

BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL

The Hub, Myrtle Place, Bingley, BD16 2LF



Annual Town Meeting for the parish of Bingley

Tuesday 19th April 2023

Held at Cottingley Town Hall, Main Street, Cottingley, Bingley, BD16 1SR

Chaired by Councillor Philippa Gibbons, Chair of Bingley Town Council

Present: Councillors Beckwith, Drucquer, Fenton, Gibbons, Goode, Heseltine, Kirdale, Truelove, Williams and Winnard
Eve Haskins (Town Clerk), Debbie Ioanna (Admin Assistant)
Eight members of the public

Meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

1. Welcome

Councillor Gibbons welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting of Bingley and highlighted that the meeting is being recorded and that photos will be taken. She explained that this meeting is being held for the electorate to receive information on the work of the Town Council over the past year, including reports from local groups who have received Town Council grants.

She reported on the work of Bingley Town Council over the last year, highlighting the following:

- Several Play in the Park events were held in various locations across the parish last summer, with the Town Council covering the cost.
- The Town Council also covered the cost of the Christmas lights, and 50% of the cost of the Christmas fair (in conjunction with Bingley Chamber of Trade).
- The organisation of regular litter picks in the parish was also continued this year: many thanks to everyone who has been involved in these.
- Providing bulbs to several local community groups was also continued this year, with the floral displays looking as lovely as ever.
- The major project in the last year was the Changing Places toilet, which has been a large focus for the Town Council over the last few years, and is now fully open and functional, with an official opening ceremony held on 4th March this year.

Councillor Gibbons closed this section of the meeting to highlight that this meeting is for the electorate, and stated that the Town Council would welcome any feedback from the community on our work and suggestions for what we should be focussing upon as a Town Council.

2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from Councillors Barton and Carney.

3. Previous minutes from 17th May 2022

Previous minutes from the meeting held on 17th May 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Presentations by local groups

Bingley Music Town:

David Carpenter of Bingley Music Town reported that they are a new organization constituted in November 2022, who already have between 40 and 50 members, and were set up to make Bingley a place where music is sustained as a valued asset and celebrated. He explained that proof that Bingley is a music town is the existence of the bandstand in Myrtle Park, the Bingley Music Lives concerts that have taken place here, the success of the busy Bingley Little Theatre, the various singing groups locally (including All Together Now Choir, Bingley hand-bell group, jazz groups, Hot Aire, Bradford and Airedale Youth Choir, Golden Oldies at Eldwick, and the music groups in local pubs etc.), 500 years of the All Saints Church bells, the music celebrated at all Bingley schools, the music shop and record shop, and all local music teachers, dance teachers, photographers etc. He explained that Bingley Music Town wishes to pull all this local creativity together, and celebrate it by developing the brand and compiling an action plan for the town. He confirmed that Bingley Music Town are partnered with Bingley Camera Club, who have been helping to create an image bank. He confirmed that the Friends of Myrtle Park are also important partners in helping to encourage music in the town, and that a three-day festival is planned for the park for next year.

Mr Carpenter reported that Bingley Music Town received a start-up grant from the Town Council, which allowed the group to promote itself via the production of postcards etc. and book meetings rooms etc. He answered several questions to confirm that they now plan to encourage increased, and more varied, music in the town, both in Market Square and the park etc. especially in time for Bradford City of Culture 2025.

Bingley Remembrance Group:

Marcus Dearden of Bingley Remembrance Group reported that their Group started up following the folding of the local Royal British Legion group, and stated that the Town Council's support of the Group is much appreciated as it is very difficult to obtain funding. The Town Council grant is therefore key to the annual Remembrance Day event, meaning this can go ahead. It is an incredibly successful, and important, event, however it costs approximately £1,200 to arrange therefore the £500 from the Town Council is much appreciated. Mr Dearden answered questions to confirm that the event will continue to be organized on an annual basis.

Cottingley Community Association:

Bingley Town Councillor John Goode, who also holds the role of Coordinator of Cottingley Gardening Group, and who has been involved with Cottingley Community Association since 2001. He reported that a large National Lottery grant previously received by Cottingley Gardening Group allowed the green at Cottingley roundabout to be transformed by the gardening group, in conjunction with Bradford Council, with the creation of five raised flower beds. These flower beds were then restored when needed, via a Town Council grant and through the labour of volunteers, in 2020, and then in 2022 via the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding from the Town Council. He confirmed that a fabulous job was undertaken to restore these raised beds, and he thanked the Town Council on behalf of Cottingley Community Association for this funding.

Eldwick and Gilstead Horticultural Society:

Roger Galton, Trustee of Eldwick and Gilstead Horticultural Society, also Chairman of Wilsden Gardening Association and allotment plot holder at Warren Lane allotments, Bingley, reported that

the Society came into being over 100 years ago, and have the lease of the land at Warren Lane until 2031. He thanked the Town Council for the grant received, which helped pay for a long hedge trimmer, which is essential to keep the hedges down to allow access to the 32 allotment plots. Mr Galton answered questions to confirm that Wilsden Parish Council have also supported them enormously.

Friends of Myrtle Park:

Rosie Sharp, Chair of the Friends of Myrtle Park, thanked the Town Council for the grant provided to contribute to the cost of 20 stackable chairs in the old veterans' hall/the Hub in Myrtle Park. She confirmed that the Hub is open every Sunday from 2pm to 4pm, and that the chairs were needed for the users, volunteers and the public. She answered questions to confirm that the recent Easter trail was a great success, with over 450 members of the public attending, including over 300 children.

Five Rise Frocks Women's Institute:

Isabel Roberts of Five Rise Frocks Women's Institute group reported that their President had the idea to restore the Jubilee Stone in Jubilee Gardens, in conjunction with Bingley Bloomers. This was paid for via grant funding, including from the Town Council, Bingley Chamber of the Trade and the Lounge and Loft cafes, as well as via public fundraising. A ceremony to unveil this new refurbished stone was held in May last year; and a plum tree was also planted.

Bingley Little Theatre:

Dave Elliot, a volunteer at Bingley Little Theatre, reported that he approached the Town Council for a grant to support the cost of a back-up projector for the Community Cinema which is run there for the residents of Bingley. This is key to making the Arts Centre more community based and to encourage children to attend also.

Friends of Prince of Wales Park:

It was confirmed that the Friends of Prince of Wales Park were unable to send a representative to the meeting this evening, however the Town Clerk confirmed that they had sent a report, which had been circulated.

5. Open forum

Everyone in attendance networked informally.

6. To close the meeting

Councillor Gibbons thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.00pm.