

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 26 MAY 2021
(draft) MINUTES

Present: Councillors Bugge, Dodson, G Eccles, J Eccles, Hardacre, Hird, Hirst, Kenyon, Mitchell, Pringle, A Westmorland, G Westmorland, Wilson, Womersley and the town clerk.

Eight members of the public were in attendance

001 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON 21/5/19

The minutes of the annual town meeting held on 21/5/19 were approved.

002 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Kenyon provided his report on the council's services in the past year, with particular reference to the pandemic and that the precept had not increased.

Cllr J Eccles reported that the council's reserves are £357,000 with the second half of the precept to be received in September.

003 MATTERS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR

A parishioner asked when the Fitzwilliam Centre will reopen?

The town clerk confirmed it would open on 21 June.

A parishioner raised the issue of litter on grass verges.

Cllr Kenyon replied that it is the responsibility of Wakefield Council but that the town council has assisted Wakefield Council with the upkeep of Hemsworth Cemetery.

A parishioner asked what the legal costs were for?

The town clerk confirmed that the majority of legal costs are for the former sports complex at Kirkby Road.

A parishioner asked when the figures for 2020-21 will be published?

The town clerk confirmed by 30 June at the latest.

A parishioner asked what investments have been made?

Cllr Kenyon replied that plant vehicles have been procured as well as investment in the café bar and that there should be some capital funding in the pipeline from Wakefield Council.

A parishioner asked what the council's priorities are?

Cllr Kenyon replied that the two highest profile priorities are the summer festival and the sports complex.

A parishioner asked how many tickets have been sold for the festival?

Cllr Kenyon confirmed approximately 300.

A parishioner asked if the council would consider livestreaming its meetings?
Cllr Kenyon replied that the matter will be added to a council meeting agenda for consideration.

Cllr Hird asked why there are sometimes parts of council/committee meetings when the press and public are excluded?

The town clerk confirmed that some items have to be private to maintain confidentiality such as when discussing staffing matter or legal issues.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.