

HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** will be held at Hexham House, Gilesgate, Hexham NE46 3NH on Monday 23 April 2018 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 15 May 2017, enclosed.
3. Matters arising, if any.
4. To receive from Councillor Tom Gillanders, the Town Mayor, his Annual Report for 2017/18.
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 Dr Jeremy Rushmer, Executive Medical Director, Northumbria Healthcare
8. Any other business at the Chairman's discretion.



Jane Kevan
Town Clerk
17 April 2018

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HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2017

ATM123.	PRESENT: Councillor T Cessford, the Town Mayor, in the Chair and Councillors S Ball, Mrs D Bell, J Ord, T Pearson, J M Graham, E Green, Mrs C R Homer, R Hull, T Dodds, T G E Gillanders, J V R Hare and D Kennedy, together with seven members of the public.
124.	APOLOGIES for absence were given on behalf of Councillor Mrs C Hanley.
125.	MINUTES: The minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting, held on 9 May 2016, were received and, having been circulated, taken as read.
126.	MAYOR'S REPORT for 2016/17: The report of Councillor T Cessford is attached to this minute and it was AGREED it be received. A copy has also been placed on the Council website.
127.	RESOLUTIONS: No notices of resolutions had been received for consideration and no resolutions or proposals were put to the meeting.
128.	A PRESENTATION was made to the meeting by Inspector Pam Bridges of Northumbria Police, with Superintendent Andy Huddleston and PC Barry Emery, Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Hexham. Inspector Bridges advised of the Police role to keep people safe and that this area is the third safest place to live in the country. She provided information on burglaries, antisocial behaviour and of the partnership work and initiatives such as work with local schools. It was noted that Police CCTV has improved and more CCTV is wanted. Quarterly reports on crime statistics and initiatives will be given to the Council. The Superintendent noted Northumbria Police receive 2500 calls a day but mostly on issues such as speeding and dog fouling rather than burglaries, etc. He advised of an increase in Farmwatch volunteers and hopes there will also be an increase for Community Speedwatch.
129.	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 15 May 2017.

Mayor's Report to Annual Town Council (May 2017)
(Cllr Trevor Cessford, Hexham Town Mayor)

As my tenure as Mayor of Hexham draws to an end, can I just say what a pleasure and an honour it has been to serve the people of my home town.

The workload of Hexham Town Councillors increases year on year and certainly the last two years have been no exception, so I would like firstly to say a huge thank you to all who have put the effort in on the various tasks and committees that have happened over that time.

Along with local councillors, lots of the town's residents play an active part in the many groups and outside bodies that exist such as Hexham Community Partnership, Hexham Youth Initiative, Number 28, Town Twinning Association, Residents Associations, Core Music, Sports clubs, etc to help with everything that happens within it. Information on these and lots of other clubs and/or events is available on the Town Council website and the Visit Hexham website. I think that this sense of cooperation has helped with the massive workload that the Town Council takes on board. Work I need to remind you which is done by all town councillors on a voluntary basis.

Hexham is a beautiful and historic market town and I firmly believe we are all very lucky to live here. It is a vibrant town with lots of things always going on in it. This last year the new bus station has opened with the old station about to be developed into a mixture of housing and retail units. However a lot of former council premises have been lost to Hexham along with their associated jobs. Promises by NCC of some council staff being relocated back to Hexham has never materialised.

Hexham house is nearing completion into a wedding venue, a development supported all the way by the town council. This will be a marvellous addition to what Hexham offers especially after being previously left to deteriorate. Hadrian House, Prospect House, the Tourist Information Centre and the Old Swimming Baths have also been sold off recently and hopefully they will be brought back into life shortly. However, it has been very clear to see over the last few years a lot of money going out of Hexham and very little coming back in.

Parking has continued to make lots of headlines along with the usual associated misinformation put out by certain sectors. It was interesting that after over three years of discussion with NCC to try and resolve this matter, an announcement of a forthcoming multi-storey car park arriving in the town emerged just before the election. Hopefully, with the new administration in County Hall, it will now be given the priority it deserves and money made available to help solve the issues caused by the loss of almost 500 long stay parking places. There is land available in Hexham and with the cooperation of the new NCC this situation can be resolved.

I would like also to say how pleased I am that the new regiment at Albemarle Barracks, 3RHA, have taken over where the last one left off by involving themselves wherever possible with any appropriate event in Hexham. Many thanks to Lt Col Chris Gent for allowing Hexham's close links with the Forces to foster.

As I said last year, it was clear to all that Hexham Market Place needed to be rejuvenated and I have been working very closely with our appointed company, Sustrans, to come up with a series of designs that will be put to residents, businesses and community groups to help us, with the assistance of NCC, push forward its redevelopment. My main objective was for the process to be open, honest and transparent, and I think this has been apparent throughout. We are just about to put out a series of designs to the public for them to comment on and critique. It is vital that everyone who wants to make their views known takes part in the process so that their voices are heard and taken into consideration when the final design is chosen. It is even possible that another public consultation is required after the comments coming from the first one are considered.

I would also like to give my sincere thanks to our ex-Clerk, Derick Tiffin, who retired after 40 years' service to the Town Council, and acknowledge all the help he has given to various councillors over that time. The previous Deputy Clerk, Jane Kevan, has since stepped up to become the new Town Clerk and is an excellent addition to the Town Council staff joining Steven English and his strong team of ground staff who have done a brilliant job in all that has been asked of them throughout the year especially with the reduction of services by the previous County Council administration.

Finally I would like to say my own personal and sincere thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Tom Gillanders, who is an extremely hard working Councillor and a valuable source of support to me throughout the year, and also to those who have left the Council, especially Councillors Robson and Ferguson who have nearly 55 years' worth of experience between them.

Trevor Cessford - Mayor of Hexham (May 15th 2017)