

Westbury Town Council

Area Board Report – 2 June 2016

There have been a number of changes at Westbury Town Council since the last Area Board Meeting. A new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were elected at the Annual Town Council Meeting on 3rd May. The appointees are respectively Cllr Stephen Andrews and Cllr Gordon King.

We now have a new Town Clerk, Mrs Deborah Urch, who shadowed the previous Clerk, Keith Harvey, for a short while but is now in complete charge and settling in well and getting to know the town and its people. We have also appointed a Town Caretaker, Mr Andrew Thomas, who will be carrying out a variety of duties around the Town. These will include repairing Council property, tidying up unsightly areas, cleaning signs etc. You can expect to see him and his van all around Westbury.

With effect from 1st April the Town Council took control of the running of the Public Conveniences in the Warminster Road and High Street Car Parks from Wiltshire Council. The Town Council will be signing a seven year lease with Wiltshire Council soon. There were a number of difficulties initially, partly because some of the fittings were in poor working order. This is an issue which will be addressed with Wiltshire Council as soon as possible. It should be noted here that a number of other towns chose not to pursue the same course of action and the conveniences in these towns are now shut.

A very special event was marked on the 21st April with the lighting of the beacon to mark the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. The Vice Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire Sir Roderick Cordy-Simpson graciously agreed to do the honours. The event was very successful and a crowd of several hundred people were there to witness the event and following the lighting many people joined in a spontaneous singing of “Happy Birthday to You”. According to social media the beacon could be seen at least as far away as Buckland Dinham.

Moving on to future events the biennial Street Fayre will be held on 9th July. This will comprise a large number of stalls; over 35 are already signed up, going from the Market Square through Maristow Street up to the High Street. The Fayre will start at 10 am and continue through to 4 pm. This will be followed by an evening concert in the Market Place with a wide variety of acts. Indeed something for everyone. The concert will start at 6.30 pm and go through to 11.00 pm. We hope as many people as possible can come along to make this year’s event the biggest and best so far.

Over the next year the Council intend to complete a Business Plan for the town, start on a Neighbourhood Plan and carry out a Governance Review. The Neighbourhood Plan is needed to maximise the amount of money that the Town will receive from housing development in order to provide better infrastructure such as schools, health provision etc. The Governance

Review will look at the current Parish Boundary to assess whether any changes are required.
The current boundaries were fixed over a hundred years ago.

Future reports will update everyone on how these projects are progressing.

Stephen Andrews

Mayor

Westbury Town Council