas and dog walkers were being encouraged to put the dog faeces into the normal open topped waste bins in the play areas, leading to concerns about smell and health issues in the summer. Others spoke of the illogical way some of the dog bins had been moved.

Cllr D. Shopland as NSC East Ward Councillor explained that the decision had not been made by NSC Councillors but by officers. He explained the difficulties being faced by NSC over budgeting and financial deficits, with Social Services taking priority over all other front-line services. Cllr D. Shopland as East Ward NS Cllr suggested that Clevedon Town Council should look to take over the provision and emptying of the dog and litter bins.

Members of the Council responded to the comments, expressing concern at the way the District Council acted and the lack of communication. The Town Council was in contact with NSC to discuss the reinstatement of the bins. If the Town Council considered taking over of the waste bin contract it would see a large rise in the precept.

Friends of Herbert Gardens reported that of the 3 Clevedon Town Council bins 2 were being emptied as normal but one was repeatedly missed; the Friends had cleared this one. Some of the waste was classified as household but most was dog waste and general litter you would expect in a park.

District Councillors

Comment was made that of the 5 NSC Councillors only 1 had attended the Annual Town Meeting. It was noted that Cllr C. Blades as Chairman of North Somerset Council was attending another meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

CHAIRMAN DATE

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
CLLR JUDITH WEST**

It was a privilege and honour to be elected Chairman of Clevedon Town Council for the year May 2018 to May 2019.

The year had gone very quickly but I have found it interesting and varied. I have been meeting new people as well as old friends. Just a few events I have attended – Clevedon School Celebration Evening, the Lions Club of Clevedon Annual Harvest Festival, The Inner wheel of Clevedon Annual Rally, some of their events.

It was a fun evening when I presented the awards to the allotment holders – very hard work in the hot summer!

It was an emotional weekend in November when we commemorated those who did not return to Clevedon from the 1914-1918 war. We had a concert, a parade and service in the Triangle and then to St Andrews Church for the Annual Remembrance Day service. These events took place over the weekend on November 11th.

Although it was raining when we had our Christmas Lights celebrations, we had a very good attendance. I was ably assisted by Father Christmas when I switched on the lights. I had earlier switched on the Tree of Light on behalf of the Lions Club at the Baptist Church.

Another eventful evening was the combined civic evening and presentation of awards in October. We were entertained by Mr J. Thomas a very accomplished harpist. It was a double delight as my son Neil and his wife Kay joined me and his Brother Ian together with his wife Jayne for the evening; Neil and Kay had just arrived from New Zealand

One of my last duties is to attend Clevedon Sailing Club Annual Plate competition.

We welcomed in 2018, Cllr Sally Moores to the Town Council as the newly elected member for the Walton Ward. On May 2nd it is election day when all 21 Town Councillors will stand for election.

Very many thanks to all my Councillors for their hard work and support this year. Grateful thanks to our office members for their dedication and words of wisdom

REPORT OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
CLLR JON MIDDLETON

The Allotments Committee has, over the past year, held our regular meetings, and I have made many regular site visits.

We have once again enjoyed, continued and much valued participation from our Tenant Representatives working together with the Councillors, to help both maintain and improve each of the six Allotment sites managed by Clevedon Town Council.

The committee again supported Clevedon's Annual Flower Show at the end of August 2018 with displays in the competition classes; it would be good if all sites took part. We also sponsored some of the competition classes. In October we held our Annual Tenants Meeting, this was followed by the presentation of Prizes and Awards by the Chairman of Council and was enjoyed by all the tenants who were present, about 40 out of 200 many more would be appreciated.

Fortunately, we have no major works this year so FAR! We will continue with general site maintenance and accomplish as many improvement projects as funding allows throughout the year. Every project, whether general maintenance or repair, does appear to cost more year on year, and it has become more and more difficult to find local tradesmen / contractors to do the work. This year to remove sheds cost over £85 and new noticeboards nearly £400. The finances of the Allotment committee are on a stable footing and with careful budgeting we can pay our own way.

Our special thanks must go to Cathy Boundy for her help in obtaining the quotations, placing orders and dealing with all the general enquiries on a daily basis, without Cathy things would be difficult for us all on the committee.

Finally, I would like to thank our other office staff, Sue and Paula, for all their help, interest and support throughout the whole year. **A very big 'thank you' to you all.**

CLLR JON MIDDLETON
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 2019

REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN – CLLR GRAHAM HILL

I was honoured to be elected by my colleagues as Chairman to the F&GP committee last May, and I take this opportunity to thank them for their continuing support during a busy year.

The Finance and General Policy Committee (F&GP) continues to oversee Council income and expenditure and monitor adherence to necessary procedures throughout the year. Councillors have been mindful of the competing priorities of maintaining an appropriate financial cushion to mitigate risk, whilst also trying to keep any increase in Clevedon's element of the Council tax to a minimum and an affordable level. This year, at half the national average.

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) presented new challenges in the year and an independent GDPR Officer was appointed through the auspices of North Somerset Council

The IT Steering Committee, reporting to F&GP, oversaw the migration of systems to a new server and the introduction of the MailPlus emailing systems for councillors to comply with GDPR requirements. Later in the year improvements were also made to the telephone system and WiFi /Broadband configuration.

Due to a number of resignations of senior officials at North Somerset Council (NSC) the regular business meetings with NSC regarding future strategy for the Town have not taken place at all this year – obviously a reflection of the position Clevedon holds in the pecking order of the NSC's agenda.

A small working party took on the burden of reviewing the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of the Council – fortunately the results went through unopposed.

Small grants have, as usual been awarded to deserving charities and local organisations providing proven benefits locally.

My thanks for all their unstinting work over the year go to Paula Heath, our Town Clerk, to Sue Howard promoted from Allotments to Deputy Clerk, and to our new recruit Cathy Boundy who has immersed herself in the Allotments role.

CLLR. GRAHAM HILL
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, FINANCE & GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE
MARCH 2019

**REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN - CLLR GRAHAM HILL**

I take pleasure, as chairman of the planning committee, in presenting this annual report, for the year 2018-2019.

During the past year your committee has met on thirteen occasions and reviewed 213 applications (2018-2019) together with 25 tree works orders.

The committee has seen in recent months an improvement in WiFi activity thanks to the improvements put in place at the Council Offices. Still, however, the North Somerset system tends to grind incredibly slowly.

We have, again, been pleased to welcome members of the public to a number of our meetings and their interests, and those of you who have written in, have been widespread as the following examples indicate:

Staffords Garage, again, and again,
Campbells Landing
Clevedon Library,
McCarthy & Stone Nursing Home at Tesco, Kenn Road.

We have also continued to monitor amendments to proposals such as the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and the North Somerset Local Plan 2036.

We do continue to encourage all Councillors to come to our meetings, especially when there are items for discussion in their own Ward and then they can vote on that application and make a difference for you, their electors.

In closing I would like to thank all of my fellow members of the planning committee, for their support and their diligence in reviewing each application. To our clerk, Sue Howard, thrown in at the deep end at the beginning of this Council year, my thanks for continuing the standards of service of your predecessor.

Cllr GRAHAM HILL.
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, PLANNING COMMITTEE
MARCH 2019

REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - CLLR JANE GELDART

It has been yet again an interesting year for this committee. I wasn't well for a few months last year so I would like to thank Cllr Linda Little for stepping in and chairing various meetings and the Deputy Clerk for keeping on top of the things the committee needed to think about. Most of our assets are still being well maintained and are in a good state of repair. There will always be some work that need to be done on them to keep them safe and preserved for the good of the Town and the community.

Just to remind residents, Clevedon Town Council is responsible for the following properties:

As owners; Council offices and cottage at 44 Old Street; various allotments; Triangle Clock; land between Highdale Road & Highdale Avenue; land at Brookfield Walk ("Millennium Orchard")
There is always some work to be done on The Council Offices and the cottage due to 'wear and tear'. We have updated the windows and installed an outside light in the car park to make leaving the building as safe as possible. We are also keen to promote hiring's for the two rooms for business and training purposes. Can I ask residents to consider hiring the rooms? The rates are extremely reasonable!

As trustees; Village Hall, Herbert Gardens, land at Gt Western Road "The Barn".

The Village Hall requires constant maintenance due to the age of the building and, recently, a meeting was held to discuss the future requirements of the current tenants. The committee would like to thank the 'Friends of Herbert Gardens' for their commitment for creating a real community in this area. The Town Council completed a review of the trees in Herbert Gardens and some work was done on those that the tree surgeons felt needed to have some attention. The Town Council continues to support The Barn.

On lease; land on the seafront including the Skate & Wheel Park, Multi Use Games Area, and Tennis Courts, also the Millennium Monument, Station Road toilets and Elton Road toilets.

The skate park now has a dedicated charity committee that has been set up to raise funds to facilitate an upgrade. They have organised various successful events to raise the profile of their plans. The Town Council will do all they can to support and recently had some work carried out on it to make sure it was safe still in the meantime. The MUGA is still very popular, as are the tennis courts and we are proud of how brilliant the courts are now, since the resurfacing. Not bad for a free provision for the Town! The toilets are continually monitored, and we are working with our contractors. Pier Copse toilets are now being looked after by The Pier.

I would like to thank the Members of the Committee and all the staff for their hard work and proactive support during the past year.

Many thanks

CLLR JANE GELDART
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN, PROPERTY COMMITTEE
MARCH 2019

REPORT OF THE TOWN EVENTS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN - CLLR CARL FRANCIS-PESTER

The Town Events and Amenities Committee (TEA) continues to look after the various amenities around Clevedon for which responsibility lies with the Town Council. TEA also co-ordinates events run by the Council, such as the Christmas lights switch-on and maintains links with numerous organizations across the Town through appointed councillor representatives. The councillor representatives reports back to the TEA Committee so that it can provide assistance and support for activities where necessary and resources permit.

Ongoing liaison with North Somerset Council (NSC) via their Streets and Open Spaces officer, Gareth Withers, has achieved minor improvements in areas such as the seafront paving and Badger Bridge on Poet's Walk – on which further work is anticipated in 2020. Any issues brought to the TEA Committee's attention by councillors or residents, requiring attention and falling within NSC's area of responsibility are raised with Gareth at each meeting.

The Christmas lights switch-on was a great success again, with contributions to the events programme from various local groups and a range of stalls and sideshows on offer. Although the lights display was improved in a number of ways during the past year, some of the lights and their fixing points will need replacing before this year's event to prevent the occasional power outages experienced last Christmas in parts of the display. Thanks, once again, to the many volunteers who came together to make this event happen.

The renovation and opening of the Pier Copse toilets were completed this Council year, delivering a much-needed additional facility to the seafront area. Thanks are due to Clevedon Pier for assuming responsibility for this project, with grant support from the local councils. Consideration is now being given to the best way of improving the surrounding garden area, where it is hoped that joint working between the Town Council, NSC, Clevedon Pier, Clevedon Civic Society and the Business Improvement District will bring about improvements in access and appearance to the adjoining garden area.

Many thanks, as always, to all Committee members for their support for all our work throughout the year and to Paula, Sue, Cathy and Gareth Withers.

**Cllr CARL FRANCIS-PESTER
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – TOWN EVENTS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
MARCH 2019**

**REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN – CLLR GRAHAM WATKINS**

The committee has continued to give the safety of pedestrians, particularly children on their way to and from school, the highest priority in its consideration of highways issues this year.

Two projects, jointly funded by Clevedon Town Council and North Somerset Council, have now been completed and have greatly assisted the safe crossing of Strode Road near the junction with Southern Way, and Kenn Moor Drive near the junction with Central Way

In the continuing absence of funding for School Crossing officers by North Somerset Council and the lack of sponsorship support for the service from the schools or elsewhere Clevedon Town Council has managed to fund the much-needed crossing in Old Street for this and the next financial years.

The committee recognises the potentially dangerous situation for children walking along Walton Road to and from Clevedon School and All Saints School and is supporting efforts to persuade North Somerset Council to install 20mph flashing signs to be operative and help slow traffic at the appropriate times.

It is safety considerations again, for both pedestrians and drivers, that have led the committee to strongly oppose North Somerset Council's present intent to remove the traffic lights at the junction of Millcross and Southern Way.

The parking situation in the town remains challenging but Civil Parking Enforcement has been successful in alleviating problems alongside adjustments to the positioning of double yellow lines following a review last year. The search for further improvement is ongoing.

In order to encourage less dependence on car usage the committee is in consultation with First Bus to try to obtain improvements to bus services in the town. It is also very supportive of efforts to extend the Strawberry Line cycleway from Yatton to Clevedon.

**CLLR GRAHAM WATKINS
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN – TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE
MARCH 2019**