

Minutes of the **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** of **TAVISTOCK**  
held in the Town Hall, Tavistock on **TUESDAY** the  
**10<sup>th</sup>** day of **MARCH 2020** at  
**6.30pm**

The following were present:

Councillor Mrs A Johnson - Mayor as Chairman

Councillors Ms L Crawford, J Ellis, Mrs M Ewings, A Hutton (Deputy Mayor), Mrs U Mann, J Moody, G Parker, Mrs G Parker, B Smith, H Smith, P Squire, and P Ward

9 members of the Public  
1 member of the Press

In Attendance: Town Clerk, General Manager, Assistant to the Town Clerk, Town Hall & Events Manager

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors A Fey and P Williamson.

**1. MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor welcomed all present and gave a brief address, notes of which are attached to these Minutes (Appendix A).

The Mayor also took the opportunity to thank the staff and her fellow Councillors for their support during the last Civic Year.

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

The Minutes of the above Meeting were agreed as a true copy and signed by the Mayor.

**3. STATEMENT ON COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

The Deputy Mayor reported on the financial affairs of the Council, notes of which are attached to these Minutes (Appendix B).

**4. JESSIE ANN ALFORD CHARITY**

The Town Clerk made report on the operation of the above Charity (Appendix C).

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman then invited general questions from the public. Members of the public put the following questions:

Q1 – Given that The Meadows is a significant nature asset to the town, why does Tavistock Town Council cut the grass so

frequently? Could it not consider more considerate management of this area?

A1 (Town Clerk) – We have a Sustainability & Environment Working Group looking at amongst other things, the flora and fauna in the town. However, the area is intended for people to take children and walk their dogs. We have the area at Whitchurch Down which is only cut periodically. We will be looking at wider use, and benefits, of how we can add to Climate Change initiatives.

A Member added that the Blue Heart Campaign members would be having a stand on Bedford Square on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and would be encouraging residents to allow part of their own gardens to be re-wilded.

Q2 – Congratulations to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their presentations. It brought home the huge responsibility Tavistock Town Council carries on our behalf. The Town Hall is beautifully maintained, as is the exterior.

However, there are two large advertising boards on the Town Hall and my understanding was that these were to be used to advertise events in the Town Hall, Butchers’ Hall and Pannier Market, plus any big community charity events.

I also understand that these were not to be used for commercial activities. If that policy has changed I believe there should be a rate for charities, and a different rate when advertising commercial activities. These are enormous boards, which I believe only cost £25 per week per board, when a small advert in the Tavistock Times costs £ 200.

I would like to suggest that if a poster is obviously commercial i.e. advertising a school, unless they are holding a charitable event, that it should pay a commercial rate, which could help towards the Council’s costs. What is the Council’s policy on this?

A2 (Mayor) – I will ensure this is added to the Agenda for the next Town Hall & Markets Consultative Group Meeting. We will feed back to you in writing at a later date.

There being no more questions, the Mayor thanked everyone for coming to the Meeting.

The Meeting ended at 7.00pm.

Signed..... Dated.....  
Town Mayor



