

**TOWN COUNCIL  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**INFORMAL REPORT OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2009 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), Cllr R Orsler (Vice Chairman)  
Cllrs W Streule, Mrs. P Summerbell, Mrs. P Williams, B Bendyshe–Brown,  
Mrs. M Wooster C Etholen, Mrs. E Clifford, R Orsler, G Hall and W Woolf.  
Mrs. Susanne Griffiths – Town Clerk and Mrs. Kirsty Pope – Deputy Clerk

62 members of the public were present.

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Coombs and L A Benifer.

**Council Year Overview by the Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor gave a resume of the main activities in which the Council had been involved in during the past year. The following was mentioned; update on the pedestrian crossing on the Longwick Road, Refurbishment of the War Memorial in the Market Square, Stratton Memorial Garden, CCTV, One-Way system trial, regeneration of the High Street, Park Mill Farm and Best Kept Village.

**Memorial Garden Committee**

Cllr Williams advised the meeting that she is now the new Chairperson of this committee and publically thanked Miss Anne Stratton for her generous donation of the land and also Cllr Wooster for her hard work as the previous Chairman of the committee. Cllr Williams advised the meeting of the responsibilities of the committee and confirmed that the management of the Memorial Garden is run through the main Town Council office. It was also confirmed that the inauguration date for the opening of the Memorial Garden will be June 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Admin & Human Resources Committee**

Cllr Turner advised the meeting of the current staffing set-up of the Town Council office and the ever-increasing demands on the staff to implement new legislation. During the 08/09 financial year, new office IT equipment was installed to help streamline systems. The office has also now taken on the management responsibility of Stratton Memorial Garden. It was also mentioned that the office are also actively seeking available funding to assist with on-going projects within the town.

## **Parks Committee**

Cllr Clifford advised the meeting that in general the parks within the town are running smoothly. It was mentioned that the Town Council has been successful in obtaining funding of £50,000 from Wycombe District Council towards King George V Park and advised the meeting that research has been carried out in the local school to ascertain the type of play equipment that they would like. It was also mentioned that initial discussions have taken place with regards to installing a BMX track in Earle Mitchell.

## **Planning Committee**

Cllr Streule 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 Streule suggested that residents that needed advice on the most up to date planning and building regulations look at [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk). An overview of current planning applications and decisions was presented.

## **Public Relations Committee**

Cllr Streule presented the report and advised the meeting that their main responsibilities included, Crosstalk Newsletter, Public Meetings, Festival Event and the website. The meeting was made aware of recent financial savings that have been made through producing Crosstalk. It was also mentioned that the Town Council has invested in a new website for the Town and money has been budgeted this year for a dedicated webmaster to ensure the site is kept up to date and latest information is readily available.

## **Town & Lighting Committee**

Cllr Hall advised the meeting that since the estimates meeting back in November, the Town & Lighting committee expect to end the year with a surplus. This is due to certain tenders that have been resubmitted this year. The meeting was made aware that all the lampposts have now been numbered and this will help any repair work. Cllr Hall apologies to the residents of Clifford Road with regards to recent development work. An upgrade to lighting in Duke Street/High Street is being reviewed as the current lighting is inadequate for CCTV. The trial 1-way system was discussed and photos shown to the public of recent problems with traffic in the High Street. Discussions are currently on-going with Chiltern Rail regarding the current poor condition of Risborough station. Funding has been allocated by Network Rail for the refurbishment of this station and phase1 is due to commence this year.

## **Finance Committee**

Cllr Orsler presented the report and referred the public to the reverse of their agendas for an overview of 08/09 budget v spends. The procedures and timescales involved

with generating the 09/10 pre-cept requirements were explained. Cllr Orsler gave a detailed breakdown of the budgets for each committee and details of capital projects that the Town Council has budgeted for this year.

### **Thames Valley Police**

No representation was made on behalf of the Police

### **Citizens Awards**

The following awards were made this year;

Mr Francis Gomme, for his services to Princes Risborough

Mrs Cherry Baker, for her service to the Community Association in Princes Risborough

Mrs Joyce Perks, for her service to the British legion in Princes Risborough

The Rotary Club, for their services and fundraising commitments to Princes Risborough.

### **Public Open Forum**

A considerable number of questions were asked by the members of the public including; the increase in 09/10 precept, 1way system and parking issues, support to local retail businesses, planning developments, graffiti in the town, Molins Sports Ground, Spend on play equipment, change in name of the Black Prince PH, speed limits into the Town, dog fouling, CCTV statistics, antisocial behavior in the parks

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