

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF ELECTORS OF
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA HELD ON 12th MAY 2022 AT 6.30PM**

The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AT.

Present - Approximately 25 people were present including: The Mayor (Councillor S Rasmussen), Councillors Janet Alty, Alan Boad, Sarah Boad, David Brunson, Julija Boulton, Will Bryce, Bill Gifford, Jennifer McAllister, Ruggy Singh, Amanda Stevens and Nick Wilkins (all Royal Leamington Spa Town Council).

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The following apologies for absence were noted: Cllr Judith Clarke, Cllr Jade McGhee and Cllr Louisa Radice. (Royal Leamington Spa Town Council)

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Town Assembly held (virtually) on 29th April 2021 are confirmed as a true record.

3. TOWN COUNCIL REPORT / UPDATE

The Town Clerk of Royal Leamington Spa Town Council delivered a short presentation providing an overview of the Town Council's activities during the past year.

The Mayor Cllr Susan Rasmussen was thanked for her work in the role of Mayor over a two year period, including during the challenging pandemic.

4. UPDATE ON TOWN CENTRE PROJECTS

Cllr Andrew Day of Warwick District Council delivered a presentation on a number of key projects in progress in the town centre. Cllr Day noted that a 'Town Centre Framework' was being developed to co-ordinate the development and delivery of the various projects in the town centre. The following points were noted:

- The overarching theme of 'health' was central to the approach being taken.
- Climate change, environment and sustainable movement as key elements.
- Structures were being put in place to enable partnership working and wider engagement.

- Key projects were noted including:
 - Town Hall Creative Hub improvements
 - Wayfinding signage
 - Spencer Yard / Creative Quarter
 - Former Stoneleigh Arms, Clemens Street

- Althorpe Street Area

There followed a short session of questions and answers.

The Mayor thanks Cllr Day for his presentation.

5. COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022 UPDATE

Rose Winship, Head of Cultural Services at Warwick District Council delivered a presentation on the forthcoming Commonwealth Games activities that will take place in Leamington Spa and the wider district. The following key points were made:

The Commonwealth Games takes place from 28 July – 08 August, with the bowls taking place in Victoria Park, Leamington Spa from 29 July – 06 August and the Cycling road races in Warwick on 7th August.

There will be a 'Festival site' in the Pump Room gardens with activities being live streamed.

Lots of cultural activities will take place as part of 'CultureFest' 16 July – 21 Aug.

£1.8 million was secured from Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership for infrastructure improvements for Leamington Spa.

Community engagement had taken place to inform and identify key issues. Further information will be made available including under the 'Birmingham 2022' branding.

There followed a series of questions and answers.

The Mayor thanked Rose Winship for her attendance and presentation.

6. OPEN FORUM

The chair invited attendees to identify any issues that they wished to raise.

The Town Council's sponsorship of Warwickshire Wildlife Trust's live feed of the peregrine falcon nest at Leamington Spa Town Hall was noted and what an engaging and positive project it was.

The Mayor thanked people for their attendance and closed the meeting at approximately 19:30.