

MINUTE of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in the **MOOT HALL, MARKET PLACE, BRAMPTON** on **THURSDAY 28th APRIL 2022** at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

22 persons present including:

Councillor J. Errington, Chairman of Brampton Parish Council, (in the chair), Councillors S. Angland, M. Blake, D Charlton, J. Harding, R. Logie, S. Quinn, I. Rodley, J. Spears, M. Spears and J. Thompson.

IN ATTENDANCE – Clerk to the Parish Council
City/County Councillor M. Mitchelson
City Councillor K. Meller
6 members of the public
1 representative from Brampton2Zero
1 representative from Kompan

MINUTES

The minute of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April, 2019 was submitted for approval.

RESOLVED to authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 30th April 2019, confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Errington welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following report:-

We have all had a difficult year with the continuing outbreaks of Covid and a new strain to contend with although thankfully with the onset of vaccines and boosters developed to try and help us avoid hospitalisation I hope we have seen the worst of it.

In December a former long serving Councillor Keith Read-Bone sadly passed away and it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge Keith's hard work over the years in my report.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors for having faith in me and re-electing myself as Chairman, I have great support from my Vice-Chairman John Harding and am pleased to say that all the members of the council pull together as a team and are working well for the town.

In May 2021 we had our first face-to face meeting in over a year which signalled some sort of normality for us all.

I don't want to talk too long on everything we have done such as planning applications, grounds maintenance and the general day to day running of the parish council, but would like to highlight the following:

Moot Hall and Visitor Centre – we are all very pleased with the repairs and renovations to the Moot Hall which were long overdue and should be completed later this year. I would like to express my thanks to Councillor Blake for her hard work in getting the Visitor Centre back open and a huge thank you to the volunteers who give such a great service to visitors and residents alike.

The Moat – work to the Moat is still ongoing but we are hopeful of some grant funding to help with the repairs to steps and footpaths. Further clearance work was carried out courtesy of storms late last year!!

Murray Park – we installed several pieces of new play equipment in Murray Park which the younger children are enjoying. Once section 106 funding is received, which should be at some point this year, further improvements will be made at Elmfield, St. Martin's estate and Irthing Park.

I'm sure I speak for most of the town when I say how glad we were that our Christmas lights switch on could go ahead as usual. There were small changes as we couldn't use the Moot Hall for refreshments so we were situated outside, however, it was nice to feel more amongst the event and great to see the camels back in town and Santa in his grotto. Thank you to all those who make this event happen, it is probably the highlight of the council's calendar.

The younger children of Brampton also enjoy the Elf Trail which the parish council organises through the month of December with help from some amazing volunteers, we couldn't do it without you. Feedback from this event is hugely positive and something we will be planning again for this year.

Thanks to funding from the City and County Council, we were able to set up a brand new website and social media campaign for the town called Discover Brampton. It is hoped that this will attract visitors to the town to spend more time here rather than just passing through. Feedback from local businesses has been positive and encouraging.

There is always a downside to the parish council's work - Car parking and dog fouling are an ongoing issue which we, as do the thousands of other parish and town councils in the country, attempt to address with the help of District Councils etc. Our District and County Council will become a Unitary Council next year so I would like to take this opportunity and thank our representatives for all their help, in particular Mike Mitchelson and Ray Tinnion. We have also seen an increase in anti-social behaviour in and around the town. CCTV is due to be installed in the Market Place this year, however, this will not cover areas such as Murray Park and the Sands. Perhaps this along with working more closely with the police is something we need to look at.

Going forward, we have plans for the cemetery, Moat, play areas, the area at Hadrian's statue, dark sky status and working with Brampton2zero – all to improve our wonderful town.
To wrap things up, I would like to finish by thanking all the councillors, grounds maintenance team Stephen and Melanie, our caretakers Stephen and Peter, cleaner Helen and Allison our Clerk.

RESOLVED to note the report.

BRAMPTON2ZERO

Phil Furneaux from Brampton2Zero attended the meeting to give a presentation on proposed plans and projects, highlighting the following points:-

- Acknowledgement of climate emergency, the group is making slow and steady progress
- Technology that can be embraced by the community
- Community to guide the groups progress
- Tree planting – have planted 300 trees and currently working with farmers/land owners to do more
- Aiming for the town to be an eco-town which could be a tourist attraction
- Community energy scheme – currently secured £22k from local businesses and are working on a business plan to sell electric
- Car sharing scheme being discussed
- Education programme and a Green and Wild kids club to be set up to influence the younger generation
- 20 volunteers currently signed up
- Would like someone from the parish council on board

RESOLVED to note the report.

PLAY PROVISION

Paul Taylor from Kompan attended the meeting to give a brief presentation on the importance of play provision for children, highlighting the following points:-

- As part of the company, Kompan has a play institute which researches children's development
- The World Health Organisation has considered the companies findings on research that children need to sit less and play more as it is becoming a sedentary generation and children should play for at least 60 minutes per day
- Play is a fundamental factor for human life and development, it is an important part of physical and cognitive development, in particular social/emotional/creative skills
- Spinning trains balance and the vestibular system; climbing advances the physical development and cognitive skills
- A study found that when a school in a deprived area purchased play equipment for pupils, it drastically reduced behavioural issues
- Play equipment design was dependent on the age of a child

RESOLVED to note the report.

OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Members of the public in attendance raised the following points:-

- A play area was needed at St. Martin's estate

The Chairman explained that this was already planned and should be in place in the next few months.

- Request for the 40mph limit on Capon Tree Road to be reduced to 30mph and/or a footpath installed to improve pedestrian safety in the area

City/County Councillor Mitchelson stated that he would ask highways to look at extending the 30mph speed limit as this would be easier than the installation of a footpath.

- Concern at the narrowness of the road at St. Martin's Church

City/County Councillor Mitchelson reported that a review of various concerns raised by the parish council, including the introduction of a one-way system to alleviate issues in the area of St. Martin's Church, were still ongoing with the highways department.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.