



WETHERBY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT 6PM ON TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2023 IN WETHERBY TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, WETHERBY

Present: Councillor Neil O'Byrne, Mayor of Wetherby
24 members of the public.
1 additional member of the public from 6.50pm.

In Attendance: Iona Taylor (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Town Councillor Harry Chapman and Town and Ward Councillor Norma Harrington.

2. Minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record, with one objection recorded.

3. Matters arising – none.

4. Wetherby Town Council – Annual Report

Copies of the draft 2023 Annual Report were distributed to those attending, with the contents summarised by the Town Clerk.

The report, presented here in draft format prior to adoption at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council later in the evening, will be published once accompanied by the council's 2022/23 financial statements.

5. Questions or comments from members of the public.

Councillor O'Byrne reminded those attending that a parish meeting is not a meeting of the Town Council and as such decisions cannot be taken relating to Town Council business.

Multiple questions and comments were received during this item, including, but not limited to:

- Concerns and comments about the Town Council's recent precept increase and budget for the 2023/24 period.
- The Town Council's recent staffing and structure review and the ongoing implementation of the recommendations therein.
- The Town Council's ongoing work to develop a strategic action plan with measurable targets and milestones.
- The need for the Town Council to improve communication with the electors of the town as a way of improving transparency and accountability.
- The relationship between Wetherby Town Council and Leeds City Council, including who has responsibility for the provision of which services and how communications operate between the two organisations and their representatives.
- The need for future investment in Wetherby, especially in relation to the pressure on independent shops with several town centre units currently standing empty or having changed hands recently.
- The use of the Mercure Hotel for the housing of asylum seekers and the current proposals for its redevelopment as a LIDL supermarket.
- Negative feedback on the recent tree planting at Millennium Field.

6. Any other business.

Following robust discussions throughout the meeting it was agreed that an additional parish meeting should be convened in approximately 6 months' time so that an update can be given to electors on the work of the Town Council and its progress against the implementation of the staffing and structure review and action plan.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Iona Taylor, Town Clerk.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE: