



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the
Annual Assembly held on 18th October 2021
At the George Watson Memorial Hall at 6pm

Present: 52 Members of the public. Town Mayor – Cllr J Raywood.
Cllrs Aldridge, S. Raywood, Cody, Brennan, Bowman, Brookes & Sztymiak.
Town Clerk - Debbie Hill, Assistant Town Clerk – Jen King.

1. Introduction and welcome by the Mayor

Mayor J Raywood welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st April 2019

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2019.
Proposed by Cllr S Raywood, seconded by Cllr Brennan.

3. Past Mayor's Report for 2019/20 and 2020/21

Mayor for 2020/21, Cllr Aldridge gave a brief report.

4. Town Clerk's Report for 2019/20 and 2020/21 incorporating reports from the following Committees / Working Groups:

- Environment & Amenities
- Buildings & Moorings
- Severn Ham
- Planning
- Finance
- Staffing

5. Presentation of the Civic Awards for 2020

The Town Mayor presented the Civic Awards to:
Mr Jason Kinghorn
Mr Geoff Pope
Miss Rachel Bagley

6. Presentation of the Tewkesbury Town Council Covid 19 Community Response Awards

The Town Mayor presented the awards to:
Elliot Handley
Richard Whincup
Andrew Oakley
Angela Lynch
Anne Williams
Jeremy Steele
Prior's Park Community Response Team
Tewkesbury Boys' Brigade



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7. Questions from electors within the town's boundary to raise any matters affecting the Town

A member of the public asked what was the justification for the increase in precept?

Answer: The budgeting process for 2022/3 is currently ongoing. Expenses have increased for everyone, including the Town Council. The Town Council will be mindful of this as they budget set for the forthcoming year.

A member of the public asked why a tree was felled on St Mary's Lane and what about the impact on wildlife.

Answer: The tree was pushing out a supporting wall which was likely to collapse into the river. It was removed on advice from the tree surgeon. The area will be replanted with shrubs in due course and advice will be taken on supporting the wildlife there.

Anne Carless from the Library Service talked about the new initiatives at the library (Innovation Lab & Digibus) and the proposed refurbishment of the library. They are looking for ideas from the community and the Town Council will share the details on their website.

Concerns were raised about the state of the Elizabeth Wyatt House. It is a listed building and widely used by the community and it was felt that it should be supported more.

Individual was advised to get in touch directly with the Council to see what support could be given.

Three written questions were received:

What will be the advantages to the people of Tewkesbury if the legal advice being sought by the Town Council confirms that it has direct ownership of the Watson Hall rather than via a charitable trust? Answer: This question cannot be answered until legal advice is received.

What will be the impact of VAT and Business Rates on the financial viability of the Hall if it is owned directly by the Town Council? Answer: We believe that VAT would become chargeable on hall hire and the business rates would be payable, however this would need confirming

What is the likely cost of the legal advice being sought by the Town Council with regards to ownership of the Watson Hall? Answer: Not yet known.

8. Date of next meeting – Monday 4th April 2022

The meeting closed at 7.00pm

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 4th April 2022