

Parish Meeting of Alfreton Town Council on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 6.30pm

Present Councillor Mrs M Bennett MBE and 10 Electors

1. To hear an address from Councillor Marlene Bennett MBE, Town Mayor.

Members heard an address from Councillor Marlene Bennett reflecting on her year of office as Town Mayor for Alfreton:

I am privileged once again to have been Mayor for my home Town of Alfreton. I have served this local Council since inception in April 1984 and am proud to be the only member to have this accolade. I also serve on the Borough Council of Amber Valley.

I have attended many events in my Mayoral Year, Crich Memorial, The Beating of the Retreat at Chatsworth, the Brass Festival in Bolsover and many Civic Services of my fellow Councillors to name but a few.

I have been invited to attend and open various events; Woodbridge junior School, Swanwick Primary School Open Day, Carol Concerts at South Wingfield and Somercotes and Dementia Friends at the Leisure Centre and the opening of the Amber Valley Crematorium and Maple Mews. I am always delighted to be part of such Community activities.

The Town Council has a strong relationship with the Football Club who they continue to sponsor and have been invited to many occasions at their grounds along with presenting the sponsorship cheque to them.

A most sombre event which I attended was the playing of the Bugle at Alfreton Fire Station which signified the commemoration of the Last Post Ceremony which is held every evening at 6 p.m. at the Menin Gate, Ypres, a co-ordinated task across the Country, I only wish that this had been attended by more people.

The Town Council are always involved with the Party in the Park event which I attended and enjoyed being a part of the fun and games taking place, it is always nice to be amongst the people with whom I represent.

I have to say my most memorable event was the Christmas Lights Switch On which the Council organise where I switched on the lights for 2015 with no other than Rammie himself!

2. To receive the Town Mayor's Annual Report.

Members received and **APPROVED** the report

3. To receive a report on the finances of Alfreton Town Council.

Members **APPROVED** the financial report.

4. To hear items from Members of the Public

a) To request that car parking charges are suspended on Rodgers Lane Car Parks to encourage shoppers to the East end of High Street and reverse the trend of shops closing in that part of town.

The meeting heard that the east end of High Street has a number of empty shops and it seems that this end of the Town is missing out and suggested that the Borough Council be approached to trial for 12 months, free parking for 3 hours in the two car parks East and West on Rodgers Lane. The meeting **RESOLVED** to approach Amber Valley Borough Council with this proposal.

b) Highways Issues – Salcombe Road, Meadow Lane area.

The meeting discussed

- Problems with parking in the Salcombe Road Tavistock Square, Meadow Lane area where cars are overspilling from nearby factories and parking badly or inconsiderately and are blocking access for local residents and making it difficult for the Estate Bus to negotiate its

route. Something needs to be done about the parking to stop residents of Tavistock Square being isolated. The estates were not built for the amount of traffic which is being generated.

- People with pushchairs and wheelchairs are also having difficulty negotiating past the parked vehicles.
- Feelings were that the Police should have some responsibility for the obstructions however motorists parking inconsiderately is a civil matter the Police only have powers for obstructive parking.
- Parking on the bend from the Railway Station and on nearby streets instead of the Railway Station Car Park

and **RESOLVED** to hold a meeting with Derbyshire County Council –Highways, Civic Enforcement, the Police, Bus Companies and East Midlands Trains to discuss the issues raised.

c) To receive a letter from a local resident who will be unable to attend the meeting on @Proposed Car park, Rear of High Street.

The meeting received the letter and discussed the contents and **RESOLVED** to write to Amber Valley Borough Council asking them to use their powers to bring the land up to a reasonable standard.

The Mayor thank the Mayor`s Cadet who has been a credit to his family, the Air Cadets and the Town Council.

The Mayor was thanked for her work on behalf of the Town Council during her year of office.