



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 11 November 2021 held online via Zoom, starting at 6pm

ATTENDANCE

- 1 Member Organisations:
Beulah Road Residents' Association – Stuart Anderson | Boyne Park Residents' Association – Dorothea Holman | Calverley Park Residents' Association – Jane Fenwick | Civic Society of Royal Tunbridge Wells and Poona Road Residents' Association – Alastair Tod | Clarence Road Users' Association – Alec Taylor | Culverden Residents' Association – Mark Booker | Friends @ The Amelia Scott – Anne Stobo | Friends of Grosvenor & Hilbert Parks – David Barnett | Friends of The Grove and The Avenues Residents' Association – Tim Tempest | Friends of Tunbridge Wells Cemetery – John de Lucy | Friends of Woodbury Park Cemetery – David Bushell | Hawkenbury Village Association – Geoff Shewry | Inner London Road Residents' Association – Pat Wilson | Molyneux Park Gardens Residents' Association – Don Sloan | Royal Tunbridge Wells in Bloom and Telephone House Neighbours' Association – Katharine Mahler-Bech | Soroptimist International of Tunbridge Wells and District – Caroline Auckland | St John's Road Residents' Association – Marguerita Morton | The Forum – Carolyn Gray | Tunbridge Wells Anti-Aircraft Noise Group – Angus Stewart | Tunbridge Wells Bicycle User Group – Adrian Berendt | Tunbridge Wells Friends of the Earth – Marieke de Jonge | Tunbridge Wells Puppetry Festival – Matthew Brown | Tunbridge Wells Repair Café – Chris Murphy | Tunbridge Wells Twinning and Friendship Association – Michael Holman.

Councillor Members:

Culverden ward – Cllr James Rands, Cllr Justine Rutland and Cllr David Scott | Pantiles and St. Mark's ward – Cllr Wendy Fitzsimmons | Park ward – Cllr Nicholas Pope and Cllr Victoria White | Sherwood ward – Cllr Hugo Pound | St James' ward – Cllr Ben Chapelard | St. John's ward – Cllr Marguerita Morton.

Others in Attendance:

Co-optees – Marianne MacDonald | Borough Councillors – Cllr Tom Dawlings (Leader of the Council) | Borough Council Officers – Hilary Smith (Economic Development Manager) | Guests – Diana Armstrong-Wilson, Mark Brown, Liz Guest, Angela McPherson and Paul Sinclair | Secretary – Mark O'Callaghan.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

- 2 The Secretary returned the list of members of the Town Forum as set out in the agenda.

VOTING ENTITLEMENT FOR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND COUNCILLORS

- 3 The Secretary confirmed that the voting entitlement of those who had achieved the required level of attendance was as set out in the agenda.

MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM

- 4 The Chair noted that the minutes had been agreed in principle at the meeting in January 2021 but were submitted here for formal approval.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the AGM held on 19 November 2020 be approved.

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

- 5 The Chair, Adrian Berendt, gave his report as outgoing Chair and reflected on the last year and his previous five-years as chair. Regrets included that the Town Form had been unable to get the Council to rethink on Calverley Square or Phase 2 of the Public Realm works and a lack of progress on a modal shift to active travel.

Town Forum continued to meet via Zoom but it was appreciated this did not suit everybody. Town Forum had increased its ranks with two new member organisations with several more in the wings. Work would continue to increase active membership and widening the demographics of the forum.

Recent positive developments included exciting new plans for the town hall and changes on the high street to reduce traffic and make the area more welcoming. The Council also appeared to be taking a more proactive approach to consultation.

Council officers and the Town Forum's management group and working groups were thanked for their support. Working Groups are the engines of the Town Forum and more help was needed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 6 The Secretary introduced the report and confirmed that nominations had been received as set out in the agenda.

The Secretary set out the procedure for voting electronically as follows: All members listed in the 'Voting Entitlement for Member Organisations and Councillors', as set out at agenda item 3, may vote by raising their hand and a count would be taken. A provisional result would be announced whereupon any member may challenge the result. In the event of a challenge a roll call vote would be taken.

No challenges to the provisional result were received therefore it was declared that the votes cast were as follows:

- Don Sloan, Chair: Unanimous
- Adrian Berendt, Deputy Chair: Unanimous

The new Chair, Don Sloan, returned thanks for his election and paid tribute to his predecessor Adrian Berendt who, he was glad, would continue to provide his experience and expertise as Deputy Chair. He added his thanks to Alastair Tod who was stepping down as Deputy Chair after many years' service.

RESOLVED –

1. That Don Sloan be elected Chair for 2021/22 until the date of the AGM 2022; and
2. That Adrian Berendt be elected Deputy Chair for 2021/22 until the date of the AGM 2022.