

## **Minutes of the Annual Community Assembly Meeting**

(otherwise known as the Annual Town Meeting)

held at Greenfyld Church of England First School, Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DS, on Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at 7.30pm.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited the Town Crier to formally open the meeting with a cry.

There were 63 Ilminster electors present, the meeting was chaired by the Mayor of Ilminster, Councillor Val Keitch.

### **1. Minutes of the Annual Community Assembly meeting held on 9 May 2017**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **2. Mayor's Report**

The Mayor Introduced Bishop Ruth, the Bishop of Taunton, who is spending the week in Ilminster as part of the "Telling Our Story" project.

The Mayor explained that she was coming to the end of her 2<sup>nd</sup> year in post and it has been a privilege to serve the town. The Mayor said she wanted to use the Assembly to publicly thank all the Town Council staff and her fellow Councillors along with the people of Ilminster who have shown support in so many ways including invitations to events and stopping her to chat whilst they are walking down the street. The Mayor also thanked PC Andy Stuart for his 7 years' service to Ilminster.

The events which the Mayor has attended have mainly been in Ilminster but there have also been civic events elsewhere, however the Ilminster events have been the most enjoyable especially seeing at first hand the hard work of volunteers who give so much to the community. It has been interesting and comforting to see the number of young people that get involved in community activities; the Mayor added that communities need young people to keep coming forward and take on civic roles.

The Mayor then mentioned 2 events which had grown substantially during her tenure; the Town Crier competition and the Literary Festival which she is pleased to see have become annual fixtures in the Ilminster calendar.

The Mayor concluded by thanking the Rev Done and repeating her thanks for all the support she has been given as the Mayor.

### **3. Police Report**

PC Andy Stuart gave the police report, the key points of which included:

- There have been staffing changes during the last year with PCSO Pack moving to another job and a new PCSO due to join the Ilminster team in June.

- The Ilminster Beat team have settled in at The Drs Surgery and the ICT issues have been sorted
- Overall crime figures for the area have increased but it does include Horton and Broadway; the figures are down on the national average – especially for violent crime
- Crime figures are available on the website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). where they can be broken down to street level
- The Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner have confirmed that Neighbourhood Policing is a priority
- The leadership team want to increase the use of mobile technology to help the neighbourhood teams

PC Stuart thanked Cllr Keitch for her support and announced that he was standing down from the Ilminster neighbourhood beat manager role to take on a similar role in Yeovil, and a replacement had been found for Ilminster and details would be made available in due course.

#### **4. Bishop Ruth Worsley, “What Matters, Who Cares?”**

Bishop Ruth started her session by thanking the Mayor and the neighbourhood beat manager for their community service. The Bishop then explained that she is based in Wells and it is a great pleasure to be involved in the deanery event which is about how people live, tell and hear the story of their faith.

What matters in the community and who cares? was the theme of an event at the Shrubbery hotel earlier in the year when people and organisations shared their concerns and common themes of young people and partnerships emerged.

This week the Bishop is spending the week in the community of Ilminster and listening to peoples’ stories and how that connects with people in the church community

It is important to bring people together such as careers advisors and business leaders and give them an opportunity to discuss how they can help young people, for example Pneumatics is now introducing a pastoral care system.

Publicising the work of village agents is another aspect of how people in a community can be brought together.

Overall it is hoped the project will help people realise it isn’t only about people coming into the church but also about the church going out and communicating with the community.

#### **5. Organisation Presentations**

##### **Ilminster Literary Festival**

- Starts in earnest on 30 May and the last day is 8 June
- The programme has lots of variety for both venues and topics
- Reminder to get tickets – some events have already sold out
- Programmes available tonight

### **Neighbourhood Plan Development Group**

- Important document for Ilminster
- The Ilminster community must be at the heart of the process and contribute to the content of the plan
- The process can take longer than 2 years
- A Development Group is in place; this is a small group of volunteers with limited time and expertise
- Some consultation work done last year which has resulted in 4 focus areas
- There is a project plan
- In the process of finalising a brief for consultancy and technical support
- Currently gathering evidence – which is where a substantial amount of work needs to be done in order to inform the final document
- Please take every opportunity to become involved and respond to consultations

### **Ilminster Lions**

- £14, 000 raised and donated since this time last year – much of which has been distributed within Ilminster
- Examples of fundraising activities include 12,000 pairs of spectacles collected for re distribution in other countries, helped to set up the weekly friendship club, organised Greenfylde Christmas party
- The Lions have social events as well as fundraising
- New members are always welcome

### **Ilminster Fairtrade**

- Ilminster was first granted Fairtrade status in 2015 and the process of renewal is underway
- The children of Greenfylde First School have made a video about Fairtrade in Ilminster
- Resource bags to help spread the word about Fairtrade are available
- 17 businesses in Ilminster offer Fairtrade goods
- 3 aims for this year
  - to get brown / tourist signs on the main roads into Ilminster
  - Encourage businesses in the town to become Fairtrade businesses
  - Host a regional fairtrade event in Ilminster

### **6. Public Question Time**

No questions or issues were raised.

### **7. Mayor's Charity Fund Awards**

The Mayor presented cheques, from the Mayor's Charities Fund as detailed below:

**Greenfylde Church of England School** - £200 will be used to purchase kick floats & sinking equipment - both items help with the teaching of basic body positioning. The money will also go towards buying practice lifeguarding equipment.

**Miss Grace Truong** – £200 towards volunteering trip to Rwanda in Summer 2018; it is being done with the Amakuru Trust.

**Swanmead Community School - Performing Arts** - £200 will help to fund new stage lighting system as the current one dates from the 60's.

**Jack Sandy Shield of Excellence** - £200 will help with the continuation of this prize to the cadets from the ATC and AFC.

**Iminster Bowling & Tennis Club** - £200 will help fund the purchase of a wheelchair to enable disabled bowlers to take part in outdoor bowling.

**1<sup>st</sup> Iminster Scout Group** – £200 will help to fund two young leaders to take part in Project Kenya 2019.

**Town Crier Competition** - £200 will help to fund the Town Crier Competition which is now in it's 4<sup>th</sup> year. This is a free event for everyone to enjoy.

**Iminster Youth Theatre** - £100 will help to purchase stage makeup and the purchase of a Bluetooth speaker for use in dance rehearsals.

**Iminster Forum** - £100 will help to fund a community noticeboard in a central location that has a high footfall to ensure that as many people as possible know what is happening in Iminster.

**Iminster Carnival Committee** - £100 will be used to promote the carnival in a leaflet in conjunction with Wellington, Chard and Taunton carnival.

**South Somerset Carnival Park** - £100 will be used for promoting the carnival park at events in and around Iminster to raise funds for the building of the carnival park.

**Iminster Entertainments Society Limited** - £100 will go towards the architect's fees for the development of the Old Bakery extension to the Warehouse Theatre.

**2381(Iminster) Sqn Air Cadets** - £100 will help to fund 5 powerbags which will be used during sports, physical training and leadership tests when cadets are attending the squadron.

**Iminster Defibrillator** - £100 will be part of the funds raised to ensure that the defibrillators can stay in the town.

**Iminster Fairtrade** - £100 will help to fund the printing of 5000 leaflets which will be used to advertise and promote Iminster.

**South Somerset Choral Society** - £100 to help fund the purchasing of new staging.

**Sunny Ile Pre School** - £100 to help fund the purchase of new outdoor covers to protect the children in all weathers.

## **8. Presentations of Awards**

The Mayor Presented the following awards:

The Bradley Cullen Award recipient for 2018 was Emily Lancaster who had been nominated by Ilminster Scout Group; the citation was as follows

“A huge help to Ilminster Scouts; this person has been with the scout section for several months now as a young leader and is very enthusiastic in helping and running activities for them. The recipient of this award is very productive and is always keen to ask what can be done to help on a weekly basis. Despite not being that much older than the scouts themselves this person demonstrates their authority well as a mature role model.

New ideas and activities have been provided by this person and we are grateful for everything that they do for the group. Being a young person with pressures from school, doing GCSEs, and, pursuing hobbies outside school life, we are very aware of the large portion of free time dedicated to helping us on a weekly basis.”

The Citizen's Award recipient for 2018 was Lucy Driver, who had been nominated by Ilminster Entertainment Society; the citation was as follows

“One of the first members of Ilminster Youth Theatre when it began more than 30 years ago and one of the principle fund raisers when it came to purchasing the fruit & veg warehouse in Brewery Lane to turn it into a theatre, writing hundreds of letters and raising thousands of pounds.

Ten years ago this person took over the running of the Youth Theatre which now has 70 members aged from 6 to 18 and holds four sessions a week for different age groups. The recipient of this award also writes and produces plays for the youth theatre to perform. As with everyone at the Warehouse Theatre this is entirely voluntary. Over recent months this person has encouraged the present youth members to become more involved in fund raising activities in order to buy the old bakery building which will allow expansion of Youth Theatre activities.

Despite being a busy mum with three children, who are a credit to her and her husband, the recipient of this award gives up a great deal of her time to run the Youth Theatre which, since it began, has had over 700 members.”

The recipient of the Mayor's Award was Angie Blackwell, the citation was as follows

“This person has been part of the business community in Ilminster for over 20 years and is passionate about contributing and maintaining the community spirit that is at the heart of Ilminster town.

Always prepared to give time and knowledge to enable much needed funds to be raised for local charities which include the Christmas Lights and the Warehouse Theatre. Often making floral table arrangements for an event that can then be raffled for the benefit of the charity. One of the stand out events that took place last year was the organising and running of a traditional fete at her home in order to raise money to replace a building at a local school in memory of her sister and to provide funds for the cancer unit at Musgrove Park Hospital.

The following are some examples of her dedication to the community of Ilminster:

1. Fundraising flower demonstrations for numerous local charities including the Christmas lights and The Warehouse Theatre.
2. Giving talks and flower demos to local flower clubs.
3. Providing raffle prizes for numerous organisations.
4. Organising the local school children to sing Christmas carols in the Market Square prior to the Victorian evening, as well as providing sweets and warm drinks.
5. Providing the lights for the children's lantern parade on Victorian evening.
6. Last year holding a traditional summer fete at her home in Ilton to raise money for the local school to replace a building named in memory of her sister (and originally funded by Angie) but also to provide funds for the cancer unit at Musgrove Hospital.
7. Willing going that extra mile to help eg provision of floral table arrangements free of charge which can then be raffled for the benefit of the charity.
8. Over the years, hosting charity balls at The Shrubbery Hotel and Whitelackington Manor.
9. Looking after elderly customers by offering lifts home in her van.
10. Helping wherever possible with local church flower festivals.
11. Making cakes for birthdays, charity events and special occasions within the town out of her own generosity.

The award recipient believes very passionately in the community spirit which is at the heart of Ilminster town."

Bishop Ruth concluded the meeting with a prayer

The meeting was closed at 20: 43hrs by a cry from the Town Crier.