

# DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

## Annual Town Parish Meeting

### Minutes of the Daventry Town Annual Parish Meeting held at ARC Cinema, Daventry at 19:00 on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**PRESENT:** Cllr Malcolm Ogle - Chair and Town Mayor

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 17 Members of the Public  
7 Daventry Town Councillors  
0 Member of the Press  
Deborah Jewell, Chief Officer  
Sarah Fox, Responsible Finance Officer  
Mel Bland, Operations Officer  
Katie Eaton, Administration Officer

#### 1 WELCOME

The Chair, Cllr Malcolm Ogle welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous Annual Town Assembly held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, were signed as a correct record.

#### 3 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Chair presented the Annual Town Report (Appendix 1) and asked those present to open the discussion on Town matters.

#### 4 OPEN FORUM

A resident commented that the Town Council represented the residents of the town and asked if that meant that the council had autonomy on decisions.

The Chief Officer advised that the council comprised of sixteen councillors, and decisions were made as a body corporate and no single councillor could make a decision for the Council.

The resident asked who was responsible for the surveillance cameras.

The Chief Officer advised that the Town Council owned and managed the public surveillance CCTV cameras, which had been in place for community safety throughout the town centre for 20 years. She advised that the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras that had been installed in various areas of the town did not fall under the responsibility of the Town Council.

The resident also questioned if the council was aware of the 15-minute neighbourhoods that had been implemented in Oxford, Canterbury and Bristol, the aim of which was to create communities where most of the daily necessities such as education, healthcare, shopping, work and leisure were located within a 15-minute walk, cycle ride or bus ride from any point within that zone. He commented that this put controls in place without thought, blocking access between zones and possible creating additional environmental issues as well as issues with mental health due to a lack or restriction in movement. He advised that he was concerned with the placement of the new cameras and questioned if they were being used to implement a 15-minute town and track movement of vehicles.



The Chief Officer advised that the implementation of such a scheme would be a strategic decision of a principal council, not the parish council. She advised that she was unable to answer the question regarding the tracking of movement by the ANPR cameras, as these had been installed by Northamptonshire Police as part of a major investment to monitor vehicle movement throughout the County and nationally.

The resident enquired if the Town Council's cameras were operational, as they had been informed that they didn't work.

The Chief Officer advised the Town's CCTV monitored public space and were operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but were not monitored 24/7.

The resident asked if the Town Council could look into West Northamptonshire Council's stance on the introduction of the 15-minute neighbourhoods, as he believed that they would be keen to implement such a scheme.

Cllr Randall advised the resident that she was a Town Councillor and West Northamptonshire Councillor and that such a scheme had not been on any agenda of West Northamptonshire Council, and she did not consider this type of scheme would be feasible within Daventry.

**Action: No further action required by Town Council, as full response given at the meeting.**

A resident of Monksmoor Park advised that they were interested in the extension to the Daventry Country Park, which they were aware falls under the remit of West Northamptonshire Council and asked if the Town Council were aware of what was happening with the project to install public works of art.

The Chief Officer advised the Town Council had no role or remit in relation to the Country Park extension and planned installations of public works of art and there was no requirement for a Town Council representative to be on the board of the Monksmoor Park C.I.C.

**Action: No further action required by Town Council, as full response given at the meeting.**

A resident asked if the Town Council had any plans to improve the verges and roundabouts by planting trees, etc.

The Chief Officer advised that the verges and roundabouts were the responsibility of Highways and the responsibility of West Northamptonshire Council.

**Action: No further action required by Town Council, as full response given at the meeting.**

A resident commented that they appreciated the Town Council had limited strategic powers, but wanted to highlight concerns with the health impacts that the electromagnetic radiation from 5G mobile masts presents to residents. The residents advised that to date no independent study had been conducted and that a number of Town Councils had put something in place to prevent the masts from being installed until further research had been completed. The resident highlighted that working groups were meeting across the country to prevent the masts from being placed in areas that may cause server harm, and the resident urged Daventry Town Council to carry out some research.



**Annual Town Parish Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Another resident commented that the people of greatest vulnerability from electromagnetic radiation were children due to the growing nature of the body, they advised that the masts are receivers and transmitters, with the transmitters radiating the most intensity, which is why they are directed away from the most vulnerable.

The Chief Officer thanked the resident for bringing these concerns to the attention of the council and advised that as a statutory consultee on planning applications that come forward for the town, members of the Planning & Development Committee could consider raising the issues highlighted as part of the response from the council on future applications.

**Action: That matters raised relating to future planning applications for installation of 5G mobile masts be included on the Agenda of the next Planning & Development Committee meeting, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.**

A resident asked if any of the town councillors ever take the time to walk around the areas that they have been elected to represent, to view for themselves the current state of some of the areas, they highlighted an increase in litter as well as issues with parking on the grass verges.


The Chair commented that he had been contacted by a resident who was experiencing a similar issue with inconsiderate parking on the verge, which he had reported for the resident via FixMyStreet.

The Chair advised that most of the councillors live in the area that they represent and that a change in attitude and behaviour was needed in order to address these issues.

The Chief Officer highlighted that the Town Council organised monthly community litter picks in all areas of the town to encourage residents to keep their environment clean and litter free and promote civic pride.

**Action: No further action required by Town Council, as full response given at the meeting.**

The Chair, Cllr Ogle thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 19.57 hrs.

SIGNED ..........Chair/Town Mayor

DATE 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024