

# Lewes Town Council

Town Hall, High Street  
Lewes, East Sussex  
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**Minutes** of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall Lewes on Thursday 16 March 2023 at 7pm

## **Present:**

Councillor Baah  
Councillor Clarke  
Councillor Lamb  
Councillor Makepeace  
Councillor Maples  
Councillor Milner  
Councillor O’Keeffe  
Councillor Sains (Mayor)  
Councillor Wood

## **In attendance**

Clerk  
Civic and Administration Officer  
Members of the public 39

## **1 Filming of council meetings and mobile phones**

1.1 The procedures were noted.

## **2 Apologies for absence**

2.1 There were apologies from Councillor Waring and Councillor Bird who had work commitments and Councillor Catlin who was unwell

## **3 Minutes**

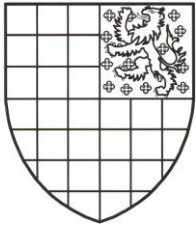
3.1 The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 21 April 2022 were confirmed and signed as a true record.

## **4 Welcome and the Town Mayors Report**

4.1 Councillor Sains opened the meeting and emphasised that the Annual Town Meeting was not a meeting of the Town Council but a general forum for the town’s electors. Residents were invited to ask any questions and share views they have about Lewes Town.

4.2 Councillor Sains introduced the Clerk, Linda Butcher and asked her to say a few words about herself.

4.3 The Mayors first engagement was just a day after Mayor Making and she opened the new Battle of Lewes walking trail, which was then followed by many meetings



4.4 The Kantorei choir visited from Waldshut-Tiengen and collaborated with the Bach Choir and gave a joint concert in the Town Hall

4.5 This was a busy month for the Mayor which ended with a visit from UNESCO who met with Priory Trust members and councillors with view to including the Priory of Saint Pancras in a bid to become a world heritage site

4.6 In June the platinum jubilee was celebrated with a collaborative event on Malling Fields and the Mayor visited Wallands school to plant a tree

4.7 The Mayor attended the SCDA summer vintage tea with plenty of tea and scones then the veteran armed forces day was celebrated in Seaford.

4.8 The Mayor visited Waldshut-Tiengen for the Schwyzertag Festival in July and it was expressed that a wish for the renewal of the friendship after the Covid pandemic

4.9 Many functions and events were attended with the centenary of the Lewes Glynde and Beddingham Band being a highlight.

4.10 In August the Mayor attended the Proms in the Paddock, Bowls on the Tilting ground and a moving service in Newhaven for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dieppe raid

4.11 The allotment show was the first event in September followed by a presentation of British Empire medals. The hearing of the Bus Station planning application was in Midhurst and a bus was organised for public and councillors to attend

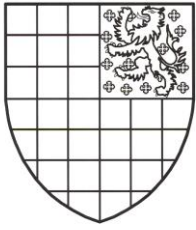
4.12 The sad passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was marked by visits to local care homes and the reading of the Proclamation of Accession which was read out at the front of the Town Hall A book of condolence was opened. Copies of the Proclamation and other documents were on display if anyone wanted to view them.

4.13 The Royal Sussex Regiment dinner and Heritage Open day went ahead and a visit to LOS musical Betty Blue Eyes ended the month on a happier note

4.14 The Mayor explained the planning role of Lewes Town Council a statutory consultee and the task ahead with the important North Street Quarter development to be considered

4.15 The Mayor informed the audience of the SDNP review of the Local Plan is in process and also the Neighbourhood Plan is being assessed with help from councillors and local residents

4.16 The Reeves Lightbox reception was held just before the Mayors trip to Blois for the Twinning Summit with celebrations this year for the 60 year anniversary of twinning with Blois and 50 years with Waldshut-Tiengen.



4.17 The High Sheriffs judges service was held at St Annes church and the final event of the month was the closing event of Black History Month

4.18 In November the Mayor hosted the Waldstadt Fager band and three guests from Waldshut-Tiengen, there was a concert in the Town Hall followed the next evening by the bonfire supper

4.19 Armistice day was observed and Remembrance Sunday with the rededication of the war memorial which after 100 years will undergo restoration

4.20 The Finnish Ambassador visited St Johns sub Castro church to visit the memorial to the prisoners of the Crimean war and visited the Town Hall for tea.

4.21 The Mayor assisted in the restarting of the church clock of St Thomas Beckett

4.22 The Mayor informed the audience that Lewes Town Council were working with the SDNP, LDC and ESCC to ensure that a suitable alternative site for the Bus Station was found and that planning officers adhere to policies laid down in the Neighbourhood Plan

4.23 During the Christmas period the Mayor attended many carol concerts, children's parties, dinners and lunches

4.24 In January and February the Mayor held a reception for Holocaust Memorial Day attended the Depot for a Human Nature presentation and Seedy Saturday in the Town Hall

4.25 Plans for the Coronation celebrations were planned.

## **5. Questions**

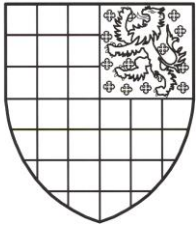
### **Questions from the Public of which Notice has been Previously Given**

5.1 A resident of Lewes Castle ward asked two questions.

5.2 The first question was concerning how long the Town Hall were going to fly the flag of Ukraine and could the union flag be flown alongside it on a separate flagpole

5.3 The answer which will be emailed to the resident was Council agreed to fly the Ukrainian flag once a week on a Wednesday until the conflict in Ukraine is resolved and on other days when commemorative flags are not required to be flown the United Nations Peace flag be flown. Flying two flags on one flagpole was not agreed by Council and we do not have a separate flagpole. So the other flag flying days take preference over the Ukrainian and United Nations Peace flag

5.4 It was asked if the war memorial was for honouring war dead from WW1 and WW2 and nothing else or was it a general memorial or for political virtue signalling



5.5 The reply that it is for honouring the war dead from both world wars

**Questions from the public of which notice has been not been given**

5.6 A resident asked if there were any plans for a banking hub in Lewes.

5.7 The president of the Chamber of Commerce agreed that there was a major issue with banks closing and that the Chamber was looking into the possibility of setting up a hub

5.8 Councillor Wood said she had been looking at this issue with the LINK organisation, Barclays and the HSBC the issue was finding suitable secure premises

5.9 The Mayor asked if there were any questions on planning issues and went on to explain the planning process and the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and Lewes Town Council planning committee sat every 3 weeks and the public were always welcome

5.10 Councillor Makepeace, speaking as a member of the public, informed the audience that the North Street project was an exciting sustainable flagship project with a real community feel

5.11 A question was asked about what the car parking provisions were being made at the development.

5.12 The president of the Chamber of Commerce, Ashley Price replied with the information that there was to be a multi storey car park to replace the lost car parks in Spring Gardens and behind the Fire Station, and there will be electrical vehicle hook up points and reserved spaces for the health services

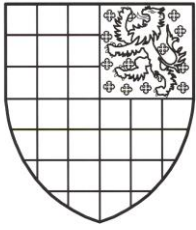
5.13 The Mayor informed everyone that the plans for the North Street Quarter were on the SDNP website or available to view at the Town Hall

5.14 A resident asked about the Malling Old Farm development and how it was progressing

5.15 Councillor Baah explained that the site was being sold on as there were issues with the access to the site

5.16 There was a question about the Pells School site if the old buildings were going to be knocked down.

5.17 There were plans already agreed to build houses on the site but there were two parcels of land involved and no decisions had been made about the other piece of land



5.18 A question was asked about the 5G mast on Neville Road, had it got planning permission

5.19 The Mayor replied saying it was being dealt with and that the Town Clerk had been delegated to send a letter of objection to SDNP

## **6. Civic Awards**

6.1 The Mayor presented awards to the recipients.

6.2 Audrey Jarvis was presented her award for creating Lewes Urban Arboretum, Wildflower Lewes, voluntary work

6.3 Colin and Kath Reynolds for voluntary work with St Mary's Social Centre, LOS Musical Theatre, St Mary's Pantomime

6.4 Debbie Twitchen for Voluntary work in the community, founding Tenants of Lewes District, running Landport Hub

6.5 Tim Locke for his voluntary work and support to the HMD group

6.6 Belinda Crawford for voluntary work with the homeless and founding Open Door

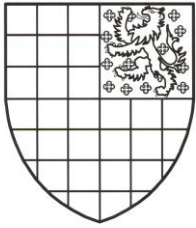
## **7. Reports from representatives of groups awarded a financial grant**

7.1 Henrietta Gill from the Moving Sounds group explained that they help individuals struggling with mental health issues. They are now able, with help of the grant funding, to help people suffering from dementia and other issues in their own homes with singing, music and films. They thanked the grant panel for their contribution.

7.2 The Mayor read a report from the Railway Land Trust which said that the grant had been spent on buying a scythe from Austria. The scythe is a much better way of managing grassland. The group have trained 6 volunteers to use the scythe.

7.3 Jonathan Jenney from A Listers film club explained how the group supports Autistic children, they have made public information films which have been screened at the Depot. the grant will be going towards making a film called the Sights and Sounds of Lewes

7.4 The Mayor read a report Seedy Saturday which talked about the event that is annually staged at the Town Hall which is encouraging environmentally and sustainable growing. The stalls sell seeds, plants and growing equipment. The grant goes towards the cost of speakers, room hire, children's activities and publicity.



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7.5 Abigail Petit talked of the process of establishing Lewes Textile Design Museum and the grant was invaluable in paying towards a lawyer to set up a charity to create the museum. The charity will focus on teaching people to sew and education. It is hoped that the Clothkits archive will be secured before it leaves Lewes. It was asked that a representative of Lewes Town Council be able to join future meetings of the charity.

7.6 Mick Symes from Lewes Defib group explained that the grant will be used towards creating a map of the locations of all the defibrillators in Lewes and installing more defibrillators to cover the whole of Lewes. One of the defibrillators had already been used and save a life.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.