

Town Meeting
7pm on 24th May 2022 at The Bowman Centre

Present:

Cllr Monica Devendran (Mayor)
Councillors 11
Public 19
Mrs Wendy Bown (Town Clerk)

The Mayor opened the meeting.

Questions were invited from members of the public.

There were no questions.

The Mayor gave a report thanking residents for their attendance at the meeting and detailing some of the aims for the coming year, including the publishing of draft minutes, the streaming of meetings and improvement of Town Council facilities.

The Mayor's first surgery has been arranged for 2nd June, 11am-12pm at the Bowman Centre.

A new events committee has been formed for the benefit of the community and to improve mental health and wellbeing.

Cllr Verbinnen (Wiltshire Councillors for Amesbury East & Bulford)

Cllr Verbinnen gave a presentation on work carried out over the past year.

As Chair of the local Youth Network (LYN), Cllr Verbinnen has met with youth organisations, spoken with students of the Stonehenge School and joined a debate at the Girl Guides. He has scrutinized Wiltshire Council in all aspects of youth provision as a member of the Children's Select Committee.

Community-based initiatives during the year have included the following:

Campaign to reduce the speed limit on Porton Road
Litter picking
Path clearance

Cllr Yuill (Wiltshire Councillor for Amesbury South Ward)

Cllr Yuill's areas of responsibility include strategic planning, licensing and housing.

He reported on significant events over the year:

Byway 20 – following conversations and meetings to bring issues with the poor surface to the attention of Wiltshire Council, officers are now looking at possibilities.

Pavilion extension/storage/men's shed – Planning documents have been submitted. Public Protection expressed some concerns about possible noise from the men's shed and these have been addressed.

The project is now pushing ahead.

Land opposite the Orchard Pub – The planning department has given permission to build a church on the grassed area, once the legal agreement has been signed off. There is a requirement in the S.106 agreement to limit non-A1 class development to 33%. If permission for the church is granted, this will increase to 69%. Re-negotiation is therefore required, which is expensive. The matter remains outstanding.

Boscombe Down playing pitches – there have been difficulties in contacting the appropriate person at the DIO to discuss possibilities for the lease/transfer of the facility.

The Carnival is to be held at the sports ground.

Waiting restrictions along Archers Way – restrictions have been agreed and lines are to be painted. Cllr Yuill explained the idea behind a men's shed, which is community orientated, where people can meet and do small jobs/repairs for the community, depending on the tools and equipment at their disposal.

There was discussion with residents surrounding the lack of sports provision in Amesbury.

Cllr Yuill concluded with a report on an application to LHFIG for additional signage relating to nos. 32,34 and 72.

Cllr Devendran (Wiltshire Councillor for Amesbury West Ward)

Cllr Devendran deals with casework relating to housing, anti-social behaviour, potholes, speeding.

She is currently looking at issues with speeding along Countess Road and Stonehenge Road, an item to be addressed at the June Town Council meeting with the aim of forwarding the matter to LHFIG. Following several instances of flooding in the Countess Road underpass, National Highways have been contacted and a site visit will be arranged to formulate a plan of action to prevent further flooding.

As a chair of the Stonehenge Area Board, loneliness, isolation, and mental health are matters that are a high priority for Cllr Devendran and some of these problems are helped through a programme of community events.

Cllr Devendran sits on the Health Select Committee and is currently looking at issues with delayed dental appointments and challenges faced by Dentists working within the NHS. Any questions relating to Amesbury West can be directed to Cllr Devendran.

Amesbury History Centre

Christina Gane, Chair of the Amesbury History Centre CIO, reported on the success of the History Centre CIO and Amesbury Town Council in the signing of the lease and thanked all team members for driving the project forward.

Mrs Gane detailed the Trust's strategic aims and how these would be achieved. It is hoped that the Centre will be opened within weeks.

A campaign to increase the number of volunteers resulted in 40 people signing up to help in various roles.

The Centre will offer space for exhibitions and displays, an attractive and welcoming entrance lobby with tearoom and shop. It will have facilities for meetings, lectures and interest groups and has the potential for use by archaeological teams during their field-based studies.

The first exhibition – Her Story: A celebration of lives, experiences and accomplishments.

Lady Antrobus Trust

Mrs Aymes, Chairman of the Trust, gave a report on the successes of the past year with regular group bookings covering a range of different activities and interests, corporate and family events including parties and weddings.

On Tuesday afternoons during the cold winter months, Antrobus House was offered to the public as a "Warm Space", resulting in a weekly group: Tea 'n' Chat.

The Hauntings statue has stood in the grounds since 22 August 2022 and leaves on 22 May 2023.

The Remembrance Day Parade marched from the House in November 2022.

The 19th of February 2023 saw the 100th anniversary of the death of Lady Antrobus, the occasion marked by displaying a beautiful hedgerow wreath on the main gates, with a simple commemorative note.

Repairs and restorative work continues.

Thanks were extended to the manager and team for their hard work.

Update on the Country Park Consultation and future use

The mayor presented the following report:

Concerns have been raised by some residents about the use of the park, with reference to various public documents on the subject. We want to be transparent and to assure everyone of the Town Council's commitment to the area to maintain it on behalf of the residents as an area of community value and importance.

The display at the back of the room shows the layout of the country park and the areas of archaeological interest.

You will see that the County Archaeologist has been consulted on the use of the Country Park for events and a site meeting with him confirmed the area best suited to hold the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event. The area was carefully marked out and managed to protect areas of significance.

The County Archaeologist will continue to be consulted for any future planned events.

The Town Council voted recently to name the Country Park: **Lynchets Field**. This is in recognition of its history – I am sure Councillor Crook would be more than happy to fill anyone in on the significance of the name. We plan to install an information board which will detail that significance.

We note the significant opposition to the recent request to use it for the carnival and fair. The results of the **Consultation** are displayed.

The display also shows the current **Country Park Use Policy**.

You will see that future requests to hold events – including Town Council-organised events – will be carefully considered against certain criteria.

The Way Forward:

The Town Council has a dedicated sub-committee with a rolling programme of responsibility for progressing the use of the Country Park. This means that for years to come councillors will continue to maintain, support and assess the area and residents' relationship with it, in perpetuity.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.