



TEWKESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES
of the
Annual Assembly held on 27th March 2023
At the George Watson Memorial Hall at 6pm

Present: 19 Members of the public. Town Mayor – Cllr S Raywood.
Cllrs Powell, Brookes, Cody, Aldridge, Bowman, Brennan, Danter, J Raywood.
Sztymiak & Robertson
Town Council Employees: Town Clerk - Debbie Hill, Assistant Town Clerk – Jen King,
Events Manager – Becky Blockley.

1. Introduction and welcome by the Mayor

Mayor S Raywood welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th March 2022

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2022
Proposed by Cllr Danter, seconded by Cllr Brookes.

3. Presentation from Joanne Raywood on Severn Ham

Joanne Raywood gave an informative talk on the history of the Severn Ham.

4. Update from Becky Blockley regarding Tewkesbury Live 2023

Becky gave an update on the exciting plans for Tewkesbury Live 2023.

5. Mayor's Report for 2022/23

Mayor for 2022/23, Cllr S Raywood gave a brief report.

6. Town Clerk's Report for 2022/23

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

7. Updates from Community Groups in the Town who have received grant funding in 2022/23

Tewkesbury Town Band - £2000 grant

Mark Farey – Tewkesbury Town Band are a community band serving Tewkesbury and provide free music and tuition for anyone who wants to play brass music. Grant went to assist with subsidising a coach for the trip to Miesbach (which is twinned with Tewkesbury).

Tewkesbury Big Weekend - £800 grant

Carol Crilly – Event aims to connect and highlight different areas of the Town - Vineyards, Victoria Gardens, Riverside, Town Hall and the Watson Hall. The grant enabled them to bring something new to the festival, this year it was the Riverside Stage promoting local music.



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Manor Players - £1000 grant

Ian Leaver – This amateur dramatic group were severely hit by the pandemic, which caused financial difficulty as they still had to store all of their equipment at a cost of £100 / month. The grant helped considerably, as many costs are incurred before a production takes place – hiring the hall, rehearsal space, making costume. The group is open to anyone who wants to come along.

Tewkesbury Medieval Festival - £2000 grant

Geraldine Liddy – 2022 was the delayed commemoration of the 550 year anniversary of the Battle of Tewkesbury. Financial reserves were down and as quotes came in, they had risen since 2019. Insurance costs doubled, waste management increased by £2000, marquee hire rose from £3000 to over £8000. Amounts raised through bucket rattling decreased, as less people carry cash these days. The organisation are grateful to the Town Council for helping to offset the ever increasing costs.

Tewkesbury Regeneration Initiative - £1000 grant

Karen Brennan – This free event featured an 18m inflatable whale that children and young people could get inside, and learn about the dangers of plastics in water courses. It was a great hit and well attended. Thank you to the Town Council for supporting.

Priors Park Community church - £291.57 grant

Nigel Haddow provided a written report. The grant was used to help run a breakfast club during the summer and provided over 700 breakfasts during the 6 week break. It also helped provide Christmas lunch for 30 people.

Tewkesbury Christmas Lights - £1000 grant

This ever-popular free event came back after lockdown and has been improved to include a stage, as well as moving stalls to the centre of the streets so that the local shops can be easily accessed. The grant was invaluable and thanks were given to the Town Council for the continuing support.

Tewkesbury In Bloom - £2000 grant

Pete Aldridge – Tewkesbury in Bloom maintains floral displays in the High Street and streets around the town centre. This year workshops were carried out at three local schools, growing plants from plugs and then filling the planters around town. Tewkesbury entered the Heart of England Bloom competition and received a prestigious gold award, together with the environmental award for the Tewkesbury Nature Reserve and Severn Ham. Thank you to the Town Council for the grant.

Pride in Gloucestershire - £300 grant

Richard Stevens provided a written report. Pride in Gloucestershire held their first Pride event in the Watson Hall, to help with LGBTQ+ isolation and discrimination in rural communities. Event attracted 150 people with a broad mix of people attending. Hate crime is on the rise in the community and there were two incidents on the day, which further



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highlighted the need for events like this. The grant went on hall hire and performer fees. This year there will be an outdoor event on Sunday 7th August.

Friends of Victoria Gardens - £600 grant

Grant has been used to provide wooden cladding for a large concrete planter just inside the Mill Street entrance which has been damaged by flooding and weather erosion. Visitors are now enjoying a rejuvenated area of the gardens.

Guideposts Trust - £300 grant

Robin Brunner-Ellis – Guideposts are a not for profit charity which supports vulnerable people in communities. They have been developing a social group, for socially isolated older individuals, particularly those with dementia and their carers. This group meet fortnightly in Wheatpieces and is growing. The feedback from those attending has been both humbling and rewarding. If anyone is interested in the 'Connect' group, please contact Robin.

The Town Mayor advised that Graham Dawson, former Mayor, Town, Borough and County Council had recently died and we send our condolences to his family.

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

No written questions were received.

Q: As the Town Council are sole trustees of the Watson Hall, how are you progressing with removing the charity status?

A: The Town Council is the sole trustee of the Watson Hall. The first steps have been taken and the forms submitted to the Charities Commission.

9. Date of next meeting – Monday 8th April 2024

The meeting closed at 7.38pm.

Signature of Chairman upon approval of the minutes 8th April 2024