

SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MINUTES of the Thirty Eighth Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2024,
at 8.00 p.m. at Champions Manor Hall.

In the Chair

Councillor D Eley, Town Mayor
South Woodham Ferrers Town Council

Also present:

Town Councillors, Massey, Crosbie, Bentley, Thompson, Kelly, Shearring, Piesse, Naslund, Wilson, Price, Sherlock, O'Brien, Ferry, Roberts, Birch & Chelmsford City Council Mayor Linda Mascot
Town Clerk K Atkins. Admin Assistant D Edwards.

Guest speakers Sargent Matt Collins Essex police and Julie Taylor – Liam Taylor Legacy

49 members of the public

1. Welcome

The Town Mayor, Councillor D Eley welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillor Sismey, Perham Lake, John & Humphrey

3. Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Town Meeting held on 17 March 2023

On a proposal by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Massey the Minutes of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Town Meeting held on 17 March 2023, were approved as a correct record of the Meeting, and then signed by the Town Mayor.

4. Town Mayor's Introduction

Councillor Eley thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. The Town Council are pleased to welcome our Guest Speakers, Police Sargeant Matt Collins from Essex Police and Julie Taylor, who will be talking about the importance of Emergency Bleed Control Kits. Last month the Town Council installed 5 of these kits around our town at the Village Hall, SWF Leisure Centre, Queen Elizabeth Square, The Curlew and Collingwood Shops.

Councillor Eley welcomed all the recipients of the Distinguished Honours Award and welcomed Jack Hughes who was the recipient of the Town Mayors Award usually given out at the William de Ferrers Awards Evening in late November. Welcome to Su Harrison from Little Havens and Havens Hospice. The charity has been the Town Mayor's nominated charity since October 2023.

Welcome also to the Mayor of Chelmsford Linda Mascot and her Consort and a special welcome to you, our residents. Thank you so much for attending.

Councillor Eley was pleased and honoured to be voted in for a second term as South

Woodham Ferrers Town Mayor. This year, she has been supported by Cllr Toni Perham Lake as my Deputy Mayor. We have had an enjoyable year and between us we have attended over 60 engagements mainly in South Woodham Ferrers but also in Chelmsford, Maldon and Colchester.

5. Guest Speaker: PS Matt Collins – Chelmsford District Essex Police

The guest speaker gave an informative and interesting presentation regarding local policing, current crime statistics and forward planning.

Guest Speaker: Julie Taylor from Liam Taylor legacy – RIP Fish

The guest speaker gave a talk about her tragic family experience with knife crime and her ongoing campaign to have catastrophic bleed kits in towns and to make residents/families aware of their importance in case of any open wound injuries occurring.

6. Presentation of Awards

Distinguished Honours Awards were presented to the following people:

- David Shea - has been a long-standing Rotary Club member. More recently he has been involved in the set up and running of the Community Garden at Meadow Croft Garden Centre and is chairman of the newly formed Men's Shed.
- Douglas Green - The Mister Gees Foundation was established in 1972. The Foundation supports and encourages young people to study farming, sustainable fishing and water management. When the Muscular Dystrophy charity decided to give up its lease in Warwick Parade, the Mister Gee's Foundation (trading) Ltd, a not-for-profit company opened a charity shop. All proceeds went to the Mister Gee's Foundation with around £430,000 has been raised. With not less than 50% of all generated profit being donated to good causes or groups within the geographical boundary of SWF. As Doug retires, the charity shop has also recently closed on 28th March. More recently, Doug has been instrumental in obtaining premises for the newly formed Men's Shed and Community Hub. We wish Doug a very happy retirement. Douglas has agreed to accept the award on behalf of all the Volunteers of the Mister Gee's Foundation. Valerie Shrimpton is collecting the award on Douglas's behalf as he is unable to be with us this evening.
- Sandra Cutlan and Stuart Cutlan - both run the SWF Community Care Transport. It is a local charity which provides door-to-door service to SWF residents who have difficulty arranging their own transport to medical appointments to the Crouch Vale Medical Centre and within the Basildon, Braintree, Chelmsford, Maldon and Southend areas. Sandra and Stuart co-ordinate and organise a pool of drivers who give up their time by taking the patient to their appointment, waiting for them and taking them back home. Each driver is reimbursed for petrol expenses. This is the second year running that they have been nominated.

Town Mayors Charity - Since 1st October 2023 Havens Hospice and specifically Little Havens has been the Town Mayor's Charity. A cheque was presented to Havens for

£ 799.75. Pat Birch was the winner of the Name the Elephant competition.

Town Mayors Award – William de Ferrers School.

The award was presented to Jack Hughes. Jack was nominated for the award as follows:

"Throughout his time at William de Ferrers School, Jack has demonstrated

exceptional learner qualities both inside and outside of the classroom. Jack has been an outstanding member of the school community and consistently represented his year group as part of the pupil voice programme and the school through the Jack Petchey speak out challenges.

Jack has been an outstanding member of the school council and has always demonstrated impressive leadership skills and drive to move the school forward. He has led assemblies on topics such as the environment and taken a lead role in developing ideas and plans at council meetings as well as given a great deal of time and effort to support the school in a wide variety of activities.

As part of the Jack Petchey speak out challenge, Jack was both a regional finalist and an achievement award winner.

On top of Jack's commitments to his studies in which he received excellent GCSE results in the summer, Jack was part of the yearbook committee and helped to create the wonderful year 11 leavers video.

Now in the school's Sixth Form, Jack has continued to support the wider school community as he is part of the Sixth Form charity group and he also supports year 8 pupils with their reading on a weekly basis."

Photography Competition Awards. The winners were:

0-11 Years Age Group Selected by Deputy Mayor Cllr Perham Lake-
Winner Isabella Passfield Age 9

11-17 Years Age Group Selected by Town Mayor Councillor Donna Eley-
Winner- James Passfield aged 11
Highly Commended – Kai Barnett aged 14

Over 18 Years – Selected by Cllr Murrough O'Brien who is a keen amateur photographer.

Winner -Alan Harper. Alan unfortunately could not attend so he will receive his award at a later date.

Highly Commended - Tommy Young aged 19.

St Peters Hospital Closure Consultation – The Town Council made a submission for the Consultation on the Changes to Services and proposed closure of St Peters Hospital in Maldon by the Mid and South Essex NHS Integrated Care System. The Town Mayor and Chair of the Council attended an on-line consultation meeting with other Town Councillors and SWF Residents hosted by Claire Hankey from the NHS. In addition, the Town Mayor attended the public meeting held at Maldon Town Hall with Peter Blackman, Chair of SWF Health and Social Care Group. This is an important consultation, and the effects could impact on all our residents who are patients.

7. Presentations by Chairs of Finance & Projects, Planning & Environment, Events Community & Leisure Committees:

Finance & Projects Committee – Councillor Thompson - The chair of the Finance & Projects Committee, this committee deal with the finance, precept, and allocation of grants for the Town Council.

This newly formed committee for this year has met seven times and added great value to the council. Our membership is up to fourteen councillors, and we have a

great mix of opinions and experience, which has allowed us to make informed decisions to benefit the council, and in turn, our local community.

Our role within the Council.

- Agree and review Council policies and procedures for recommendation to Council.
- To consider and agree financial policies and budgets for Full Council to agree.
- Consider new projects to enhance the local community.
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Key proposals agreed.

1. Agreed budgets for key events.
2. Set precept and Council budget for 2024/25.
3. Champions Manor Hall (CMH) Working Party agreed and completed the following:
 - Redecoration of CMH
 - A new projector and screen in the Main Hall
 - New fridge freezer in the kitchen
 - New 75inch TV in the Conference Room
 - Replacement blinds in the main hall and Multi Purpose Room
 - Ongoing solar panel project
 - Reviewed the CMH Hall/facility Hire Grant policy.
 - Reviewed the grant Policy and Financial regulations.
 - New Business Savings Account
 - Agreed Grants for 2023/24.

- **Planning & Environment Committee** – Councillor A Shearring Chairman gave an overview of Planning & Environment:
The following matters are reserved and delegated to the Planning Committee:
 - To consider and comment on all plans, development briefs, planning, and tree preservation orders applications submitted for development within and around South Woodham Ferrers or in areas that could affect South Woodham Ferrers.
 - To respond to any issues regarding the development of land and property within and around South Woodham Ferrers. The Committee meets every month to agree comment on the various planning matters that arise.
 - Councillor visits to view sites was curtailed planning the committee submitted comments to Chelmsford on over 100 local planning applications from around SWF averaging nine each monthly meeting. Consultations can often be very large, 600 pages plus, causing our councillors a lot of work.
 - Litter picking - Something for the whole family as demonstrated by the all-age profile of our litter-picking volunteers this year. If you are keen to help us keep our roads and paths tidy, then look out for our ad in The Focus and Facebook for more details.
 - Hanging baskets and planters - Another year of our planters and hanging baskets brightening up the summer months. The display was very good in 2022 as we didn't enjoy quite so many hot, dry days. We also added flower troughs at 3 of our town gateways.
 - Roundabout sponsorship -As in previous years we continue to sponsor the Inchbonnie/Ferrers Road roundabout with Chelmsford City Council providing the planting.
 - Announced the enhanced service, and that if residents are aware of work that needs attention to alleys and areas of land to contact the Town Clerk.
 - Residents' concerns regarding children swimming in Fen Creek so we installed a life ring.

- Through Crouch Valley Coastal Community, of which we are a member, the forthcoming Wallasea to Burnham footpath.
- All the Town Council's land holdings, for example Woodham Fen, have been registered to enable us to apply for funding for improvements.
- Phase one of John Cox has been completed to open it up to our residents, more to follow.

Events, Community & Leisure Committee – Councillor R Crosbie Chair of Events, Community & Leisure gave an overview of the committee and what they work on throughout the year and the achievements in 2023/24 which included:

- The Christmas Fayre & Christmas Lights event.
 1. The Christmas lighting contract was renewed this year and many people had the opportunity to enjoy the fabulous lights. The switch on was well attended and the feedback was very positive. The bandstand was utilised more than in the past with a full programme of entertainment added for the event. This enabled us to give a choice of entertainment with smaller sized acts performing on the bandstand whilst the larger community groups and acts used the main stage. The atmosphere was very positive and certainly full of the Christmas spirit! We had full capacity for stalls and there was a wide variety and many community groups represented.
 2. The Toddler Group continues to be a huge success every week and well attended. Any volunteers would be welcomed.
 3. Youth Club is now operating in partnership with YMCA. This is fully funded by the Town Council.
 4. Halloween Party - This event proved to be very popular, especially amongst our younger citizens. Free entertainment and everyone who came thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Even the staff, councillors and volunteers dressed up and got into the spirit of things!
 4. Seniors party - The Seniors Christmas Party is an important part of our events calendar and a Christmas get-together was much needed for those in our community that otherwise would not be able to meet up over the festive season. For those able to attend, good food, good entertainment and good company was enjoyed by all.
 5. Play in the park - Once again we were able to offer play-in-the-park sessions in conjunction with Chelmsford City Council. These structured events offer something different from the ordinary in a safe and educational environment.
 6. Summer fun at Champions Manor Hall ran every Thursday during the Summer holidays with a variety of children's entertainers. Much loved outdoor fun.
 7. Bowls Club As always, there is public access to the green, albeit with some rules, but the club is more than willing help facilitate this and will be offering more taster sessions in the future.
 8. Film Club is running for the Senior residents. It costs £5.00 per year to join, and refreshments are provided. Look at the Town Council website for the films shown on the second Wednesday of each month.
 9. The jubilee map has been updated. If you need a copy, please visit the office at Champions Manor Hall.
 10. The bandstand had a repaint this year.
 11. The big Lunch – Kings Coronation held on the Village Hall Playing Fields was a huge successful event for the Town Council this year and enjoyed by all.

It was very well attended, and the weather was perfect.

12. The Seniors Coronation party was again a huge success and enjoyed by all. Tickets sell very quickly for the events. Thanks to Councillor Kelly and the office team.

13. Armed Forces Day was an amazing addition to the events calendar this year. Well, attended by all ages. All the towns Uniform Youth services took part and enjoyed the event. Thank you to the Environment Officer and his connections with EMVA. (Essex Military Vehicle Association).

14. Youth week was held 21-25th August. There were multiple activities for all ages. This will be repeated in 2024 over a longer period.

15. Christmas pantomime Cinderella was a sold-out performance in December. This was held at the Willam de Ferrers School for a larger capacity crowd. This was very successful and the Town council will be repeating again this year.

I would like to thank the Deputy Chair Annie Humphrey and councillors who gives up their time to serve on this committee and for having managed to secure and run events this year. It is only because of the will, imagination, and determination of the committee and the dedicated office staff that the Town reaps the rewards.

Date for the diary this year will be the two D Day events. Thursday 6th June is the lighting of the beacon at the Village Hall and Saturday the 8th June will be a town event for all to enjoy from 1-6pm. We look forward to seeing you all there.

7. Questions from Residents

A resident raised a question regarding the new development North of Burnham Road and the intentions of the developers meeting the SWF Local Plan. Concerns over traffic and how it will work for residents. Councillor O Brien and Councillor Thompson confirmed that Essex County Council as the leading authority had completed professional surveys and followed correct procedures.

8. Town Mayor’s Closing Remarks

The Town mayor thanked all residents for attending and recipients of awards for attending our Annual Town Meeting. The Mayor also thanked Essex Police and Julie Taylor for their presentations and thanked all councillors for their hard work during the year.

The meeting closed at 9.46pm.

Signed
(Chairman of the Meeting)

Date: TBA