

**Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly for the Town of Ringwood
held on Wednesday 31st May 2023 at 7pm
at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood**

Present: Cllr Andy Briers
(and entitled to vote) Cllr Luke Dadford
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Gareth Deboos (Town Mayor)
Cllr Mary DeBoos
Cllr Rae Frederick (Deputy Town Mayor)
Cllr Janet Georgiou
Cllr John Haywood
Cllr Peter Kelleher
Cllr James Swyer
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Becci Windsor
District Cllr Jeremy Heron
plus approximately 20 members of the public

In Attendance: Chris Wilkins – Town Clerk
Jo Hurd – Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Turner and District Cllr Steve Rippon-Swaine.

The Town Mayor welcomed those present to the Annual Town Assembly.

1. To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on 11th May 2022 were approved.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

3. To Receive the Annual Report of the Town Mayor Cllr Gareth Deboos

The full report is attached as *Annex A*.

4. To Receive the Reports of Committee Chairmen

The Committee Chairmen presented their reports.

Jeremy Heron, previous Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee presented his report. The full report is attached as *Annex B*.

Cllr Briers, Chairman of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee presented his report. The full report is attached as *Annex C*.

Cllr Day, Chairman of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee presented his report. The full report is attached as *Annex D*.

5. Accounts from the Parochial Charity

District Cllr Heron, a trustee of Ringwood United Charities, presented his annual report. He explained that it was not possible to present the accounts for 2022/23 at this time, but a signed copy of the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 was submitted (*Annex E*).

For the benefit of those present he gave a brief history of the charity, which supports Clark's Almshouses in Quomp (a Grade II listed building) and outlined ongoing works to replace the chimney stacks and roof, and install new water mains.

6. Ringwood Sports Clubs

Representatives of the following local sports clubs reported on their current activities and future plans:

Ellingham and Ringwood Rugby Club
New Forest Netball League
Hoops Netball Club
Ringwood Bowling Club
Ringwood Town Football Club

The clubs' numerous successes and great work in the community were recognised by all in attendance. All club representatives spoke of the essential role of volunteers to keep the clubs running and appealed for more to come forward, as well as welcoming new members.

7. To Consider Any Other Item of Business by Permission of the Town Mayor, Cllr Gareth DeBoos

A member of Ringwood Bowling Club asked if those present would support a minimum 25-year lease renewal in order to ensure that the Club can continue to develop – the majority of those in the room were in favour.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 8.23pm.