

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL REEPHAM TOWN MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2019 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

**Present: L. Paterson (Chair), A. Woollett, P. Mitchell, M. Lester, J. Line, M. Steel, S. Fisher and P. Mitchell**

**District Cllr S. Beadle**

**Town Clerk Jo Boxall and 14 members of the public**

**Chairman's Statement**

It gives me great pleasure to report on the activities of the Town Council and the Trustee of Stimpson's Piece Charity over the last 12 months.

During the last year we bade farewell to three Councillors, Janet and Michael Pender-Cudlip and Hayden Key and I am sure that we would all like to express our appreciation for all the work they have done on behalf of our community and wish them well for the future.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Sara Fisher, Mark Lester and Robert Taylor as new Councillors and we are all looking forward to working together to maintain and improve amenities for the residents of Reepham. I would like to remind everybody that there are still vacancies for Councillors and if anybody has any concerns about the future of our community and would like to take part in shaping that future why not consider becoming a Councillor?

2019 being an election year all our current Town Councillors were nominated and returned unopposed. A new District Councillor, Stuart Beadle, was elected to represent Reepham and we look forward to working closely with him on behalf of our community. I would like to record my appreciation to Graham Everett, our outgoing District Councillor, for all the outstanding work he has done on our behalf over the last few years and I wish him well for the future, a feeling I am sure is echoed by all of us.

The Town Council continues to be active in improving amenities and supporting community activities. Renewal of our street lamps with modern low energy has been completed with the exception of some vintage style lamps that we are still awaiting. We have also actively supported community events in the Market Place including the Festival of Light, the Food Festival and the Classic Car Show by obtaining the road closure orders and providing the barriers and signage. The Town Council has also provided a replacement picnic bench for the public green space in Overton Way.

The Town Hall has recently benefitted from the building of a new glazed entrance porch and provision of a dedicated furniture store. The Town Council would like to thank members of the Town Hall Management Committee who oversaw the project and funded it from income generated from hirings.

In its role as Trustee of Stimpson's Piece Charity, the Town Council, together with a generous donation from Fun Force, has supported the provision of new picnic tables around the children's play area. The Town Council and the Trustee are also working closely with Broadland District Council and the Reepham Town Team to improve parking facilities in Reepham by promoting the Stimpson's Piece car park as a public long stay car park.

The Council has been active in supporting local community groups including the Reepham Archive, the Bircham Centre, Scrap Box, the Festival of Light, the Food Festival and the Music Festival by making grants ranging from £180 to £1500.

Councillors take an active role in vetting planning applications, consulting local residents and arranging public meetings where appropriate, and making comments to the planning authority, Broadland District Council. Two Planning Applications of particular significance, a proposal for a convenience store in School Road and a proposal for a care complex and convenience store on the former station site on Statlon Road, were dealt with in some depth. Councillors found the proposal for a convenience store in School Road unacceptable, a view supported by Broadland District Council and, ultimately by the government's Planning Inspector, who refused planning permission. The proposal for a care complex and convenience store generated much discussion and Councillors agreed to support the application in principle subject to certain safeguards. Following a full Planning Meeting at Broadland District Council where the Town Council was represented, the Planning Committee approved the application.

One of the obligations placed on the Town Council is to maintain both the church wall on Church Hill and Church Street and the flint faced wall on Ollands Road and, following a structural survey of the walls, we are currently preparing a schedule of planned maintenance. Both walls are subject to vehicle damage on occasion and are in the conservation area or have listed building protection.

Finally I would like to express my appreciation to Jo Boxall, our Town Clerk, and Sally Gill, our Finance Officer, for all the advice and support they have given me and the other Councillors, both past and present, over the past 12 months. I would also like to express my thanks to all our Councillors for their hard work on behalf of the community and for their support for Jo and Sally.

### **Opportunity for residents to raise concerns about local issues**

A local resident introduced herself and agreed to put herself forward for co-option at the next Town Council meeting. District Councillor S. Beadle introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the recent election.

Ideas were presented for Reepham to become involved in a project to plant more trees for the benefit of the planet, potentially each tree planted to represent a resident. The scheme could involve the schools, farms and local developers. It was acknowledged that funding may be required. It was suggested that the scheme be put in front of the Town Team for consideration. It was agreed to include as a future agenda item.