

**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the Institute on
Friday 13th April 2007 at 7.00pm**

<u>Present:</u>	Chairman	Councillor Abbott
	Councillors:	Dobson, M Potter, Cattermole Lewis, Baker, Giles, Holmes Briden together with the Deputy Clerk
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors:	Hansford, Brice, K Potter

1 Council Prayer

Councillor Briden read the Prayer

2 Welcome by the Chairman

Councillor Abbott opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting.

3 Citizen of The Year Presentation

This award is for a selfless individual who gives much of their spare time to others for the good of the town; an individual who works tirelessly and who is involved with community organizations. From the nominations received into the Council Office, Councillor Abbott had great pleasure in announcing that Mrs. Phyllis Baxter had won this award. She was duly awarded a Plaque

4 Report by Devon & Cornwall Constabulary

PC Phil Thomas gave crime statistics comparing 2006/07 to date. Crimes in comparison had decreased with the exception of vehicle crime.

Figures showed that there were 66 vehicle crimes in 2006. Currently there are 88 crimes to date. PC Thomas was anxious that measures will be taken to address this problem in the current year.

PC Thomas mentioned that the main tourist events in the town (Tar Barrels, Pixie Day) had passed off peacefully. Graffiti crime was down but litter was becoming a problem. East Devon District Council had been contacted in this connection.

PC Thomas welcomed a new PCSO J Carter and told the meeting that Ottery St Mary would have a new Sergeant in post very shortly.

5 Review of the Year by the Chairman

Councillor Abbott addressed the Meeting by saying how delighted he was to have accepted the office of Chairman of Ottery St Mary Town Council

He went on to say that it had been an extremely busy year. Planning alone had seen 241 applications heard by the Planning Committee.

Councillor Abbott said it had also been difficult year with the short appointment of a new Town Clerk who had subsequently left after a few months for personal reasons.

He thanked the Deputy Clerk, Su Graham for helping out throughout the summer months until a new Town Clerk was appointed in November.

Councillor Abbott told the meeting that Ottery Town Council had supported many worthy organizations with the help of Grants:-

1st Ottery St Mary Scout Group	£1,000	towards replacing the roof at the Scout Hut
Ottery & District Skaters & BMX Group	£ 300	towards insurance/communication
Vision OM	£ 100	to help continue its existence ie. hire of hall, Mini Bus etc
Ottery & District Men's Forum	£150	general running costs
Honiton Ride & Ride	£500	to help keep the service in the community
Ottery Community Theatre	£150	to help support this theatre in the community
Coleridge Pre-School Play Group	£1,000	for essential roof repairs

Councillor Abbott said the Ottery & District Skaters & BMX Group was now coming to fruition. This would benefit the town and provide a much needed facility for the youth. A planning application has already been received for this new venture.

Also mentioned were the Christmas Lights in Ottery. Councillor Abbott remarked that in his opinion they were among the best in East Devon

Councillor Abbott also praised the commitment of fellow Councillors for reporting back from all the many organizations and professional bodies they had attended throughout the year

With regard to the Cemetery, Councillor Abbott told the meeting that the Gates had been refurbished towards the end of 2006 and were now back in place and looked extremely nice. There had been a lot of positive feedback about the gates.

With regard to the Allotments, many plots have now been divided into half plots which has reduced the waiting list considerably and helped tidy up this area which gives so much pleasure to the many holders in Ottery.

He said that Ottery Town Council would still strive for Quality status and it is hoped that the council Web Site would soon be up and running.

6 Parish Paths Partnership – P3

Mr Derek Baxter (P3 Co-ordinator) gave a detailed resume on our footpaths and the pleasure they give to countless walkers in and around the Parish.

Mr Baxter mentioned there is a Footpath Warden in situ through the Parish Paths Partnership, and reported that we now have a full complement of volunteers.

Footpath 46 (St Saviours – Tipton St John) may have to be closed and be re routed as part of this footpath had fallen in at Wiggaton.

Any furniture, gates, seats etc requiring works, can be reported to Mr Baxter.

7 Ottery in Bloom

Councillor Holmes gave a short update on the Ottery in Bloom. He told the meeting that plug plants were going to be used this year instead of Bedding plants. The Rotary Club would do the watering.

He hoped that anyone seeing tubs needing water or dead-heading would offer their help to maintain the blooms. Hopefully this year would see the best ever display in Ottery.

8 Presentation by the Heritage Society

Mr Robert Neal gave a very interesting presentation on the birth of the Heritage Trust which became a registered charity in May 2001.

There are now 200 members who help educate the public on the history, architectural and historic interest of the area. He went on to say that meetings were well supported.

The search for a Museum had been a very difficult time but in April 2004 the Heritage Trust had the use of two rooms at the Salston Hotel. The museum was opened by Angela Browning, MP. This had 40 volunteers which is a temporary arrangement. The rooms at the Salston attract low rental for the Museum with generous free parking plus the hotel facilities on hand.

Mr Neale thanked the Tourist Information Centre and the Ottery Town Council for their support. The Heritage Society is also grateful to the National Lottery.

9 Interval

10 Report from the Allotment Garden Management Committee

Councillor Dobson (in the absence of a representative from the Allotment Committee) told the Meeting that there had been big improvements at the allotments in the last six months.

Initially there were 18 on the waiting list and this had been drastically reduced.

Plots that had become neglected had been halved in many cases giving more local people a chance to work one. This has been a great success.

The annual rental for a Full plot will be going up to £20 from 1st January 2008..

11 Financial Report 2005-2006

Councillor Lewis introduced himself to the Meeting as a new Councillor and gave a report on the income and expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2006.

12 Presentation by Sustainable Ottery

Helen Collison and Maureen Fairley from the Sustainable Ottery group gave a very interesting presentation.

This group was formed 3 months ago; there is a Steering Group of 5 at present. The group has been set up to highlight reduction in carbon emissions in our local area, also awareness of burning oil for future generations.

They hope to form sub groups:
Feniton – Sidmouth Cycle route
More sustainable homes eg. lights
Local Shopping

This group has been well supported and will take part in a Recycling Day on the 22nd September 2007 at Ottery Parish Church. There is also a Film Show “An Inconvenient Truth” and Debate on Friday 11th May 2007 at the Institute.

13 Public Questions

There were no public questions

Chairman’s closing remarks

Councillor Abbott thanked everyone who had contributed to the Meeting including the Councillors for their continued hard work.

He also thanked Derek Baxter for all his hard work in the 15 years as Town Clerk in Ottery St Mary which was very much appreciated.

Councillor Abbott mentioned the Councillors who will not be standing in this next financial year:

Councillor R Stuart, Councillor R Cattermole, Councillor J Brice, Councillor Mrs L Guest, Councillor K Potter and Councillor Abbott told the meeting that he also will not be standing.

Before the meeting closed Councillor Briden thanked Councillor Abbott for all that he had done whilst being Chairman during a difficult year. This was reiterated by all the Councillors.

The Meeting closed at 2030hrs

Chairman’s Signature.....

Date