



ANNUAL EYE TOWN MEETING

7.30 pm Eye Town Hall, Tuesday 23rd May 2017

In the Chair, the Town Mayor, Cllr Colin Ribchester

1. **Welcome from Cllr Colin Ribchester, Town Mayor**

In opening the Annual Town Meeting, Cllr Ribchester welcomed those present and thanked everyone for their attendance.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Nancy Ford

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Cllr Maria Ford proposed that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, 10th May 2016 were accepted. This was seconded by Adrian Beatty and agreed.

4. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

5. **Presentation of 2016/17 Civic Awards**

Peter Gould in gratitude for all his work and efforts on behalf of the Town.

Charles Flatman in gratitude for all his work and efforts on behalf of the Town.

Jonathon Pooley for “his unselfish actions involving the youngsters of the town and for setting up the Eye Works for You scheme that has helped young lads to gain work experience”.

Trisha Brown for her efforts in working with various groups in the town, including the Elderflower Club, the Dove Lunch Club, Memory Lane and for hosting garden parties at your home. It was also mentioned that Mrs Brown makes very good cakes!

Adrian Beatty for his work in creating the online communications network, Eye-to-Eye, for residents and organisations in the Town, and for compiling the Eye Directory which has been widely distributed, not only within Eye but also to surrounding villages.

Jenny and Hei at the Chip Shop for their dependable and friendly service to the town over a number of years and for the cheerful welcome which greets every customer who visits their shop.

Ashley Scolah, Charles Odukana-Adoyi and Karl Ivey for their quick thinking, and the help that they gave to Hayden Crispin, which helped to save his life.

6. Mayor's Report

Cllr Colin Ribchester gave a report on his year as Mayor. He thanked the Council staff and all who had supported him throughout the year. Colin also commented on how enjoyable he had found his time in office, and particularly highlighted his visit to Newmarket, when he had the opportunity to meet the Queen, together with his pride in taking part in the dedication of the memorial to the 490th bomb group.

7. Councillors' Reports

Cllr Richard Berry gave a report on the grant funding that had been sought for essential repairs to the roof of the Town Hall. He announced that the bid to Historic England had been successful and that funding of £95,000 had been offered. Cllr Berry commented that he would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all those who had contributed to this success.

8. Report from the County Councillor - Cllr Guy Mc Gregor

Cllr Guy McGregor reported that there was no increase in Council Tax for the current year. He also reported that

- . charity work at Hartismere High had raised over £1m
- . he would continue to press the issues facing the library to the County Council
- . the county fire service is the most cost effective in the country
- . Trading Standards in Suffolk are the best in the country
- . Highways maintenance continues to require more investment and that there is a need to progress improvements to the A140

Cllr McGregor also provided an update on the Progress Power Station and advised that he has had responsibility for the Sizewell C-2 progress.

Simon Hooton asked about the funding problems for Hartismere High, which will result in a deficit to their Budget. Cllr McGregor responded that

historically education had been underfunded and that although funding had increased he was aware that costs have also risen.

9. Report from the District Councillor - Cllr Michael Burke

Cllr Burke reported that he was privileged to have been elected to the role of District Councillor, and thanked Charles Flatman for his support. He confirmed that he has been appointed to the Audit Committee and the Planning Committee.

He advised that he wants to keep Eye as a very unique place, and added his congratulations to those involved in the Historic England grant.

Cllr Burke confirmed that briefing documents for the development of the Paddock House site would be passed to developers at the end of the week and advised that this included 35% affordable housing as part of the development.

10. Police Report

PCSO 3172 Steven Long submitted a report as follows which was read out by the Town Clerk:

That the town of Eye has had 129 crimes for the year. These break down as follows -

- 25 x Assaults
- 22 x Theft from Motor Vehicle
- 7 x Harassment offences
- 4 x Malicious Communications offences
- 8 x Interference with Motor Vehicle
- 1 x Breach of a Court Order
- 7 x Section 4 Public Order offences
- 1 x Theft from Person
- 6 x Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle
- 1 x Breach of Restraining Order
- 1 x Dangerous Dog offence
- 13 x Thefts
- 4 x Fly-tipping offences
- 3 x Possession of a Class B Substance
- 4 x Burglary other Building
- 14 x Criminal Damage
- 3 x Theft of a Motor Vehicle
- 1 x Arson
- 2 x Attempted Dwelling Burglary
- 2 x Dwelling Burglary
- 1 x Assault on Police
- 1 x Exposure
- 1 x Make off without Payment

- 1 x Careless Driving
- 1 x Handling Stolen Goods offence
- 1 x Section 5 Public Order offence
- 2 x Undisclosed offences

If you are aware of further recorded crimes in the parish, then I do apologise, as the crime recording system we use now takes a considerably lot longer to locate information which is very frustrating, whereas before it was very simple.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore has announced that he will be asking council taxpayers to pay an average of just under 1p* a day extra towards policing in the county in the next financial year. The PCC presented his precept proposal to the Police and Crime Panel meeting on Tuesday 31st January for their consideration; the panel unanimously supported the proposal. Raising the precept by 1.972% will add approximately £830K to the Constabulary's budget in the next financial year.

Suffolk Constabulary will continue to aim to answer a minimum of 90% of '999' calls within 10 seconds, and respond to a minimum of 90% of emergency incidents within 15 minutes (urban) and 20 minutes (rural). Your local Police Station is currently still in Eye, from which 42 parishes are covered by PCSO Steven Long and PC Lee Andrews-Pearce. Inspector Mark Jackson and Sergeant's Mark Beresford and Mark Woodmansee are currently based at Halesworth along with the Response Team for the area.

11. Report from Organisations and Charities within the Town

Written reports have been received from the following groups and organisations and will be posted on the website with these minutes:

Company of Ringers

Ability Net

Villages Voices Community Choir

Eye Magazine

Eye Town Moors Woodlands

EGG

Eye Plodders Walking Group

Hartismere Hospital League of Friends (HHLOF)

Eye Grammar School Fund

Eye Bach Choir

490th BG (H) UK Maintenance Group

The Dove Players

Eye Town Hall Improvement Committee (ETHIC)

Eye Arts Club

Verbal reports were also given in respect of the following groups:

- 1 Grammar School Trust
- 2 Dove Players
- 3 ETHIC
- 4 EGG, the
- 5 Town Moors
- 6 Eye Magazine

12. Electors Questions

Cllr Andrew Evitt asked Cllr Guy McGregor for an update on the agreed planning application for the Eye Airfield site. Cllr McGregor responded that County Council has an advisory role only as District Council is the enforcing office. Cllr Michael Burke advised that he will investigate further.

SH - Resident of Eye - stated that painting of the Skate Park should be prioritised. Mayor Ribchester agreed.

Ex Cllr Charles Flatman thanked the Mayor for his work in the preceding year, and wished him the best for the forthcoming year.

A resident proposed that Cllr Ribchester should write to the Lord Mayor of Manchester to express sympathy and condolences for the terrorist attack there. The Mayor proposed a minute's silence at the meeting in respect for this incident.

JP - Resident of Eye talked about youth groups in Eye and the lack of somewhere for them to hang out.

13. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.