



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the
Annual Assembly held on 28th March 2022
At the George Watson Memorial Hall at 6pm

Present: 15 Members of the public. Town Mayor – Cllr J Raywood.
Cllrs Aldridge, Bowman, Brookes, Cody, Danter, Powell, S Raywood, 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 18th October 2021

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2021
Proposed by Cllr Cody, seconded by Cllr S Raywood.

3. Presentation from Mike Smart from Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust about Severn Curlew Project

Mr Smart gave an informative talk on the curlew and how Tewkesbury can assist with their conservation.

4. Past Mayor's Report for 2021/22

Mayor for 2021/22, Cllr J Raywood gave a brief report.

5. Town Clerk's Report for 2021/22

The Town Clerk gave a brief report covering the activities of the Council over the last year.

6. Updates from Community Groups in the Town who have received grant funding in 2021/22

Tewkesbury Alley Revival (Project Alleycats) - £1000 grant
Contribution towards the sculpture in Fletchers Alley and mural in Stephens Alley

Tewkesbury in Bloom - £1500 grant
Purchase of four large planters for the High Street displays.

1st Tewkesbury Boys Brigade - £800 grant
Covering minibus training costs for Young Leaders.

Tewkesbury Battlefield Society - £280 grant
To cover the cost of hiring the Watson Hall for the Battlefield Society conference.

Plastic Free Tewkesbury - £113.40
To fund the website costs for the organisation.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Tewkesbury and District Friends of the Earth - £320
To hire the Town Hall for their 'Easy eco swap' event.

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

Q: Is there an issue with the Town Hall clock as it isn't chiming?

A: Yes and this has been reported to the Cumbria Clock Company for repairs.

Q: Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) are responsible for the weeding and cleaning of Tewkesbury but is the Town Council going to assist?

A: Yes, the facilities management contract has recently been renewed and they will continue to provide support to TBC during the summer months.

A deep clean of the streets and Spring Gardens has also recently been provided by TBC using covid related grants.

A number of questions were asked regarding the Watson Hall Trust.

Q: Why was the paperwork submitted to the Charities Commission not signed and dated?

A: All submissions are now done online and are digitally signed.

Q: Why was there no independent audit report?

A: The accounts form part of the Town Council's accounts and are all independently audited each year, therefore a separate independent audit is not required.

Q: Are councillors aware of their responsibilities as trustees?

A: Councillors are not the trustees. The Watson Hall Trust has a sole trustee and that is the Town Council. Councillors attend the annual meeting of the trust as representatives of the Town Council.

Q: Why is the Town Council's facilities management team used to clean and support the hall?

A: Many members of staff support the running of the Watson Hall and their time is not recharged. With the current accounting system it is not possible to account in this way. The Watson Hall Trust has delegated responsibility for the day to day running to the Buildings & Moorings committee. The Watson Hall Trust does not operate as a stand alone trust (as for example happens in Stroud Sub Rooms) but as part of the Town Council's operations.

Q: Why have both bridges been closed over the Swilgate River?

A: We will ask Gloucestershire County Council who are carrying out the work for an update.

Q: Why is there barbed wire all over the Ham, it is dangerous so close to footpaths?

A: Fencing is required for the Environment Agency works and has been installed by them. We were not aware that barbed wire had been used and will follow this up with them.



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

8. Date of next meeting – Monday 27th March 2023

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 27th March 2023