

**MELTON MOWBRAY TOWN ESTATE**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2022, HELD IN**  
**ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, BURTON STREET,**  
**MELTON MOWBRAY, at 7:00pm**

Present on the top table:

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| Senior Townwarden:           | Mr. I. Wilkinson |
| Senior Townwarden designate: | Mr. T. Webster   |
| Feoffee:                     | Mr. G. Bett      |
| Minute Secretary:            | Mrs. J. Palmer   |

Feoffees present:

Mr. M. Davies; Mr. R. Sage; Mr. J. Culy; Mr. P. Roffey;  
Mr. D. Whitehouse; Mr. I. Neale; Mr. K. Hallam;  
Mrs. D. Hickling, Mrs. A. Holland

Present in the room:

Mr. B. Wass (TC Group)

The meeting started a little late due to people queuing to get into the Church.

**1 Welcome by the Chairman**

Mr. Wilkinson, the Senior Townwarden, welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that the current Chair had recently withdrawn from the Town Estate.

**2 Confirmation that the Church Bell had been tolled and notices posted**

Mr. Neale confirmed that the Church Bell had been tolled, and all appropriate notices posted.

**3 Apologies for Absence**

None received.

**4 Minutes of the Town Meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 - accuracy**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record.

## **5 Election of Townwardens**

Mr. T. Webster was nominated as Senior Townwarden.  
Mr. E. Tindall was nominated as Junior Townwarden.

As there was only one nomination for each post, Mr. Webster and Mr. Tindall were elected unopposed.

Mr. Wilkinson handed the chain of office for Senior Townwarden to Mr. Webster, and Mr. Webster gave Mr. Tindall the Junior Townwarden's chain of office. Mr. Tindall took his seat with the Feoffees.

Mr. Webster took the Chair.

## **6 Election of Feoffees**

There were four vacancies for the Board of Feoffees; three to serve for four years to 2026, and the other was a casual vacancy, to serve for one year.

The Chair proposed that when the votes were counted the three candidates with the highest votes would be elected for four years, and the candidate with the fourth highest number of votes would serve for one year.

The Chair introduced each candidate and asked them to introduce themselves with a statement for up to two minutes.

The candidates were:

Alison D'Angelo, John Clay, Christopher Gray, Mark Hallam, Hilary Misiuda, David Stevens, Derek Whitehouse and Ian Wilkinson.

All candidates met the criteria to stand for the Board.

Mr. O'Callaghan (LE13 0HS) explained that David Stevens had withdrawn because he had seen that some people had already voted at the door to the Church, before the meeting. As Mr. Stevens' proposer, he asked if the votes should have been cast before the meeting, and he put forward that this be amended in the standing orders for the next year. He wanted to know if those votes cast before the meeting had started were valid, and it was explained that the votes cast earlier were valid and were to be counted.

After the vote was completed, the meeting continued whilst the votes were counted by independent scrutineers who lived outside the area of benefit.

## **7 Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

Mr. Wilkinson, Chair of the Finance and Quality Assurance Committee presented the Annual Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## **Chair of Finance & Quality Assurance Committee Report**

*It is with some relief that our problems with the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced although we are still recovering from the lock-downs. The town market is beginning to recover although the footfall in the town remains fragile.*

*The Town Estate used the furlough scheme to protect staff during the worst ravages of Covid and the Board decided to amend the administrative provisions of the charity in June 2020 to allow the Feoffees to secure lending facilities against the land and/or buildings owned by the Charity. This was vital in order to secure a Bounce Back Loan of £50,000, interest free for twelve months. However, this loan must be repaid over the next five years and will be a burden on the charity's finances in that period. The Town Estate is also not immune to the increasingly difficult economic climate so we were pleased to avoid drawing down large sums of money from our bank account and investments this year.*

*The pandemic also encouraged the Town Estate to re-examine its staff and staffing structure and a staffing review was undertaken that resulted in one member of ground staff being made redundant. It was also decided to appoint Mrs N. Bindloss to the team as Operations and Development Officer.*

*During the previous accounting year, the Town Estate received the former King Street College back under its ownership. This building is in a very sorry state of repair and professional advice is that it is economically irreparable. The Government's Leveling-up Fund seemed to be a way of bringing the site back into use and considerable time was spent during the year to prepare the application. Unfortunately the bid did not receive the support of the Government so it has been decided to sell the site.*

*In a traffic accident, a car knocked over the Jerusalem Arch on the perimeter of the Memorial Gardens and this has yet to be rebuilt.*

*On a brighter note, to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee the Town Estate planted 700 saplings in Egerton Park, together with a single large celebratory Platinum Jubilee Tree and associated plaque, unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire.*

*Finally, the Board of Feoffees wish to thank the Town Bailiff and all staff for their hard work in operating the town market and maintaining the parks, gardens and sports fields to a high standard throughout a year that has been particularly challenging.*

Mr. Wilkinson said that during the last few weeks the Chair, Mr. J. Southerington, had found it necessary to stand down both as a Feoffee and Chair of the Town Estate. He had been a Feoffee, and Junior and Senior Townwarden for many years. His knowledge of the charity was encyclopedic and he had spent many hours supporting the Town Estate in many ways; demonstrably, financially, and being the face of the Town Estate when called upon. He had been very good at finding grants and funding, including for the children's playground and the bench in the market place. His expertise and wisdom would be missed by the Board, and the Board wished him all the best for the future.

Mr. Wilkinson invited questions on the report.

Mr. O'Callaghan (LE13 0HS) noted an omission in the report; that the Town Estate had secured the trade mark for Melton Mowbray Market. He asked if this could be included, and how the Town Estate could defend it.

He also asked if it was time to end the Saturday market in its current form, as other towns had done, and have a different style of market in the town on a Saturday and Sunday, ie crafts or food.

Regarding the trade mark, Mr. Davies said that the Town Estate had applied for and obtained this to protect the interests of the Town Estate. The Board had been talking to Melton Borough Council and Gillstream (who ran the cattle market) to see how the Town Estate could work with them.

Regarding the markets, Mr. Webster reported that the Town Estate had secured a grant to research, consider and act upon this and other matters about the market.

## **8 Appointment of Auditors**

It was noted that the Board was in the process of appointing auditors for a new three year term.

Mr. P. Southerington (LE13 0UF) noted that the attendees of the meeting should vote on the appointment of the auditors, on the recommendation of the Board, to ratify this.

After discussion, Mr. Neale suggested the Feoffees had a Special Town Meeting when the auditors had been chosen so that the townspeople could vote; this would make the appointment above board and legal. This was agreed upon.

## **9 Matters Arising or other Matters Attendees may wish to raise**

Mr. Bell (LE13 0DJ) asked if the new trees planted in the park would be safe from vandalism, and how many had survived.

Mr. Bett replied that the biggest danger to the 700 new trees planted for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee had been from the heatwave, but the majority had survived remarkably well. There had been some damage from young people, who had removed the stakes to play 'sword fighting', but the Town Estate staff had replaced the supports very quickly, with the minimum of damage to the trees.

John Bailey (LE13 1RT) complained about the huge potholes in the road in Egerton Park, saying they were dangerous, and complaining that it was difficult to take a wheelchair down the road. He wanted to know what plans the Town Estate had regarding this.

He also noted that two large plane trees planted many years ago by Ray Ladbury near the sports pavilion were dangerous, saying that a large branch had come down whilst people were sitting underneath them.

Mr. Webster agreed that the potholes were bad and that it was a problem, but there was a financial element to this. He said this would be taken forward to the next Board

meeting. With regard to the trees, he said that the Town Estate took the health of the trees in the parks very seriously, and that this would also be taken to the next Board meeting.

Geraldine Page (LE13 1UB) asked why there were no toilet facilities in the parks; there had been in the past, she considered the Town Estate were condemning the public to pre 1855 times, and that this was a basic need that was not being met. She asked if the Town Estate had any plans for facilities.

Mr. Webster replied that the Town Estate was looking at toilets in the park and speaking to the tenant of the café. Again, this would be discussed at the next Board meeting next week.

## **10 Result of Election of Feoffees**

The votes had been counted and verified and the results were as follows:

The Feoffees for four years, until 2026, were:

Alison D'Angelo, with 94 votes  
Derek Whitehouse, with 76 votes  
Hilary Misiuda, with 66 votes

The Feoffee for one year was:

Christopher Gray, with 52 votes.

## **11 Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Tea and coffee was available in the refreshment area.

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Chairman

.....  
Date