

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** will be held at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham NE46 3NH on Wednesday 8 May 2019 at 7.00pm, when the following items will be discussed:

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive the minutes of the last Annual Town meeting held on 23 April 2018, enclosed.
3. Matters arising, if any.
4. To receive from Councillor Tom Gillanders, the Town Mayor, his Annual Report for 2018/19.
5. To consider any resolutions of which due notice has been given.
6. To consider any resolutions, comments or other matters that may be raised by members of the public present at the meeting.
7. (at 7.10pm approx.) Presentation by Liz Prudhoe, Director of Adapt (North East).
8. Any other business at the Chairman's discretion.



Jane Kevan
Town Clerk
30 April 2019

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Hagenda0519ATM

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2018

ATM130.	PRESENT: Councillor T G E Gillanders, the Town Mayor, in the Chair and Councillors R Hull, Mrs D Bell, J Ord, Mrs C Hanley, T Pearson, J M Graham, E Green, T Dodds and J V R Hare together with eight members of the public.
131.	APOLOGIES for absence were given on behalf of Councillors Mrs C R Homer, T Cessford and S Ball.
132.	MINUTES: The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting, held on 15 May 2017, were received and, having been circulated, taken as read.
133.	MAYOR'S REPORT for 2017/18: The report of Councillor T G E Gillanders is attached to this minute and it was AGREED it be received. A copy has also been placed on the Council website.
134.	RESOLUTIONS: No notices of resolutions had been received for consideration and no resolutions or proposals were put to the meeting.
135.	A PRESENTATION was made to the meeting by Dr Jeremy Rushmer, Executive Medical Director, Northumbria Healthcare. He advised of its vision, geography and values, and that there were more than two million patient contacts in Northumberland in 2016/17. He also provided information on changes in healthcare, patient feedback and integration. It was noted that the Trust is very proud of Hexham General Hospital and that it is very busy: in one year there were 52,000 outpatient appointments across 26 specialities. Dr Rushmer concluded with information on the Synexus Partnership, a dedicated research facility, and community services. He then answered several questions; including information on waiting times, work with the voluntary sector, retaining staff, the relationship between the hospital and the Town, and the midwifery unit. It was noted that a copy of Dr Rushmer's presentation would be put on the Town Council website.
136.	There being no further business before the meeting, the Mayor declared the meeting closed.

Mayor

Signed as a correct record of the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 23 April 2018.

Annual Town Report 2018/19
By Councillor Tom Gillanders, Mayor of Hexham.

Writing my Annual Town Report has given me the opportunity to reflect on all that has happened throughout the year. The Town Council continued to work closely with its partners who included local groups such as the three Rotary Clubs and the local Lions Club; Hexham 41 Club and its associated Round Table; Hexham Community Partnership; as well as Northumberland County Council. In the past year these have been joined by Hexham Hub which combines representatives from the town and county councils with those from local businesses. This group had its first public outing in March 2019 with a showcase event in the Great Hall which received much positive comment from residents.

The County Council has continued to play a significant part in the daily life of the town. A partnership agreement with the Town Council meant that a new mechanical sweeper was provided in June which has significantly improved the level of street cleanliness. Prior to this all cleaning was carried out manually. In July the town saw Beaumont Street transformed as we hosted the launch of Great Northumberland 2018 which heralded 80 days of activities and events across the county. While all this was going on the County Council continued to replace and upgrade the street lighting throughout the town.

The regeneration of the Market Place has continued to attract both support and criticism with members of the public being encouraged to air their views during the spring of 2019. The results of a voting system have yet to be released but controversy will be sure to be around. Following a series of meetings with officers from the County Council a number of additional long-term parking spaces became available. While this will not resolve the issue of non-availability of parking it does make a small contribution to the solution.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continued to beaver away and despite a few setbacks was able to submit their plan to the County Council by the end of March. Neighbourhood planning was introduced through the Localism Act in 2011 and gave communities the opportunity to shape and define how their area should grow and change in the future.

For the future we can look forward to the formation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority which is being established to provide improved conditions for housing, economic planning and community provision. In addition we are involved with the Borderlands Partnership which brings together the five cross-border local authorities of Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Northumberland County Council and Scottish Borders Council to promote the economic growth of the area that straddles the Scotland-England border.

With 2018 commemorating the centenary of the ending of the First World War, Hexham remembered those who sacrificed for our freedoms. This was with a series of events culminating with Remembrance weekend when members of our Army and Air Force youth organisations placed poppy crosses on each of the graves of the war dead buried in St Andrew's Cemetery. The following day the service of remembrance at the recently cleaned and refurbished Cenotaph and War Memorial attracted the

largest ever attendance. In June the town celebrated Armed Forces Day with a military parade and march-past in Beaumont Street followed by activities and stalls in the Sele. As a tribute to the town the North East War Memorials Trust donated a park bench inscribed with "Lest we forget" and this is now positioned in the Cemetery directly outside the west chapel.

The Town Council was delighted to hear that it had been awarded Foundation status in the Local Council Award Scheme. These awards are made to Councils which can demonstrate the highest standards of public accountability. It is the first time that the Town Council has applied for such an award and the successful outcome was due to the efforts of our Town Clerk, Mrs Jane Kevan. It is noteworthy that only two of these awards have been made across the County. In addition the appearance of, and management plan for, the Cemetery attracted Green Flag Status. This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. These awards are fitting tributes to the hard work put in by all the Council staff.

Hexham continues to be fortunate in having so many volunteer groups who all subscribe to improving the social, cultural, and spiritual life of the town. Not the least among these is a group known as the "Hexham Bloomers". This group has, for many years, improved the appearance of the town throughout the summer months by providing hanging baskets to the town's shops. This year the judges of Northumbria in Bloom acknowledged the efforts of this small group by awarding the town eight gold certificates and three silver gilts – almost entirely due to the work put in by these volunteers.

After a few years of uncertainty I am delighted to confirm that the Town Twinning Association is going from strength to strength. Over thirty members travelled to Noyon in France to cement our town twinning relationship while a similar number of Germans from Metzingen visited Hexham. In this coming year it has already been arranged that we shall receive visitors from Noyon.

One of the highlights for the town was the visit by HRH Prince Charles in September. He was able to visit a specially arranged market before going on to tour the Abbey. Many townspeople turned out to greet him and the children from the town's primary schools were given centre stage along the route.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the work being carried out by Hexham Community Partnership to provide events and activities in the town. Over this past year they have arranged and organised two litter picks where local groups and businesses have provided teams to clean and clear rubbish and litter from the streets. They have also arranged a successful Spring Festival and a suitably scary Spook Night.

Finally, I pay tribute to all my fellow Councillors who have supported me over the last two years and who have given so generously of their time. All Councillors are volunteers and enter public life with no prospect of financial reward. Despite their political differences all Councillors are strong in their support for the town of Hexham.