

**MINUTES OF THE BURTON LATIMER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD AT BURTON LATIMER CIVIC CENTRE ON 17 MAY 2011**

*Present: Town Councillors: M. Jerram (Town Mayor), D. Gunn (Deputy Town Mayor), M. Evans, H. Fry, R. Groome, R. Knight, F. Macdonald, J. Smith, A. Walpole, D. Zanger*

*Police: PCSO A. Sillance*

*Members of the Public: 1*

Cllr Jerram welcomed new Cllrs Roger Knight and Andy Walpole to the Town Council

**APM05/11/01          Apologies**

Absence: Cllr C. Groome (business commitments) – Cllr Macdonald proposed that the absence be approved, seconded by Cllr Fry. **Resolved:** that the proposal be approved.

**APM05/11/02          Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on 04 May 2010**

The above Minutes were approved by the Council on 04 May 2010.

**APM05/11/03          Annual Report**

It was agreed that the Annual Report would be part of the June Newsletter.

**APM05/11/04          Public Participation**

None.

**APM05/11/05          Cllr Jerram – Town Mayor’s Retiring Speech**

I have mixed emotions in coming to the end of my Mayoral year. I have thoroughly enjoyed going out and about, meeting Mayors and Chairs from other councils, learning about how their council works and the very differing problems they all have from time to time as well as the many ‘highs’.

I have been to a great number of events in other towns and Burton Latimer has become very well known ‘out there’! I have also attended many local events and have felt extremely humbled at times with the amount of people there are in Burton Latimer who are volunteers and keep the Burton clubs and groups going. They work so hard. I am also aware that some of our local groups are really struggling to keep going and feel we should do all possible to help these groups. I have attended nearly 60 engagements during my Mayoral year which does not include all the everyday meetings I go to! So it really has been a very busy year.

*Minutes of Burton Latimer Annual Parish Meeting 17 May 2011*

The year has also been a learning curve for me. One thing I have really missed is having to 'sit on the fence' more and am looking forward to being a 'Councillor' again when I can be more active in some things! I am also really looking forward to taking up my many interests again which have been somewhat neglected during the last year.

This year has been an extremely busy and challenging one for Burton Latimer Town Council with the main event being the new Civic Centre. This has presented many challenges which the council has never had to deal with before not least being renovating it, learning how to deal with leases and room bookings and the general everyday running of it! All this has taken a great deal of Councillors time and energies and I think that our councillors should be very proud that we have dealt with all the dynamics around it in a very professional manner. I feel very hopeful that the next year will be slightly easier. Alongside this all other activities have still been maintained and the Parish Plan is well on its way to being accomplished which is a real credit to Burton Latimer Councillors.

This year has also been tinged with great sadness with Cllr Sheila Walden becoming so ill and subsequently passing away. Not only was she a very valued Town Councillor but she was also my friend. I miss her very much and especially because she had the courage to say what she thought and fight for the residents of Burton.

One of the big disappointments of my Mayoral year has been fundraising. It was my intention to hold two or three fundraising events in the new Civic Centre using the main room. Unfortunately this has not been possible because it wasn't officially opened until October and the Main Room isn't suitable for events at present. Hopefully this year we will be able to afford some collapsible tables and chairs. This will mean that many more Burton Residents may use it for various events. In addition I feel that the days of Town Balls are over apart from perhaps the District and Borough Councils. Even they are finding it more and more difficult to attract people due partly to raising costs and many councils across the region have had to cancel theirs due to lack of participants. Despite Cllr Smith's hard work in trying to sell tickets etc under 70 people attended this year's ball and this includes Councillors, representatives from other councils and friends of councillors. Although £700 was generously denoted by people attending via the raffle and sale of items we still only made just over £200. I feel that fundraising for local charities will be a real challenge for us in the future.

One of the highlights of my Mayoral year was the Civic Service. I decided to break with tradition and have a 'stand alone' service at the Baptist Church. The service was very personal to me and everything included in it was chosen for a personal reason such as my old school hymn etc. It was a great success and was the talk of other councils for many weeks afterwards and the service meant a great deal to me personally.

I feel that we now have a real chance to all work together for Burton Latimer residents. We have a new Town Council with new blood and, I'm sure, new skills and ideas. In order to achieve the very best we all need to work together, not in isolation, and communicate with each other so we are all singing from the same hymn sheet. I feel extremely honoured to have been Mayor for the last year and wish my successor every luck for the next year.

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to our Town Clerk George. I would also like to thank Cllr David Gunn who has been extremely supportive during the last year and all my fellow Councillors for their help and support in very many ways.

Cllr Ruth Groome, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cllr Jerram for all her hard work during her Mayoral year.

***There being no further items for discussion the meeting closed at 7.16 pm***