

**TOWN COUNCIL  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**INFORMAL REPORT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2010 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, WADES PARK,  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH AT 7.00PM**

Welcome and Introductions by the Town Mayor and apologies for absence

**The following councillors were present:**

Cllr A Turner (Chairman)

Cllrs W Streule, Mrs. P Summerbell, Mrs. P Williams, Mrs. E Clifford, G Hall and  
W Woolf, J Coombs, L A Benifer and D Green.

Mrs. Kirsty Pope – Deputy Clerk

98 members of the public were present.

Apologies were received from Mrs. Susanne Griffiths – Town Clerk,  
Cllrs B Bendyshe-Brown, C Etholen and R Orsler

Cllr Turner introduced the members of the Town Council to the meeting and  
confirmed receipt of the Charity Accounts.

**Finance Committee**

Cllr Benifer presented the report. Cllr Benifer gave a detailed breakdown of the  
budgets for each committee and details of capital projects that the Town Council has  
budgeted for this year. Cllr Benifer thanked Cllr Orsler (Chairman of Finance) and  
Sue Griffiths, Town Clerk for their management of the council's finances.

**Admin & Human Resources Committee**

Cllr Turner presented the report. Cllr Turner advised the meeting that the office  
opening hours have been extended to improve the service level to the Town and that  
the staff levels have been increased to accommodate the new Maintenance Team.  
It was also mentioned that the office are also actively seeking available funding to  
assist with on-going projects within the town.

**Public Relations Committee**

Cllr Coombs presented the report and advised the meeting that their main  
responsibilities included, Crosstalk Newsletter, Public Meetings, Festival Event and  
the website. The website is now fully functional and provides a more informative  
service for the residents i.e., latest minutes, planning applications etc. Cllr Coombs  
asked the audience for any potential contributions for forthcoming Crosstalk issues.

### **Planning Committee**

Cllr Benifer presented the report for the committee and advised the meeting that the Committee role was one of a consultee on all applications relating to properties or trees within the Town Council boundaries. Cllr Benifer confirmed that the committee had reviewed 158 applications in the year.

### **Memorial Garden Committee**

Cllr Williams presented the report and updated the meeting on the current plans for the Memorial Garden which included the possibility of using phase II of the garden as a natural habitat area. Cllr Williams confirmed that the garden now accommodates the Maintenance Team premises and confirmed to the meeting her concerns with the garden being used as a park as owners are not clearing up dog waste and this is becoming an issue for the Committee.

### **Parks Committee**

Cllr Clifford advised the meeting that in general the parks within the town are running smoothly. It was confirmed that following a public consultation, the BMX track proposal for the Earle Mitchell recreational ground will not go forward. Cllr Clifford confirmed that the new play equipment valued at nearly £70k has been installed in the King George V Park and this was possible due to a £50k grant from Play England. The Committee is currently looking at a new skateboard development in the King George V Park.

### **Town & Lighting Committee**

Cllr Hall presented the report and confirmed that since the introduction of new lighting contractors last year, this has now become a more efficient and cost-effective area to manage. Cllr Hall updated the meeting on the one-way system and provided information on how and when the consultation process for this was carried out. Cllr Hall confirmed that the council were working with BCC to resolve certain issues and that a full and thorough review of the trial system would be held in November.

### **Maintenance Team**

Cllr Coombs presented the report. Cllr Coombs advised the meeting on the decision process taken by the council in order to justify the savings that could be made by employing a Maintenance Team for the Town. The meeting was made aware of how the budgets were formed and the responsibilities for the team.

### **Thames Valley Police**

Police Officer, Gary Churchill presented the report and updated the meeting on latest crime figures and was pleased to confirm a decrease in numbers. Gary advised the meeting of new initiative, in conjunction with Risborough Neighbourhood Action Group, called "have your say" which is for the members of the public to come along and meet the local police to relay any concerns they may have. Gary confirmed that the police were also investigating the possibility of linking CCTV with ANP recognition in the town.

### **Citizens Awards**

The following awards were made this year;

*Mr Barry Clark*, for his service to the community and many years of work for local and national charities. Also for his dedication to the local Scouts

*Mrs Maggie Wooster Keyte*, for her outstanding work within the community and for her dedication to find a suitable site for the Memorial Garden.

### **Updates on Molins Sports Ground, the Memorial Hall and the proposed new High Speed Rail Link**

Cllr Turner updated the meeting on the situation with Molins and the finances involved in the project and in addition the situation with the Memorial Hall. Cllr Turner advised the meeting of an initiative that the Town Council is working on with Action for Market Towns in order to help re-generate the town and that funding has been confirmed from WDC in order to start this initiative. The members of the meeting were asked to raise their hands to show if they were for or against the proposed High Speed Rail link and this resulted in a resounding no for the proposal. Cllr Turner advised the meeting that public meetings will be held soon to discuss the re-generation project for the town and the High Speed Rail link proposal.

### **Public Open Forum**

A considerable number of questions were asked by the members of the public including; lighting issues, mix of shops in the town, youth music festival, ways of trying to communicate better with the residents, Molins.

***The Mayor thanked the public for attending and the meeting closed at 9.30pm***