

DRAFT MINUTES - Annual Meeting of the Town Assembly 2023

Present: 4 speakers, 1 member of the public

1. Welcome by the Town Mayor

The Town Mayor Pat O'Connor welcomed those present.

2. Receive Minutes of the 2022 Annual Town Meeting

The minutes of the 2022 Town Meeting was received and approved.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were none.

4. Town Mayor's Report – Councillor Pat O'Connor

The Town Mayor for the 2022-23 municipal year Pat O'Connor reported on his time in office. He spoke about events that had taken place this year, the jubilee, vandalism, recruitment of new employees, grants, the Levellings, talking of the Christmas Lights working group, Coronation Working Group for the major coronation group. Town Council elections will be taking place in May.

5. Mayor's Events

Limited attendance to events outside of Gainsborough by the Mayor and then not proceeding with a civic service.

6. Becoming A Councillor

This section was now being skipped.

7. Salvation Army Food Bank

Colin talked about the cost-of-living impact, 55 people in September, October it rose to 110 people and November 152, December 197, January 191 and February 214 per week.

50% of people using the foodbanks are pensioners, and the Salvation Army works with support networks.

Discussion of low paid employees – people who have to put fuel in their car when they work outside of the town.

Donations have gone but demand has really gone up. Works with Tesco to get deliveries to sort the food banks.

£2,500 is spent on half of covering the cost of food, while the other half relies on donations.

Food bank is expected to close in November, due to running out of money, funding from the government (£10,000) is running out.

Discussing of the impact on the pensioners, how if the food bank closes, the effect this will have during the winter months, as pensioners have a choice between food and heating.

What they would do with funding, how they could use it to support the community. Thanking those who help to support the food bank and provide donations.

Highlighting how individuals are able to go just once a week and if they plan to collect for others, they need to be carers/support workers.

8. WLDC – Levelling Up Fund

Discussion of the different projects that WLDC is currently working on. Showing the visuals and how improvements have been made throughout the town as well as future plans.

Questions related to different items that could potentially be introduced into Gainsborough town, such as bridge networks in Gainsborough.

9. Local Policing Team

Gainsborough Police station is opened 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Enquiries office is open 9 till 5, Monday to Friday. Access to a yellow phone which put users directly to the control room. Any incidents should be reported to 101 for non-urgent calls, discussion of the priority order of callers, option to report online, ability to report as a crime, as well as ASB. All urgent incidents should be called on 999 if crimes are in progress or if someone is in danger. Discussion of the areas that the local policing department covers. 4 teams of cops that work in Gainsborough, change was in January to 12 hours, 4 on 4 off to give better coverage, due to the drop down from 5 teams to 4 teams. Lincolnshire Police had some funding for the increasing of new police officers in Gainsborough. The Chief of Police has announced the cutback of PSCOs from 91 to 50. Currently 2 PSCOs in Gainsborough, which will likely remain the same. Inspector Mike Head, list of sergeants and police inspector. Shifts between 7am and 10pm so there is someone in the area. Discussion of recent raids of some illicit substances. Main focus in the town is fires in bins, off road motorbikes and fences being damaged. If you are aware of anything happening it should be reported on 101 or online. Sometimes reports are

made on social media, which does not then go to the control room. It is a low crime area but shoplifting is the main issue at the moment due to the cost of living.

10. Open Forum

No questions. General discussion about the Invest Gainsborough website that is being updated as progress goes along. Discussion about the banks within the town.

Meeting ended at around 18:45

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