

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held on **Tuesday 26th April 2016 at 7.00pm in The Institute,**
Yonder Street, Ottery St Mary

Present: **Mayor** **Councillor Dobson**
 Councillors **Carter, Holmes, Edwards, Pang, Faithful** (Town Ward)
 Bailey, Talbot, (West Hill Ward)
 Bartlett, Gori (North Ward) together with the **Clerk, Press and**
 approx. 50 members of the public

Apologies: **Councillors Giles, Hall, Harding, Mitchell and Pratt** and **Cllr Wright, Nevil**
 Salisbury-Rood CAB, Mac Dick The Station

The Rev. Stephen Weston led the meeting in prayer.

1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR GLYN DOBSON

Cllr Dobson welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all Councillors present to introduce themselves. .

2. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28TH APRIL 2015

The Minutes were approved and they were signed by the Mayor.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR THE PARISH – AN UPDATE

Cllr Jo Talbot gave the following report:-

I would like to briefly explain or remind you what a Neighbourhood Plan is and why OSM decided to have one and then what we have so far achieved on our journey with it.

Communities all over the country are developing neighbourhood plans just like us. These plans become part of the development plan for the area once passed by an examiner and ratified by the community through a referendum. Planning application decisions in those neighbourhoods will then be made taking into account the policies set out in these very important plans.

Neighbourhood planning provides a statutory right for local people and businesses to plan for the future in a sustainable and fair way. Crucially, it is designed to enable local people and communities to strongly influence how development will occur locally and to tackle long term trends or challenges affecting communities and provide neighbourhoods with more influence on planning issues.

The Neighbourhood Plan we are preparing is for the whole parish of Ottery St Mary. This process is being led by the NP working group – a group of 17 Councillors and interested lay-people who are devoting much time and effort to this process chaired by me with the Mayor acting as Vice Chair.

It's been a busy year. The consultants assisting us with the NP preparation were formally appointed in June 2015 and to kick off the process we held a series of 'visioning events' across the Parish in September 2015. The purpose of these meetings was to raise the profile of the NP and to get vital feedback from the wider community on the important issues for the Parish. We wanted to know what did people love about the Parish. What make it a special place to live and visit? What problems or concerns are there? What would the community like to see in the NP to make it a better place to live?

This process included evening public meetings in Ottery St Mary, Escott Village Hall, Tipton St John, West Hill and Wiggaton and a lunchtime session of mixed aged groups at the Kings School. Feedback at these events was captured through recording group discussion,

Mayor's initials:

opportunities to jot comments and thoughts on maps around the room and through individual questionnaires handed out at the events. This questionnaire was also available on the Ottery St Mary Town Council website. Between September and December and we made extra efforts to distribute the questionnaire at other events and locations such as school gates and the Christmas lights event.

The visioning events were widely advertised including leaflets distributed to every household in the Parish. The meetings were generally well attended and discussion at the meetings was just what we needed to understand the key issues afoot from the wider community perspective. Key issues which emerged from feedback included concern about new houses permitted or proposed and particularly how the towns infrastructure and services already suffering would cope with that, pressure on the constrained road network and highways issues, support for provision of facilities for young people and the need to protect the character and appearance of the Parish generally and its beautiful landscape setting.

As the next stage, in order to progress the plan, the working group and others together with the Consultants have been working on gathering the evidence needed to underpin the NP including an understanding of parish demographics and population change, issues and problems such as flooding and infrastructure limitations, the facts in terms of school places availability now and in the future, understanding the value of the landscape and built environment and much more. It is vital that evidence is in place to justify and underpin any policy eventually proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan so this is an essential step.

Based on the feedback from the visioning events and the evidence base information being prepared we drew together a vision and objectives for the Parish which we presented to the community in an all day Saturday exhibition event at the end of January. This information presented at this event also included a suggestion on the policy themes which could be included in our parish plan having regard to the remit of what the NP can cover. Again the event was widely publicised across the Parish and there was a lively turnout of some 200 plus people. The boards from the exhibition along with a feedback form are available on the town Council website and I would urge you to have a read if you have not yet seen them. The exhibition was very well received and the feedback generally positive with useful comments received. This feedback is helping us to further refine our policy approach.

So – where are we at now? Following the feedback from the meetings and the ongoing evidence base gathering and assessment, we have been having discussions with various parties as we start to draft up the NP including EDDC

Historic England, the chamber of commerce and local businesses. We are in the process of undertaking a town centre business survey and town centre visitor's survey to better understand how our town centre works and what we can do to support it. We have commissioned an extra public realm assessment to provide some ideas on the sorts of measures which we could use here and what affect that could have and – importantly – how we could start to fund it. We have been in detailed discussions with Historic England about our town centre conservation area which is identified as a 'conservation area at risk'. There is clear potential and opportunities for exciting projects and funding opportunities in this area and if you would like to be involved in helping with a town centre heritage action group please get in touch with the Town Council – this could be an exciting opportunity.

Overall we are now keen to get our NP in place as soon as possible to enable us to have that extra level of control over developments and to benefit from extra funding for local spend when new development comes forward – not that much more is anticipated. We are drawing up the NP and expect to be able to present a complete draft for public comment in autumn 2016 and for

Mayor's initials:

formal submission to EDDC before the end of the year. The Council will then do their own consultation before the plan is assessed by an examiner. Assuming it is considered to have followed the correct procedure the plan will then be put forward for a referendum likely in spring 2017. We remain positive and enthusiastic about our Neighbourhood Plan and the high take up of Neighbourhood Plans across East Devon and nationwide gives us confidence that we

are taking the right action to do our best for our Parish.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Neighbourhood Plan or have any thoughts or comments please get in touch with the NPWG via the Town Council

4. REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE

PCSO Maria Clapp gave the Police report for the area covering Ottery St Mary Town, West Hill, Tipton St John & Alfington.

Recorded crime for last year stood at 183 compared to 171 this year. That is a decrease of 6.6%.

Anti social behaviour is down from 91 to 81 which is a decrease of 11%.

Other figures for information are....

Burglary dwelling 7 -3 decrease

Burglary non dwelling 14 – 18 increase

Vehicle offences 9 – 17 increase

Shoplifting 10 – 8 decrease

Criminal damage stayed the same

Public order 8 – 3 decrease

Other theft (not in home, bikes, phones etc) 42 – 25 decrease

Violence without injury 25 – 30 increase

Please visualise the area I am talking about. Also the affluence of the area. We do live in a very low crime area & should be very pleased. Although we still want to make the area a perfect place.

Usually most detected crimes come from recorded assaults, where the victim invariably knows the assailant. Or police generated crimes, including drunk & disqualified drivers, public order offences such as being drunk & disorderly & being found in possession of drugs.

Police plans are well underway for our local events with the special Constabulary supporting us.

These events include Pixie Day & Tar Barrels.

Response officers are based at Ottery St Mary. They cover 24 hours 7 days a week. Which can only be good for the town & surrounding area. Therefore you will hopefully see an increased presence in the area.

Officers covering this area are....

PS Richard Stonecliffe is now the team leader for the Ottery patch. He will be based at Exmouth, as he is also the team leader there. PS Chris Leisk has recently left Ottery to take up a new role in custody.

Myself, PCSO Clapp is the officer who covers Ottery St Mary, West Hill, Tipton St John & Alfington. PC Paul Vaughan & PCSO Jack Stannard cover Cranbrook, Broadclyst, Poltimore, Upton Pyne, Brampford Speke, Rewe, Huxham, Stoke Canon & Netherexe. PC Kevin Hill & PCSO Steve Trail cover Rockbeare, Talaton, Whimble, Feniton, Clyst Honiton, Clyst Hydon, Clyst St Lawrence & Aylesbeare. I do not have a Neighbourhood Beat Manager allocated to Ottery St Mary. PC Vaughan & PC Hill will assist when required.

Patrols of the area are conducted on a regular basis.

I will be running a cycle training course at the Primary School, once again in May. This is for the reception to year 5 children, in preparation for their Bikeability training in year 6.

On Sunday 5th June myself & the Town Council are organising a 'Spring Clean For The Queen' in preparation for the party the following week. Details will be in the local papers.

Mayor's initials:

Areas that are being concentrated on at the moment are...

Anti Social Behaviour at the park in Cranbrook.

The Salston Hotel, as we are getting reports that youths are getting into this padlocked & fenced off area. The owner has concerns for their safety. Words of advice have been given to several youths in front of their parents.

Youths hanging around Sainsbury's after school & in the evenings, skate boarding & cycling in the entrance. Also no respect to the customers & staff. Kings School are going to announce this in assembly.

Youths have also been knocking on doors & running away.

Words of advice have been given to numerous lads, in front of their parents, regarding all of the incidents.

That concludes the Police report.

Thank You

PCSO MARIA CLAPP 30018

OTTERY ST MARY

5. "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2016" PRESENTATION

The Mayor praised the large number of volunteers who worked tirelessly in the Parish.

Nominations for Citizen of the Year had been received for George Anning, Sid Burnage, Mrs Judy Davis, Laurie Palmer and Mrs June Woodward. However, the person nominated with the largest number of public votes was Mrs June Woodward. Many glowing tributes had been paid about Mrs Woodward including that she put other people first, was warm and compassionate, kept an eye on people who were unwell as well as doing numerous other tasks to help people. The Mayor presented June with a commemorative shield and warmly thanked her for everything she did

6. PRESENTATION OF THE PRIZES FOR THE JOHN GAFFNEY YOUNG PEOPLE'S WRITING AWARD

Philip Algar provided background information as to the vital and important contribution that the late John Gaffney had made to Ottery which was the reason behind the creation of the Writing Award Scheme. The Mayor then presented prizes to Lily Allen-Smith (1st) Emily Elizabeth Brant (2nd) and Natasha Ross (3rd) and congratulated them on their achievements.

7. PROPOSED WEST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

The Mayor advised of the proposals submitted by EDDC in relation to West Hill forming its own parish council which the Council had approved at a Full Council Meeting. He mentioned the proposed boundary line which was proving to be a contentious issue.

8. REVIEW OF THE YEAR BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Cllr Glyn Dobson gave the following report.

MAY 2015

Owing to Council elections the Full Council Meeting was delayed until May 15. At this meeting the officials were elected for the year and I have had the honour of again being elected as Mayor, with Cllr Holmes as my Deputy. As my deputy, Cllr Holmes was elected as Planning Chairman and Cllr Bartlett as Cllr with responsibility for Finance. District Councillors elected for the Parish were: Town Ward – Cllr Peter Faithful and Cllr Roger Giles and the Rural Ward – Cllr Paul Carter and Cllr Matt Coppell.

JUNE 2015

June saw the audit from the Internal Auditor when all the financial controls of the Council are thoroughly audited. I am pleased to inform you everything was satisfactory and they were approved.

Mayor's initials:

A vacancy was advertised for a Councillor in the West Hill Ward.

JULY 2015

In July the decision was made not to continue with the proposed purchase of St Saviour's. This was mainly due to financial reasons relating to the high cost of running the building.

The Council agreed, as a mark of respect to the late John Gaffney, a writing competition would be held in the parish and a prize pot of £250.00 should be set aside for this.

The vacancy at West Hill was filled, with Cllr Hall taking up this role.

AUGUST 2015

In August we had the devastating news that all the medical beds in the Ottery Hospital were to be closed. This was despite all the efforts that were made to keep them open and a big thanks to all the people who were involved in this,

A Working Group was established to organise the John Gaffney Writing Competition and it was agreed that a member of the public would head this. Phillip Algar was chosen and I thank him for all his hard work.

New play equipment was installed in the play site at the Land of Canaan.

SEPTEMBER 2015

This was the month the Council opened the new allotments. This is now an excellent facility and far larger than the old allotment site. This means that there are a few vacant plots, should anyone be interested. Many thanks to Cllr Ian Holmes for all his efforts in this regard.

In September it was also agreed that the Council would make a bid for the National Westminster premises, with the intention of siting the library and new public toilets there.

OCTOBER 2015

October was a fairly quiet month. The most important thing that took place was the auction of the old National Westminster Bank. I am pleased to say the Town Council were successful in purchasing this.

NOVEMBER 2015

November saw the planning application submitted for the conversion of the old Nat West Bank. A quote was agreed to decorate the exterior of the Council Offices which is long overdue. This is expected to commence at the beginning of May.

This month the Council debated the application for West Hill to form its own Parish Council. A Working Group was set up to look at the effect this would have on the Ottery St Mary Parish as a whole.

In an effort to reduce banking costs and the intending closure of Barclay's Bank, the Council agreed to change to online banking.

DECEMBER 2015

During this month, further consideration was given to West Hill forming its own Parish Council and the implication this would have on the Parish, including West Hill.

It was also noted that the new play equipment installed in the Land of Canaan was well used.

Barclays Bank was now closed. This was a big loss to the town, having already lost the National Westminster bank.

Mayor's initials:

JANUARY 2016

Tipton school was again flooded in January and there was a big clean-up involving community workers and the Fire Brigade. The Council agreed to continue lobbying our MP with the view of having a new school built, on an alternative site. There was a planning application submitted for the old Nat West Bank to house public toilets, library and TIC. I am pleased that these were subsequently approved.

FEBRUARY 2016

During February I worked closely with Cllr Claire Wright in negotiating with DCC to keep the town bus running. I am pleased that we managed to keep the service for two days a week, for the next twelve months. However, the service is still under threat unless we can find alternative funding.

The lease was completed with Ottery Petanque Club enabling them to go ahead and construct their terrain at Strawberry Lane.

February saw the Town Council take ownership of two porta cabins from DCC. These are sited at the old Station and will be let to suitable tenants.

MARCH 2016

March started off with a resident, Phillip Algar, informing the council that a Judicial Review of the intended closure of inpatient beds, and a Minor Injury Unit at Ottery Hospital had failed. This was a huge disappointment to all who have been fighting to keep this hospital open and I would like to give special thanks to Cllr Elli Pang and Phillip Algar for the tremendous effort they put in to try to save the hospital.

It was announced that the Tour of Britain cycle race would pass through Ottery this year. This is excellent news and a group of Councillors are working to ensure it will be a successful event.

9. REPORT FROM CLLR HOLMES, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

In the last 12 months the Planning Committee has had 24 meetings, 2 of which were held as large public meetings. 187 planning applications were discussed by the Committee with welcome input from residents. Many of these applications were alterations and extensions to existing houses and most of these were supported by the Committee.

However there were applications that the Committee and residents wholeheartedly failed to support: These were:

The Blue Cedar development at Slade Farm.

A public meeting was held at the Station in August and the residents and Committee raised many points that were considered unacceptable such as the number of houses, vehicle and pedestrian access and being on the wrong side of town as the Town Council has always advocated that any future development should be of the West side of Town. 410 residents submitted written objections. The East Devon Planning officers agreed with this and the application was refused. Unfortunately the decision was challenged by Blue Cedar and they are in the process of appealing that decision with the Planning inspectorate.

Gerway Nurseries for David Wilson Homes (Barrett Homes)

The Planning Committee has never supported this application and has opposed it on many grounds, the latest being the appalling pedestrian access. However this has been passed by East Devon and as you can see some preparatory work has already started.

Gerway Lane for the Gerway Consortium

Mayor's initials:

A public meeting with around 100 residents took place last September at the football club with absolutely no support for this application, in fact there were over 700 written objections pointing out overdevelopment, dangerous vehicle and pedestrian access, wrong side of town etc, etc. I am pleased to inform you that this application was today refused planning permission by EDDC Planning Officers. This is a perfect example of the residents of Ottery St Mary working closely with the Town Council to prevent an inappropriate development. Thank you to all of you for supporting the Town Council by submitting your objections in writing to EDDC.

Progress on Other Developments

Salston Manor Hotel 29 apartments

Work seems to have stopped, I have been in touch with Planning and they are trying to contact the developer for an update.

Butts Road for Redrow

The next stage of the development has got under way on the old allotment site and the new allotments are up and running.

Factory for Acorn Property Group

Planning permission is expected soon for 41 homes on the demolished factory and the Otter View sites and they hope to start work in May. I have yet to hear news for the other areas of the factory.

Island Farm for Bovis

Some 15 homes out of the 165 approved have been built and I believe some are occupied. The 66 bed care home has been approved with a controversial design and it will be interesting to see how the finished building looks.

10. REPORT BY THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE MANAGER

Phyllis Baxter gave the following report:

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen

I just cannot believe another year has flown by so quickly, and so much has happened here in Ottery St Mary. I have been told by The Mayor that I have only 2 minutes this year so here goes firstly I would like to say Thank You to the Town Council for the continued support in funding the Information Centre that is intended to benefit both visitors to the town as well for our local residents.

We welcomed visitors from far and wide to our beautiful town from the United States, Australia, South Africa, and most of our European neighbours. They tell me now much they love the surrounding countryside, the town, our shops, and the friendly welcome they receive. They come to visit The Parish Church, that is modelled on Exeter Cathedral many of them say to me we wish to see the mini Cathedral. Also to see where our most famous son Samuel Taylor Coleridge was born, or just take a walk along the River Otter hoping to see an otter or the beavers, and just enjoy the town, cafes, tea rooms public inns, and the shops and say how lucky we are with our selection of shops.

Just looking back on 2015 it was a busy year in the life of the town with more and more events happening. Concerts at The Parish Church, Ottery Valley Festival, Food Festival that is going from strength to strength, May Fair at Cadhay, 10K Run, Ottery St Mary Silver Band Concerts, Festival Week in Ottery, Jazz at The Tumbling Weir Hotel in the beautiful garden, New Otterians Summer Show, Otter Vale Art Exhibition, Pixie Day, Carnival Week, Tar Barrel Day. The Late Night Christmas Shopping, and Christmas Tree Festival were very well promoted with BBC Radio Devon, also on Spotlight TV.

Mayor's initials:

Now I am looking at events planned for this year here in Ottery St Mary, I said last year was busy we now have more and more events going on this year.

The town council have put up the bunting and flags to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, also to welcome our French twinning visitors from Pont Le Eveque, celebrating 40 years of friendship with our town. They are arriving in Ottery in early May, with a busy programme of events planned for them.

I must say how well the bunting and the flags enhance the town square.

The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations – in the planning on Saturday 11th June we are planning a lunch for the old folk at The Lamb & Flag (provided by the Betty Williams fund) tickets for this event available from the Information Centre, from 12.30pm to 3.00pm

On Saturday evening 12th June at The Tumbling Weir Hotel we are holding a Ball to celebrate The Queen's 90th Birthday from 7.00pm till midnight. Tickets £30 each available from Information Centre..

Sunday 12th June Queens Celebrations on the Land of Canaan 1.00pm to 6.00pm

The Carnival committee are organizing a Family Treasure Hunt around the town, finishing down on the Land of Canaan at 1.00pm.

Then the party celebrations begins, we have various stalls, Tar Barrel committee with the bar and burgers, Rotary Club organizing the Cream Teas, also a Duck Race – and what we would like you to do is come along book a table at £5 each, bring your picnic decorate the table and a prize will be given for the best decorated table like we did at The Jubilee Celebrations.

Also Prizes for the children fancy dress competition. For more details on these celebrations just call in at the Information Centre.

We have produced a list of events for 2016 just call in for a copy – one or two events I would very much like to bring your attention to – are the following

An open day at The Parish Church on Saturday 10th July from 9.30am to 1.00pm. Last year with the lovely weather I went up on the roof and the views were just superb, Richard Coley is organizing this event, a great opportunity to view the town.

Festival Week Tuesday 12th July to Sunday 17th July,

Lawsons Circus coming into town, guided walks with Peter Harris our local historian, Ottery

Community Theatre putting on a play at the Institute,

and the Help Scheme organizing Jazz on the Sunday evening in the gardens of the Tumbling Weir Hotel, with much more in the planning.

I could go on and on as I said just call in for an up to date list on events planned for this year, yesterday I have already being given dates for 2017??

We work with the local press and supply details on what is happening here in Ottery St Mary along with many photos. Finally I would very much like to say thank You to Joy Richardson, Jo Sarton, and Ann Tombs for helping in the Information Centre, and once again to the Town Council for their continued support

11. REPORT REGARDING OTTERY IN BLOOM (OIB)

Keith Spittlehouse gave the following report:

Mayor's initials:

Ottery in Bloom is currently run by small committee together with additional helpers in summer. Planters which are located at Butts Road, Silver Street, Nat West Bank forecourt, Esso Garage, Canaan Way and St Saviours Bridge are maintained by OIB with the support of sponsors and waterers without whom we would find it difficult to continue. Ottery in Bloom and Town Council liaise on planting of roadside verges in Ottery.

Thanks are due to many local individuals and organisations without their support we would not exist:-

to the Town Council for the Council Tax grant which covered the cost of the plants and compost with any balance going towards renewal of the planter stands.

to the Sponsors Rotary Club of Otter Valley, Inner Wheel and Lions Clubs, Otter Nurseries (who plant the bridge) Ottery St Mary Garden Club, West Hill Garden Club and Hall & Scott (estate agents)

to the Waterers , again Rotary, Inner wheel and Lions Clubs, Ottery WI, West Hill Garden Club together with a number of individuals.

to the Guides and Brownies for their assistance with planting.

Apologies if I have missed anyone from this list.

The summer bedding displays are due to be planted in early June

Regrettably our Treasurer passed away earlier this year. Roy Wright had been an active member of Ottery in Bloom for many years. We do therefore need a new treasurer. Our transactions amount to no more than 20 in a year, receiving cheques form sponsors and paying bills for plants, compost etc The two new planter tubs sited on the Nat West Bank forecourt will be likely to be removed while the building is converted to a library.

For continuity of Ottery in Bloom there is a need for others to offer assistance with planting or with watering and we welcome any new ideas to enhance the Town.

12. REPORT FROM THE ALLOTMENT GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman Carl Richmond gave the following report:

The last year has been rather hectic for the plot holders.

As some of you probably know we have moved to new allotments. The old allotment site was owned by Redrow, and we were on a 3 month notice to quit if Redrow so decided.

A plan was proposed that if Redrow built houses where the old allotments were then the town council would be "gifted" a new purpose-built site on the field next door. There would be rabbit proof fencing, a proper road, water troughs, a new notice board and provision for the dormice.

Now we have completed the move and we can see veg growing most people seem quite pleased- if not delighted with the new arrangements. Initially there were lots of worries and grumbles for all kinds of reasons like the soil quality and the stones and roots which they said would be removed. Of particular interest were the "lockable tool boxes" which arrived, beautifully made, but not long enough to hold a spade or a fork.

Anyway Ottery Town Council is in the process of finalising the transfer of the land and the town will have their own allotments. This is quite something because suitable land is very hard to find these days. Honiton, for instance, has been looking for a site for ages with no success.

We all agree that the new site has a great deal of potential, most people are working hard to lick things into shape and the allotment holders who want to can now have their own sheds.

Some of the Committee have told me to say that the allotments are looking good, people are working with enthusiasm and the atmosphere is positive.

Mayor's initials:

It just remains to thank everyone concerned especially Glynn Dobson and Ian Holmes. Also the Office Staff past and present who have had a difficult time sorting out the new plots.

13. FINANCIAL REPORT 2015-2016 INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF GRANTS

Cllr Jo Talbot gave the following report:

This time last year Councillor John Harding from Tipton St John was delivering the financial review of the year to you. John did not stand for re-election and his deputy Councillor Paul Bartlet took over. Late last year I stepped forward to become treasurer and Councillor Bartlet became the deputy chair of the finance committee.

It has been a busy and exciting year. The finances of the council have remained healthy throughout the year once again. And will enable us to work on some interesting and useful projects for the parish throughout the rest of the year. The final figures for 2015/16 are still being prepared but we are not expecting any surprises whatsoever.

We were able through careful management of the finances and regardless of many new pressures that local councils have to take on - to keep the precept almost on par with last years. A raise of only £1300.00 shared throughout the entire parish which equates to literally few pence per household.

Once again because of our healthy and robust position we are pleased to be able to award a number of grants to various organisations in the Parish. The Finance Committee take these applications very seriously and discuss them at great length. We have only a limited amount of money we can allocate and inevitably there will be some disappointed by the outcome for which we are sorry – but please don't give up keep trying.

Our Mayor will now present the grants to representatives of the following organisations:-

1. Help Scheme, 2. Ottery Community Theatre, 3. Ottery family Food Festival, 4. Pixie Day, and 5, 6. Ottery St Mary Carnival (2 grants). 7. Tipton St John School, 8. Tipton St John Flowers, 9. The Twinning Association, 10. Tipton Times, 11. Ottery in Bloom, 12. Later Life Forum, 13. Men's Forum, 14. The Institute, 15. East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Q What was the extent of the Council's reserves and what will be the effect of reserves and the council tax payable on a Band D property be if West Hill was to form its own parish council?

A EDDC's Chief Executive, Mark Williams had advised that the only asset that would be lost to the Council would be the West Hill play park, all other assets would remain with the Council. No money from the reserves would be transferred over to the new parish council as far as the Council was aware. However the Council would probably lose £40,000 from its precept. This would result in the Council having to pay for all the services it provided with a reduced precept which West Hill residents would use and enjoy when they came into the Town, effectively free of charge. At the present time the Council did not have the information available to show what impact the reduced budget would have on a Band D property

Q Please provide information about the proposed boundary if West Hill was to have its own parish council

A EDDC have proposed a boundary line which the Council favours and supports. This however was being objected to by West Hill Campaigners. However if the boundary was to be set on the line proposed by the Campaigners then this would result in a large land loss to the remaining parish of Ottery with some landowners effectively having part of their land in one parish and other parts in the new parish which was a nonsense. Martin Thurgood made the point that he considered the West Hill Campaign Group's proposals to be unreasonable and strongly made the point that if

Mayor's initials:

parishioners also agreed this to be the case, then they should inform EDDC accordingly. It was important that parishioners expressed their democratic right

Q What is the population of the parish?

A West Hill has a population of approx. 2000 with approx. 6000 in the remainder of the parish. Current total - 8000

Q Can I have an idea of the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan

A In the region of £40,000

Q How does the Neighbourhood Plan fit in with the Local Plan?

A The Local Plan is effectively the Superior document and the Neighbourhood Plan has to fit in with it

15 OTHER MATTERS

- i. Cllr Pang wished to thank the Council for financially supporting the Ottery and District Skate and BMX Trust (‘the Trust’) and explained that another body was supposed to financially assist but had failed to do so. She also warmly thanked Cllr Gori for her support. She advised that another trustee was required for the Trust, increased funding and a larger ramp was badly needed for skateboarders, in order that the Trust and its facilities could progress
- ii. Cllr Bailey spoke about the Community Infrastructure Levy (‘CIL’) and the potential benefits for the town
- iii. Cllr Gori thanked all volunteers, and everyone else who gave up their time to serve on various committees, get involved in different project/events etc in the town in order to make it the flourishing place that it is

16 MAYOR’S CLOSING REMARKS

(a) The Mayor thanked Chris McIntyre Town Clerk (it was her first Annual Parish Meeting) who was bringing her expertise as a Legal Executive to the role of Town Clerk and was going through everything with a fine tooth comb! He also thanked everybody for their attendance and invited them to join Councillors for tea and coffee.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Mayor’s signature: Date:

Mayor’s initials: