

Present: The Mayor Councillor J Brookes
Councillor W Hamilton (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Ms S Abey
Councillor D Eggleton
Councillor S Gawrysiak
Councillor D Nimmo Smith

Also Present: 48 Members of the Public
1 Members of the Press
Mrs J Wheeler, Town Clerk
Mrs N Taylor, Minute Taker

1. **WELCOME**

The Mayor of Henley on Thames, Councillor J Brookes welcomed organisations and members of the public to the Annual Town Meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs J Bland.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 7 April 2016 were received, approved and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

4. **TOWN MEDAL AWARD**

The Town Medal for the year 2016/2017 was awarded to Mr Ian Forster and the Corporate Town Medal to the Leander Club both of which were presented by Mr John Howell MP.

Mr Hugh Richardson, Leander Club gave a thank you speech and updated the meeting on the clubs achievements over the past 200 years.

5. **MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor, Councillor J Brookes informed the meeting that this has been a very busy and exciting year including such events / activities as: HM Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations, Building of the Rugby Club, club house, Hero's Return, Regatta, Remembrance Service, Christmas – Living Advent, Festival, Christmas Tree / Lights, Townlands Hospital formally opened, Housing Communities Agency approved the YMCA as a provider of registered housing and the Park Run trials and dress rehearsal.

6. **COMMUNITY MATTERS**

The meeting received written reports from South Oxfordshire District Councillors Mrs J Bland and Miss L Hillier and Oxfordshire County Councillor D Nimmo Smith along with Committee reports from Town and Community and Finance Strategy and Management and 11 written reports from town groups and community organisations (copies of which are attached to the office copy of these minutes and are available on

the Council website www.henleytowncouncil.gov.uk) and 1 verbal report as noted below.

AFC Henley, Café Scientifique, Gainsborough Residents Association, Borama Friendship Association, Henley Falaise Twinning Association, Henley Leichlingen Twinning Association, Henley Visually Impaired Group, Nomad, Regatta for the Disabled, Riverside Counselling Service, Royal British Legion.

- Reema Shearman – River & Rowing Museum stated that the Museum is an educational charity that has been in Henley for 20 years. She gave thanks to Henley Town Council for their financial support and encouragement and to the Mayor and Councillor S Evans as trustees.

There were 100,000 visitors to the museum last year bringing £1.9m into Henley. Free admission was given to all local children because of the funding provided by the Town Council.

The museum is passionate about history and arts, and teaches about the river, rowing and the history of Henley on Thames.

19,000 children visited the museum through the educational services from 200 different schools and the museum supports university internships.

There is a new gallery dedicated to John Piper and in the year ahead there will be exhibits on the Big Friendly Giant and Peter Rabbit, there is a new community gallery and a new catering company who offer wood fired pizza and are open in the evenings and at weekends.

- Dave Dickie – Café Scientifique spoke to his report.
- Sheridan Carr – Riverside Counselling Services spoke to her report.
- John Green – Henley Royal British Legion spoke to his report.

It was **RESOLVED**

that the reports from Community organisations be received and noted.

6. RESOLUTION

No written resolutions were received from electors of the town.

7. CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor, Councillor J Brookes stated that Henley is a very vibrant town with all its charities and societies, and that he had enjoyed an exciting year as the Mayor. Mr K Douglas he advised has invigorated the Charities Together section of the Henley Business Partnership and he encouraged all charities not already involved to do so. The next Charities Together meeting is on 23 June 2017 at Sue Ryder.

Councillor J Brookes thanked the members of the community present for attending the meeting and invited everyone to join him for refreshments and to meet with other colleagues supporting the town, for informal networking.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Mayor

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