



PRESENT: The Town Mayor Cllr Caroline Byles, Charles Flatman (District Cllr), Guy McGregor (County Cllr) together with 9 Town Cllrs, the Town Clerk and 36 members of the public - as per attendance sheet.

**1. TOWN MAYOR WELCOME TO THOSE PRESENT**

In opening the meeting, the Town Mayor, Cllr Caroline Byles welcomed those present to the Annual Town Meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. She explained that new audio and visual equipment, purchased with a lottery grant, was set up to make the meeting more accessible to all.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nancy Ford, Andrew Evitt, Alan Cooper and Charlotte McAuslan

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – (13th May 2014)**

An amendment to the minutes of the previous meeting on page 2-item number 10 was proposed, being that the number of the bus should read 113. With this amendment, acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Peter Gould and seconded by Cllr Richard Berry and agreed.

**4. MATTERS ARISING** – There were no matters arising

**5. MAYORS REPORT**

Cllr C Byles gave a report on her year as Mayor and gave an overview of achievements and events. She thanked all those that had supported her during her busy year. A synopsis of her report was printed in the annual newsletter and is available on the Town Council web pages

**6. CIVIC AWARDS FOR 2014**

The Mayor presented the annual Civic Awards to :-

- Graham and Ann West for their contributions to running the Community Centre
- Julie Shepherd for her work at the Eye Library
- Michael Barr for his voluntary work in maintaining the Eye playing fields.
- Brett Fraser for his contributions relating to town events, management of the town Facebook site and involvement with the business forum.

The Mayor also presented certificates to Cllr Linda Cummins, Cllr Merlin Carr and Cllr Georgia Horobin who stood down as Town Councillors, and thanked them for their dedication and service to the town.

**7. POLICE REPORT**

Police Community Support Officer Dave Faulkner advised that between 02.04.13 and 09.05.14, 118 crimes had been reported and of these, 91 crimes occurred between 09.05.13 and 09.05.14. During the past year, between 09.05.14 and 09.05.15 there were 81 crimes reported to the police. PCSO Faulkner advised that these statistics showed a reduction in crime for another year running. He announced that the Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, will be asking council taxpayers to pay an average 6p a week extra towards policing in the county in the next financial year. He stated that current police priorities are burglaries and thefts from outside areas.

**8. REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR. GUY MCGREGOR**

County Cllr Guy McGregor was pleased to report there had been no increase in the County Council's proportion of the Council Tax in the coming year. Guy also gave the good news that Hartismere School received another outstanding report from OFSTED and continued to be oversubscribed because of its





reputation as one of the leading schools in the region. He stated that the future of Eye's Children's Centre was secured after a recent review confirmed that this was a busy centre providing relevant services to the community.

On another matter he said that the building of the Care Home on Castleton Way, which will replace Paddock House, has been progressing steadily and will be completed later this year. Cllr McGregor hopes that when the old Paddock house site is developed it will include the building of a new library.

On development matters Cllr McGregor explained that he has been working to secure the delivery of more health services on the Hartismere Hospital site and has been involving Ben Gummer MP for Ipswich and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Quality at Department of Health, in discussions. On the controversial subject of the Progress Power Plant Cllr McGregor said that the County Council had objected to the plans on the basis of the location of the compound, currently earmarked for Yaxley. A decision as to whether or not to grant Development Consent Orders to the project is expected from the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in mid-July 2015.

Finally Cllr McGregor reiterated that the provision of superfast broadband remains a priority for Suffolk County Council and Eye residents can look forward to this service being available in 2015.

Residents asked Cllr McGregor about the 20-mile an hour speed limit in the conservation area and traffic concerns in Magdalen Street. Cllr McGregor said he hoped there would be some progress on these issues after some recent changes at the County Council.

#### **9. REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR. CHARLES FLATMAN**

Cllr Flatman reported that Mid Suffolk had made a small increase in the precept for the coming year. Cllr Flatman explained that Mid Suffolk were successful in applying for funding from the Government's £84m Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund, which was launched earlier this year. The scheme enables local authorities to make one-off payments to council tenants of up to £20k as a cash incentive to buy a property for the first time. This two-year funding opportunity is aimed at those who are eligible for the "right to buy scheme" and wish to buy a property on the open market. Cllr Flatman also shared his views on the housing development proposed for the Eye Airfield site saying he thought 100 homes would be adequate with the right infrastructure.

On the controversial subject of the Progress Power Plant District Councillor Flatman said that he and Mid-Suffolk had objected to the development. Cllr Flatman expressed reservations about the Power Plant as he thought smaller businesses located on the airfield site would provide better employment opportunities for local people.

Cllr Flatman spoke passionately about illegal drugs and the negative effects on people's lives and he said he continued to support the efforts by police and other organisations to tackle drug use.

Cllr Flatman urged residents to read the full annual report for 2014/2015 produced by Mid-Suffolk which is available on line at <http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness/council-housing/council-tenants/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-local-standards/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-annual-report/>

#### **10. REPORT BY DR DAN POULTER, MP NORTH IPSWICH AND CENTRAL SUFFOLK**

Due to the recent elections a report was not received from Dr Poulter.

#### **11. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF EYE TOWN COUNCIL**

Cllr Simon Hooton gave an overview of the finances for the year. In his report he highlighted that the miscellaneous income for the Town Council had been increased by £49,000 due to a number of grants received including amounts for the Town Hall heating project, equipment in the Town Hall, town events, the neighbourhood plan and a refund of rates for the public toilet. He stated that the increase in expenditure related to the external grants received by the Council, such as expenditure and refund of a





proportion of the neighbourhood grant, town events and Christmas lights, a feasibility study relating to relocating the library to premises in Cross Street, and equipment for the Town Hall. He also reported that there had also been an increase in the wages bills due to changes in hours and arrangements of holiday cover for staff. Cllr Hooton reported that the Council had invested in financial software that will make financial reporting easier.

## **12. SUMMARY OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM LOCAL ORANGISATIONS**

1.	<p>Eye Town Moors report given by Chris Willoughby:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received a grant of £500 from the Town Council and has replaced the bridge to allow for the area to be mowed. It took 60 hours of volunteer time to complete the job.</li> <li>• The group is always looking for volunteers to join the maintenance team that look after the moors.</li> </ul>
2.	<p>Eye to Eye community report given by Adrian Beatty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community email established 18<sup>th</sup> months ago.</li> <li>• Attracting residents of Eye and people from the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Gives information on local events, incidents and useful services.</li> <li>• To sign up email Adrian at <a href="mailto:eye-to-eye@adrianbeatty.plus.com">eye-to-eye@adrianbeatty.plus.com</a></li> </ul>
3.	<p>Eye Bach Choir report given by Felicity Golding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The classical choir was established in 1974.</li> <li>• 6 performances were given in the last year including Haydn, Handel, Rossini, Bach, Christmas songs, and Will Todd/Gershwin songs.</li> <li>• Uses the Town Hall and the Church as performance venues.</li> <li>• Plans to develop work with young people in the future.</li> <li>• Honoured at being asked to sing at Merlin Channon's funeral, the founder of the choir</li> </ul>
4.	<p>Eye Cinema report given by Penny McSheehy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye Cinema has been going for 10 years.</li> <li>• Shows a film every third Friday of the month except for August and December.</li> <li>• All profits go towards the upkeep of the community centre.</li> <li>• Entrance is £5.00 and there is an interval where refreshments can be purchased</li> </ul>
5.	<p>The Scouts report given by Joan Norman:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is thriving with an excellent team of leaders and an executive committee</li> <li>• All ages have recently taken part in sailing activities</li> <li>• Bouldering wall is nearly finished thanks to a grant provided by the Town Council</li> <li>• Thanked Barry Beamish for looking after the new scout hut</li> </ul>
6.	<p>St Elizabeth's Hospice report given by Peter Hawkins:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Elizabeth Hospice improves life for people living with a progressive illness.</li> <li>• Must raise 9.1 million pounds a year towards the running costs.</li> <li>• Peter thanked everyone who had contributed to the £5015 raised in Eye last year.</li> <li>• Relies on volunteer helpers. Talk to Peter if you are interested.</li> </ul>
7.	<p>The Bank report given by Merlin Carr:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The bank is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company dedicated to bringing arts to the rural town of Eye</li> <li>• This year the company purchased the building for community use</li> <li>• There are plans to install a lift to improve the accessibility of the building.</li> <li>• There are classes and activities held each month and an arts festival is planned for August</li> </ul> <p>Bank</p>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are currently looking for another trustee/director</li> </ul>
8.	<p>Appleseed report given by Greg Sandler</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appleseed Social Enterprise is a not-for-profit organisation that provides services for groups of individuals to participate in a range of rural, agricultural and recreational-based activities, including conservation, market gardening, small-animal husbandry, fishery maintenance and management. Together these activities are known as care farming, green care or eco-therapy.</li> <li>• Appleseed wishes to establish a 13-acre site in Eye on land that is in the ownership of Appleseed Directors Greg Sadler and Steven Lerpiniere. Appleseed Social Enterprise would like to establish an environmentally friendly small-scale smallholding to operate as a care farm with associated fishery on the site of Eye Ponds North, Cranley Green Road</li> </ul>
9.	<p>Grammar School Trust report given by Sarah Muldoon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education grants given to individuals and organisations that benefit young people under 25.</li> <li>• Awards are given for education not provided by the local education authority.</li> <li>• Last year eleven grants were awarded with the average grant award being £200.</li> </ul>
10.	<p>The Eye Country Market report was given by Janet Chambers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The market runs every Wednesday 10am-11am (excluding January).</li> <li>• Sells a range of home-grown produce and hand crafted items.</li> <li>• Celebrates their 40 year of operation at the beginning of August.</li> </ul>
11.	<p>Eye Rainbows report written by Charlotte McAuslan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rainbows currently have 18 girls in the unit, along with three adult leaders and two guide helpers and have a long waiting list.</li> <li>• Eye Rainbows have had a busy year. During the summer term last year they met outside every week and the girls had the chance to try bush-craft skills, a trip to the zoo and working on acquiring new badges.</li> <li>• In the autumn term the girls learnt about different cultures, working towards their world culture badge.</li> </ul>
12.	<p>Eye Guides and Brownies report written by Charlotte McAuslan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently 24 Brownies, and 34 Guides, and they are constantly on the lookout for new adult helpers so that they can continue to put on fun and exciting activities. In particular they are starting a campaign to look for new leaders to work with the Brownies.</li> <li>• Like the Rainbows, Eye Brownies and Guides have been very busy over the past year. They had a fully outdoor summer term. In the autumn term the girls learnt about different cultures, working towards their world culture badge. In the last term the Guides tried jewellery making, and then chose their own selection of badges to work towards.</li> </ul>
13.	<p>Hartismere Hospital League of Friends update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The friends are trying to get the hospital used more for health related activities</li> <li>• County Cllr Guy McGregor and MP Dr Dan Poulter have been involved.</li> <li>• The matter has been referred to the local health scrutiny committee</li> </ul>
14.	<p>Eye Town Hall Improvement Company (ETHIC) report given by Simon Hooton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ETHIC funded and oversaw the renovation of the floor in the main hall and continues to work closely with The Town Council's Buildings Committee.</li> <li>• In the last year the Town Hall hosted a reception to celebrate the donation of a collection</li> </ul>





	<p>of paintings by Robert Mendham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Hall has made an application to become a wedding venue to increase revenue.</li> <li>• Has produced a cookbook with all proceeds go towards improvement of the Town Hall</li> </ul>
15.	<p>Eye Town Twinning Association report given by Merlin Carr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eye is twinned with Pouzauges in the Vendee region of France and the association organizes exchange visits and other joint activities.</li> <li>• This year a visit to Pouzauges was arranged with twinning members either cycling to France or travelling by coach.</li> <li>• 2018 will be the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relationship between our twinned towns and will be the next major visit.</li> <li>• The association meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and will be running fundraising events throughout the year.</li> </ul>
16.	<p>Eye Royal British Legion Women's Section Report written by Cora Elliot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group of ladies that fundraise for the dependants of any service people in need.</li> <li>• Meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month in February, April, June, August and October at Tacon Close</li> <li>• They run coffee mornings and cake stalls.</li> <li>• Any lady over 16 can join. As a full member you have to be a widow, wife, mother, daughter or granddaughter of service of ex-service person. For more information contact Cora Elliot on 01379 644981</li> </ul>
17.	<p>Eye Community Centre report given by Graham West:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanked everyone for their continued support for the community centre.</li> <li>• Invited everyone to the AGM that is to be held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.</li> <li>• Promoted the Eye Show to be held in August advising that pitches were available to local individuals and organisations in Eye.</li> </ul>
18.	<p>Dove Players report given by Simon Hooton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Another successful pantomime was performed in December.</li> <li>• A youth production of a Mid-Summer Nights dream was held at the castle in August.</li> </ul>

#### **15. ELECTORS' QUESTIONS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- David Warner gave thanks to all those who had worked hard to ensure the future of the Post Office in the Town and raised the question about the location of the current post box.
- Cllr Flatman thanked the Town Council for the work of the last year and commented on the excellent work done by the outgoing Mayor Cllr Byles.
- Cllr Byles advised the room that Cllr Maria Ford would be made Mayor at the May meeting of the Town Council. Cllr Ford said she was looking forward to serving the people of the Eye in the coming year.

#### **THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 21.17 PM**

Signed ..... *Maria Ford* ..... Town Mayor

Date ..... *10th May 2016* ..... ~~2015~~