

THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE TOWN OF HEDNESFORD

will be held in

Meeting Room 1, Pye Green Community Centre,

Bradbury Lane, Hednesford

at 7:00 P.M. on TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2017

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Welcome by the Chairman
3. To approve the minutes of the Town Assembly held on 19 April 2016
4. To receive reports from Town Organisations including the Town Council
5. To receive an update on Dementia Friendly Initiatives in Hednesford
6. To receive any other reports
7. Open Discussion Forum

Cllr A Pearson
Chairman
4 April 2017



All electors for Hednesford are cordially invited to attend the meeting which is the opportunity to raise any matters relating to the town



HEDNESFORD TOWN
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT 7:00 PM ON TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2016
AT THE PYE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEDNESFORD

PRESENT: Cllr A Pearson (Chairman of the Town Council)
Mr P Harrison (Town Council Manager/Clerk)
Members of the Town Council, District Council and County Council a
representative of Staffordshire Police and 2 Members of the Public

1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and received apologies for absence from Cllrs G Adamson, C Mitchell and Mr. P Woodhead

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 20 April 2015 were approved

3. REPORTS OF TOWN ORGANISATIONS

Reports were received in respect of the Heart of Hednesford Restoration Project and Hednesford in Partnership. Information was also reported by Staffordshire Police relating to the successful establishment of a new youth club. Information was also reported regarding the improvements to the park (see also below)

4. HEDNESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr A Pearson reported on the activities of the Town Council over the last year and indicated the plans that the Council had for the future

5. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

a) Hednesford Park

A query was raised regarding fire precautions at the new pavilion and whether the building was insured. It was noted that the skate park was on schedule for completion and that funds had been secured for the restoration of the signal box. For security reasons it had been necessary to lock the car park during the hours of darkness. It was anticipated that the official opening of the park would take place in July 2016

b) Dementia Friendly Community

Training in dementia awareness was available on request to Lynn Evans. The regular weekly dementia walks were continuing and would be enhanced with completion of works at the park

c) Highways

Serious concerns were expressed regarding the state of the highways. In particular the number of pot holes, the inadequacy of repairs carried out and the lack of drain clearance leading to flooding problems at several locations

Bearing in mind the anticipated large increase in volumes of traffic from new developments (especially Pye Green Valley) it was suggested that pedestrian crossing provision in Stafford Lane near the Anglesey Street junction needed to be improved and parking restrictions should be imposed to prevent obstructions outside the shops on the junction of Essex Drive and Stafford Lane

d) AONB World War I Project

It was reported that the AONB were undertaking a WWI Project and would hope to draw on the information gleaned by Sam Morris who, on behalf of the Town Council, had carried out a study of Hednesford home front during that period

e) Heritage Plaques

A suggestion was made that "blue" plaques could be erected at places formerly inhabited by notable Hednesfordians. These locations could then form the basis of routes for Heritage Walks around the town

The meeting ended at 8:15 pm

For Information

The English Parish/Town Meeting

Every English Parish/Town must have a parish/town meeting (In Hednesford this is known as the Annual Town Meeting)

Membership and Right to Preside

A parish/town meeting consists of the local government electors registered for the area for which it is held. Where there is a parish/town council its chairman may attend (whether an elector or not) and if present must preside. The vice-chairman must preside in the chairman's absence. If both are absent the meeting elects someone to preside.

Number, Date and Time of Meetings

The parish/town meeting must assemble annually between 1 March and 1 June (inclusive). In addition it must meet when convened by the town council and it may be convened as often as required. Proceedings must not begin before 6.00 p.m.

Right to Convene

A parish/town meeting may be convened by the chairman of the town council or any two town councillors or by six electors for the area. The town council may also convene it but is under no obligation to do so unless its consent is required before the town council does certain acts.

Notices and Agenda

Notices specifying the time and place and business of an intended meeting must be affixed in some conspicuous place or places in the town in addition as much publicity can be given as desired. There is no statutory format for the agenda for parish meetings.

The minimum notice is usually 7 days.

Quorum

The quorum is two unless a document has to be executed in which case it is three.

Decisions

Decisions are taken in the first instance by a majority of those present and voting. If the chairman is an elector for the town he has an original as well as a casting vote; if he is not an elector he has only a casting vote. Unless a poll is demanded before the end of the meeting, the chairman's declaration of the result is final.

For Information

Voting

Unlike the town council, a parish/town meeting is not required to vote in any particular way.

Poll

A poll may be demanded not later than the end of a meeting on any question arising at it. Such a poll must be held if ten or one-third of the electors present (whichever is less) insists or if the person presiding at the meeting consents. The wording of any question to be answered in the poll must be settled before the meeting ends. The chairman must immediately notify the district council if a poll is required. The returning officer would make the necessary arrangements with the cost having to be met by the town.

Places of Meetings

It can meet in any place where the town council may meet but it is not entitled to meet in a church or vestry.

Relationship Between Parish/Town Meeting and Town Council

A parish/town meeting may discuss town affairs its resolutions differ considerably in their legal consequences. In a few cases a resolution is legally binding. In all others a resolution is persuasive only; the town council may legally disregard it and leave the electors to their remedy at the next election.

The town council meets the expenses of the parish/town meeting.