

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held Monday 7 April 2014 at The Guildhall, Barnstaple at 7.05pm

Present: Cllr Lesley Brown (Town Mayor) in the Chair
107 members of the public and 2 administrative staff of Barnstaple Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 April 2013

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 15 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Annual Report of Barnstaple Town Council and Matters Arising

The Mayor presented the Annual Report, which included reports of the Environment, Finance, Heritage, Planning, Properties and Staff Committees. She highlighted the work of the Town Council over the year 2013/14, including new areas of planting, sowing of poppy seeds to commemorate the centenary of the commencement of WWI, additional grass cuts, installation of three defibrillators, Council surgeries and new outdoor gym equipment. She also looked forward to forthcoming events such as the Tidy Up Our Town week and Community Day.

No matters were raised by members of the public.

Reports from Town Council Representatives to Outside Bodies

No reports were received.

Reports from Representatives of Local Groups and Organisations

No reports were received.

Honorary Burgess

The Town Clerk outlined the history and significance of the award of Honorary Burgess to the meeting. Cllr Val Elkins summarised the reasons for nominating Mr Keith Abraham for this award, given for exceptional distinguished and valuable service to the town. Cllr Elkins explained the generous contributions Mr Abraham had made to community groups and initiatives in Barnstaple over the course of his life in the town. She then read the formal citation nominating Mr Abraham. Dave Butt address the meeting and reflected on Mr Abraham's good work, and his donations which were probably in excess of £2million. He explained that Mr Abraham's generosity and vision had attracted additional funding into the area and had delivered benefits where there was real need.

The award of Honorary Burgess to Mr Abraham was confirmed by the presentation of a scroll by the Mayor.

Mr Abraham gave an address reflecting on his life in Barnstaple, and thanked the town for the award.

RAF Community Plate

The RAF Community Plate was presented by the Mayor and Squadron Leader Stuart Cunliffe to Mr Terry Chapple for his service in support of the Ring and Ride Service.

Presentation of Grant Awards

The Mayor presented cheques to local groups and organisations who had been given grant awards from Barnstaple Town Council. Each organisation offered a brief summary of their work and the benefits that would accrue from the grant award.

Questions Raised by Local Electors

None were received.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm