

**Yateley Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 7pm**  
**held at St. Peter's Church, Yateley, GU46 7LR**

**Present**

Town Councillors: Gerry Crisp, Stuart Bailey, Graham Cockarill, Jenny Cole, Greg Easterbrook, Fae Fallon, Mark Griffin, Bob Harward, Bob McSorley, Pam Phelps-Jones and Tony Spencer

Members of the Public: 6 (all completing presentations)

Town Council Officers: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Events & Communications Officer

**1. Welcome by Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor, Cllr Gerry Crisp, opened the meeting and thanked St. Peters for offering the Church as the venue for this year's annual meeting. Reverend Tim Storey welcomed everyone present and also those watching on Facebook. Reverend Storey led a short prayer and left the meeting at 7.04pm.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was streamed live on the Town Council's Facebook page (593 people reached and 185 engagements). Members of the public were encouraged to view and comment from Facebook to limit face to face contact.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Town Councillors Adrian Collett and Gill Hennell.

**3. Minutes of the Last Annual Town Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record by all present.

**4. Annual Report**

Cllr Gerry Crisp gave a detailed update from the Town Council, which included the following points:

- Recognition for the tremendous clinical and volunteer support throughout the community during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic;
- A Local Heros event is planned for event is planned for August Bank Holiday, combined with the Lion's Summer Fayre, to celebrate and acknowledge all those who have helped during COVID;
- Activities undertaken by the Council over the past year – Monteagle Hall refurbishment, various larger scale maintenance jobs and growing the weekly markets;
- The footpath accessibility project, started by Cllr Jenny Cole, is in the process of being progressed, and the Council will continue to chase our partners to ensure that the issues are addressed;
- Projects for the year ahead include a tree condition survey and a new Christmas lights contract, now extended to cover part of Frogmore.

The full report can be found on the Council's website [www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/](http://www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/)

**5. Update from Community Groups**

Several community groups were invited the meeting to provide an update to the community.

### The Yateley Society - Roger Coombes, Chair

- The Yateley Society will be celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and hope to meet more frequently, if COVID-19 restrictions permit;
- The Society has been working with the Yateley Climate Action Network and all of the Councils to deliver the wildflower verges pilot project in the parish;
- Discussions are also underway with Yateley Town Council to create a COVID-19 contemplation garden, in memory of two Society members who passed away due to COVID;
- There is concern about the changes to planning legislation and the Society is exploring ways in which historic buildings can continue to be protected;
- A digital memory library is being created for VE day and the Society is looking for anyone local who was a child in the parish, around VE day;
- The Society hopes to be able to participate in the Summer Fayre in August.

The full presentation can be found on the Council's website [www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/](http://www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/)

### Hart Voluntary Action (HVA) - Caroline Winchurch, CEO

- HVA would like to pay tribute to everyone in Yateley parish for the fantastic response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Special thanks go to Colin Ive and Yateley Town Council;
- The Hampshire COVID support line is still active. Some volunteers have been helping Yateley residents for over 12 months now. This week, Yateley volunteers delivered their 4,000<sup>th</sup> hour of support in the parish;
- HVA continue to provide a range of services, jointly with Hart District Council, for employment, housing, welfare and mental health matters that have arisen as a result of the pandemic;
- HVA are keen to reach out to partner organisations in the coming months, to assess the full impact of the pandemic;
- Some small grants are still available to support volunteer groups;
- New volunteers are always required and residents were encouraged to contact HVA if they are interested in becoming a volunteer.

The full presentation can be found on the Council's website [www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/](http://www.yateley-tc.gov.uk/)

### Yelabus – John Ellis, Chair

- A video from various Yelabus users was shared at the meeting, showing how Yelabus support the community and how much their services are valued;
- During the pandemic, over 2,000 pharmacy deliveries were made, whilst the buses were unable to take passengers;
- Some bus services have started again, with social distancing measures in place;
- Yateley Town Council were thanked for their support;
- More volunteer drivers are required as well as additional trustee members.

### Yateley & District Lions – Simon Rankin, President

- It has been a difficult year for the Lions to deliver their core objectives, however, the club put their skills to renovating old PCs for those in need in the UK and Africa;
- A Summer Fayre is planned for August bank holiday, to allow the community to celebrate;

- The Lions are looking for more volunteers to join their team, and in particular younger people.

#### Vision 4 Youth – Abby Roper, Secretary

- Youth activities in the centre have been kept to a minimum, however, the detached outreach work has still continued over the past year, and has grown;
- The team are looking forward to the easing of restrictions to enable the youth club sessions to resume, hopefully during the summer months;
- Everyone who supports the youth services and the Town Council were thanked;
- More volunteers are required to help run the youth activities.

### **6. Project Highlights for the Coming Year**

Brief updates on the plans for the year ahead were provided.

#### Neighbourhood Plan – Richard Quarterman

- The formal public consultation (Regulation 14) on the draft Neighbourhood Plan is currently underway. This is an opportunity for members of the public to provide feedback on the draft Plan;
- The consultation ends on 2<sup>nd</sup> July;
- The Neighbourhood Plan development timeline was discussed and it is hoped that the final Plan will go to referendum in May 2022.

#### Yateley Climate Action Network - Cllr Mark Griffin

- Provided an update on the Council's Climate Action Network (YCAN). The Council was inspired by the Hampshire County Council 2050 climate change event;
- YCAN is working on a number of projects, including greening Yateley, looking at sustainable food, tree planting and promoting walking and cycling routes;
- Information can be found on the YCAN website [www.yateleycan.org.uk](http://www.yateleycan.org.uk)
- Outreach work will continue, including relevant lobbying, litter picking events, reducing plastic use and liaising with the Biodiversity Officer at Hart District Council.

#### Community Events – Lydia Castellano, Events & Communications Officer

- The events programme this year will depend on the restrictions in place, at the time of the event;
- The community litter pick will take place in Yateley and Darby Green on 29<sup>th</sup> May;
- A new Saturday market will be starting on Yateley Green on 5<sup>th</sup> June;
- The Local Heros event, to recognise people who helped during the pandemic, will feature at the Summer Fayre on August bank holiday.

Cllr Crisp thanked all of the contributors for their update reports and thanked the volunteer groups for the work they do in the community.

### **7. Accounts**

The annual audited accounts for the financial year ending March 2020 were presented and agreed by members of the public present as being a fair reflection.

### **8. Question & Answer Session**

A member of the public commented that it was a shame that the Darby Green market is not as successful as the Yateley market, and asked if more publicity could be

undertaken – the Events & Communications Officer replied that efforts have been made to publicise the Sunday market, and posts are made for both markets on social media. The Council can look at installing banners, where permitted.

There were no further questions.

The meeting ended at 8.11pm.