

TOWN COUNCIL OF FRINTON AND WALTON

**MINUTES of an ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
held at the Council House, Frinton-on-Sea,
Thursday 21st March 2024 commencing at 6.00pm**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr P Clifton (Town Mayor)

Councillors: ET Allen, I Johnson, N Turner, R Everett, F & J Robertson,
A & M Cossens, D Miles, Cllr N Hayes, L Jacobs, R Morgan

Apologies: Councillors A Oxley, D Land, Cllr Platt may be delayed.

Absent: None

In Attendance: Tanya Smith – Frinton & Walton Town Council.
5 members of the public, No press.

Mayor's Welcome

The mayor welcomed all attendees.

Health and Safety announcements for all councillors and the public to note:

- All members of the Town Council are bound by the code of conduct which asks all members to be mindful of their conduct to ensure it is appropriate and in line with the expectations of the Code of Conduct. Any examples of this not being in line will be addressed accordingly.
- The Mayor pointed out the fire exits and fire safety procedures.
- Council meetings held in public are all audio recorded for the purpose of minute taking, training and the wellbeing of all attendees.

ATM24/1

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors A Oxley, Land and Cllr Platt may be late

ATM24/2

MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 9th March 2023 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

ATM24/3

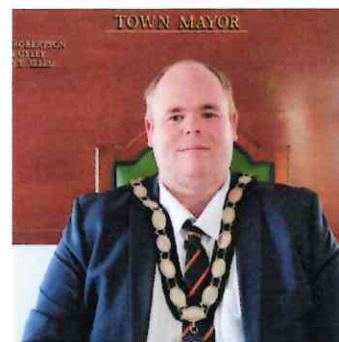
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

ATM24/4

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Paul Clifton, Mayor delivered his Mayor's Report for 2023-2024 to members, and members of the public.



It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve as Town Mayor for Frinton & Walton Town Council this past year. I have served on this Council for nine years and this has been my first time 'in the Chair' which has given me the opportunity to develop further in my role as Councillor representing the electorate.

I have been supported by Deputy Mayor Cllr Delyth Miles, who has been an invaluable support to me, and I thank her for her dedication to her role as Councillor and Deputy Mayor. It has been a pleasure to work alongside all Members within the Council, and with the Officers of the Council.

Community engagement and working with the public is at the heart of town and parish councils and it's something that I am very passionate about. Much as I have wanted to prioritise this throughout my term as Mayor, at the same time I have recognised the need to ensure that the Council is running as efficiently as possible in order that monies raised through the Council Tax you pay is put to its best use. I have spent much of the year working alongside Officers to focus on this to assist in identifying where improvements can be made to help us all achieve the best outcome for our residents.

I have delivered a budget that we've been able to maintain below inflation despite the ever-increasing costs that we all see happening both at home and in business. Whilst some difficult decisions have had to be made particularly around the Town Council ending its financial support to the Walton Market, I am confident that protecting against steep increases to the finances of local families is an important consideration. I am pleased to see that Walton Market is set to continue with the support of another organisation and wish them all the very best.

Some of the highlights of my year has been getting involved in local events. The Mayor often receives requests from various groups and organisations in the area to attend openings, awards, competitions etc. If your group or organisation would like the Mayor in attendance at an event, we have a form on our website where you can make a request. There is no charge for this, and it can assist in promoting your event.

Here are just a few of the events that I and the Deputy Mayor have been involved with during the year.



Easter Celebrations at the Triangle Shopping Centre



I had the honour of laying a wreath at the Remembrance Service at Walton Church with the Mayoress.



Getting into the festive spirit of the season at Walton's Late Night Shopping Event.



'The Grinch' was a popular guest at Walton's Late Night Shopping Event putting smiles on many children's faces!



Deputy Mayor Cllr Delyth Miles attended an event by Essex Sight, an organisation supporting people with sight impairments.





The Deputy Mayor also represented the Town Council at a couple of events. The first of these being the Clacton Orchestral Concert held at Saint Mary's Parish Church in Frinton-on-Sea. The Deputy Mayor had the privilege and honour in giving the vote of thanks, describing it as a "Feast" of a performance. This was classical music, well attended and I highly recommend it.

The Town Council works closely with the local PCSO's not only through funding their presence in the area, but also in liaison on community issues and supporting in ways to identify and reduce crime in the area. Some fellow councillors and I took part in the local Police Chief Inspector tours of Frinton and Walton, highlighting areas needing additional focus and talking to residents and business owners to strengthen relationships further. We have a good working relationship with key stakeholders in Essex Police. We have observed far fewer incidences of crime in the local area throughout the last year which has been down to effective policing, communication, and various other initiatives in the local area such as the offering of a local youth group that one of our Councillors is heavily involved in.



Multi-agency working with Essex Police, Tendring District Council Community Ambassadors and Town Councillors – kindly hosted by Walton Forum.



Engaging with the District Commander for Essex Police in Tendring, Chief Inspector Ella Latham works closely with the Town Council to understand the challenges faced by residents and businesses, so optimum policing for the area can be achieved.

The deputy Mayor had the great pleasure of officially opening the Beaumont House Annual Fete. The Deputy Mayor thoroughly enjoyed herself meeting with so many residents and entered into the spirit of the day, playing Bingo, and eating delicious cakes.

Grant Funding

Throughout the current financial year, the Town Council have supported various organisations through grant funding. Our website has details on how we can support local organisations whose cause meets with the criteria for funding. Local groups and organisations are encouraged to explore this and contact the Clerk for support in making their application.

Organisation	Date	Project	Grant Awarded
Naze Protection Society	May 2023	Tree planting at the Naze for the Coronation.	295.00
Frinton Business Group	April 2023	Supporting the Connaught Avenue Coronation Party	600.00
Frinton In Bloom	May 2023	Supporting floral/fauna planting for inclusion in Frinton In Bloom competition entry.	2000.00
Frinton Business Group	November 2023	Supporting Frinton's festive late night shopping event.	1000.00
Walton Forum	December 2023	Supporting Walton's festive late night shopping event.	1000.00

In May, the Town Council elects its chosen Mayor to represent the Town Council for the next municipal year. I wish my successor, whoever that may be, all the best.

I will close by once again thanking all of you who have supported me in my role as Mayor for the last year. Thank you all.

Cllr Paul Clifton
Town Mayor

NB. All photos carry consent for use in the public domain. Photo credits – various contributors, with thanks.

Honor to serve (the one with the images)

Cllr Turner took this opportunity to thank the Mayor (Cllr Clifton) and the Deputy for steering the council through a difficult year. Members concurred. Whilst there is still much to do, he offered his congratulations and appreciation for his efforts.

ATM24/5

ANY MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS

A member of the public enquired whether recordings of the Town Council meetings were going to be made available on the website.

The Mayor responded that whilst live streaming may be re-considered in the future, they are only currently recorded for minute taking purposes.

Going forward and in line with the Agenda for Full Town Council Meeting, agendas will inform attendees that meetings are recorded.

It was confirmed that once minutes are completed, recordings are deleted.

No further questions came from the public. Discussions continued with councillors discussing the priorities in our communities.

Cllr Allen suggested that on behalf of residents, the next Mayor should focus Town Council members to act together and lobby key decision makers within TDC. Key priorities that matter to our area include weed reduction, grass cutting, potholes, area planning, and more.

Cllr Johnson enquired if the Town Clerk (TC) had contacted TDC Ian Davidson, Chief Executive on behalf of the Town Council.

In the absence of the TC, the Mayor responded he would enquire and confirm at the next Town Council meeting.

Cllr Cossens remarked he had recently learned more about Active Essex and other partnerships supporting young people in Walton and looks forward to finding out more.

Cllr Oxley works actively and closely with Active Essex who play a role in the initiatives achieved by the Walton Youth Club.

The Mayor confirmed that in future town council meetings, Active Essex will be highlighted as contributors to initiatives that they support, to make it clear to everyone which projects they support.

Other project opportunities exist for Town Councillors to work with Active Essex, ultimately supporting our young residents.

It was noted that a local football club's pitch is currently flooded and has long grass. Children cannot play football, yet TDC are still charging rates. A planning application has been submitted to deal with the drainage issues.

TDC have announced that local football clubs must train where they play – Councillors from the Town Council need to get behind teams in Walton Youth Club and encourage them to play on their own pitches in our community.

It was noted that TDC supports Walton in many ways. There are further opportunities for local Councillors to unite to support local services and initiatives, especially those that support young people like the sea cadets, football teams and more.

The Mayor reflected on the death of the Cllr Luke MacKenzie, Mayor of Basildon Town Council and acknowledged the great work that he had achieved on behalf of Basildon, dedicating his life to public service despite his relatively young age of 38 years.

The Mayor asked members whether the Annual Town Council format could be improved? Discussions included: To consider inviting key community leaders, themed annual meetings, (e.g. youth activities), invite guest speakers, better engagement with the public and subjects that matter to our residents, taking the annual town council meeting out on the road to a larger venue and in another town or village to reach a wider audience.

There being no further matters to consider, the Chairman thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting at 6.42pm

Chairman of the Meeting