



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

held on Tuesday 30 May 2023 at 7.30 pm

at

The Community Centre, Irnham Road, Minehead TA24 5DW

Minutes

In the absence of the Mayor, Cllr Kingston-James, Chair of Finance & Staffing Committee, agreed to Chair the meeting.

Chair: Cllr M Kingston-James

Councillors Present: Cllr J Bonar, Cllr B Hodson, Cllr M Kravis, Cllr A Lawton, Cllr J Malin, Cllr T Venner

Officer present: Mr Ben Parker, Operations Manager

Members of the Public: 35

1 To receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr C Palmer (Mayor) and Cllr M Palmer.

2 Mayor's welcome and Minehead Town Council Report for 2022-2023

Cllr Kingston-James welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referred to Minehead Town Council's Annual Report which he said was very positive, mentioning functions of the Council in managing assets, green spaces, toilets etc. He said the Report was available for anyone to see.

The Chair then asked Councillors to introduce themselves to the public.

3 To receive short reports from organisations

Mr Julian Luke from **Minehead Museum** told the meeting that the Museum's current home at the Beach Hotel offered only 575 square feet of space which had led the Museum to try and find another location. It only had a rolling lease of the premises. Over £180,000 had already been raised to acquire new premises. There had been over 2,500 visitors so far this season and more than 60,000 visitors since the Museum

opened. He asked those present to complete a consultation form and reminded everyone that the Museum was always looking for volunteers.

Mr Maynard-Smith, Trustee of **Minehead Shed**, wished to thank the Council for its support. Setting up the charity had been a long journey over 5 years which included during COVID. It was now ready to open at the old Sure Start Centre in Alcombe having spent over £30,000 very frugally on flooring, LED lighting, installing ceilings, etc and it was now a fantastic “shed” which would enable people to re-engage with others and the community and build confidence and self-esteem in a craft-based environment and an additional community facility. He looked forward to inviting everyone to the grand opening which would be advertised on the Facebook page. Membership was already open.

Cllr Anne Lawton spoke as the Chairperson of **Minehead Gardening Club**. Cllr Lawton told the meeting that the Club was flourishing even after COVID and had 40-50 members. The schedule for the Annual Flower Show on 12 August 2023 was now out and the Club was trying to build up the Children’s Section of the show. New members were always welcome, membership costing £15 per year.

Mr Ray Tew from **Minehead Coast and Development Trust** asked the public for support for their project which was run alongside the Onion Collective in Watchet.

- 4 **Question Time** – members of the public
- 5 **Mayor’s closing comments**