**BRADLEY STOKE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**11th May 2022**

Minutes of the THIRTIETH Meeting of Bradley Stoke held at The Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11th May 2022.

A total of twenty two people were present at the meeting.

Councillors attending: Tom Aditya, Roger Avenin, John Ashe, Keith Cranney, Terri Cullen, Fabrizio Fazzino, Tony Griffiths, Dr Ed He, Dayley Lawrence, Angela Morey, Franklin Owusu-Antwi, Ben Randles, Ed Rose and Andy Ward.

Staff attending: Sharon Petela (Town Clerk), Rachel Pullen (RFO/Finance Manager), Philip Francis (Activity Centres Manager/Deputy Town Clerk) and Graham Baker (Youth Development & Participation Worker).

Councillors welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1 Appointment of Chair of the Town Meeting.**

Councillor Tom Aditya, as Mayor and Chair of the Town Council, was proposed by Councillor John Ashe to chair the meeting, seconded by Councillor Roger Avenin, proposal carried. Councillor Tom Aditya duly took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Brian Hopkinson.

1. **Minutes of the Previous Town Meeting 27 May 2021**

The Minutes of the last Town Meeting were taken as read and their adoption was proposed by Councillor Keith Cranney, seconded by Councillor Tom Aditya, with the removal of Councillor Roger Avenin’s name from the list of apologies as he was in attendance at the meeting, proposal carried.

**4 Reports from Committees**

The Annual Report was received *en bloc*. and the full Report is attached to these Minutes.

**4.1 Chairman’s Overview**

Councillor Tom Aditya, Chair of the Council (2021/22) drew attention to his “Message from the Mayor” article which was included in the Annual Report. This is a comprehensive review of all the good works carried out by the town council throughout the past year. He explained that he was elected part way through the Mayoral year following the sad passing of Councillor Michael Hill last autumn. Yet, it was packed with many engagements, events and programmes not only locally, but other parts of the United Kingdom. Many sections of the local community are appreciative of all the town council do. The recent Older Persons Tea Party, which happened on the 9th of May, attended by many older persons was an excellent example of community cohesion and networking. The Older Persons Tea party was a way to pay respects to our elderly and a method to create networks amongst the peer groups, in order to alleviate social isolation and loneliness. It was also a day to recall the good sacrifices of our previous generations, the VE Day and the International Mother’s Day. The Chair mentioned that the Older Person’s Tea party was his humble initiative for the elderly, and he and the Council office are still receiving much positive feedback regarding that.

The Chair, Councillor Tom Aditya also mentioned the England’s National Day Flag Hoisting at the Jubilee Centre, on 23rd April 2022 in recognition of St George’s Day in which he hoisted the England’s Flag. He mentioned that such days are significant to commemorate the English culture, heritage and history. It is an educational endeavour to remind ourselves as well as our future generations about it.

The Chair mentioned the £16,000 grant funding given to the Bradley Stoke branch of Citizens Advice Bureau which ensures that the local community can easily access the confidential information, advice and valuable service to assist people with legal issues, debt, welfare benefits, consumer issues, housing, discrimination and other problems. He also mentioned the electric bike funding given by the town council to the local police beat team and said it was essential that the bikes remained for use by the Bradley Stoke police beat team and did not get re-appropriated to other force areas.

The Chair, Councillor Tom Aditya commented that it was his wish to see a cultural celebration arranged for the local schools and also a memorial garden to be established in the town. He also recalled the suggestion he made in the 2012 Town Meeting, regarding provison of cemetery or resting places of ashes in honour of the departed. He sought a partnership work with South Gloucesterehire Council, in order to achieve that. He said that all sections of the community and age groups needs to be taken care of whilst community development and activities are planned and organised.

He thanked volunteers, councillors, council staff, and all those who helped, supported and co-operated with the town’s activities, and solicited continued support towards all good endeavours in the town.

**4.2 Finance Committee**

Councillor Tom Aditya gave the following Finance Committee report:

Bradley Stoke Town Council maintains a high quality service for the residents of the town and the spending of all council money is prudently overseen. This good financial management has led to the Precept once again being frozen for 2022/23 and is demonstrative of excellent financial management.

Thanks were passed to all staff and councillors for their hard work in ensuring smooth running of the town council.

 **4.3 Leisure, Youth and Amenities Committee**

Councillor Roger Avenin drew attention to his committee report which was included in the Annual Report. He explained that in the region of £23,000 has been given out in grant funding during the year, a couple of examples being Avon Pickleball Club and Yate Hedgehog Rescue (which often receives injured or unwell hedgehogs from Bradley Stoke).

He passed thanks to Graham Baker, the Town Council, Youth Development & Participation Worker for all his hard work and achievements. He also commented that improvements are always being made to facilities around the town (such as the proposed Multi-Use Games Area and leisure equipment on Jubilee Green , as well as the refurbishment of the Baileys Court Activity Centre Play Area).

**4.4 Planning and Environment Committee**

Councillor Keith Cranney commented that it has been an eventful year, with more and more planning applications being seen for residents who want to stay in the town and extend their homes rather than moving to different areas. Many residents now work from home. It is good that there do not appear to be a large number of houses of multiple occupancy in the town, as other areas of South Gloucestershire have many of these properties.

The street trading consents which have been granted in the town add to the range of takeaway facilities available in the town.

He thanked the volunteers who carry out amazing works on the Three Brooks Nature Reserve. He also thanks town council staff who do a fantastic job working for the residents of the town.

**5 General Discussion**

None

Councillor Tom Aditya thanked everyone for attending the meeting and, there being no other business, closed the meeting at 7.25pm.