

**Minutes of the Edlington Annual Parish Meeting held at the Grainger Centre, Stubbins Hill, Edlington on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 at 6pm**

**Present:** Mayor Georgina Mullis (Chairman) and Councillors Frank Arrowsmith, Joan Briggs, Jim Mourning, Ray Mullis and Maureen Patterson.

**Also in Attendance:** Simon Oldham (Town Clerk), DMBC Ward Councillors Phil Cole, Elsie Butler and three members of the public.

- 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May, 2015**  
**AGREED** to note the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.
- 2. Town Mayor's Annual Report 2015/16**  
The Mayor, Councillor Georgina Mullis summarised the content of her annual report and the activities that the Town Council had been engaged in, over the last 12 months.  
**AGREED** to note the Town Mayor's Annual Report.
- 3. Matters raised by Parish Electors**  
A local parishioner outlined the basis of his objections to the Town Council's proposed development of the site of the former Group 5 Allotments. His comments included:-

  - This area was natural dense growth, including 17 plum trees
  - The Allotments had been given up by the Allotment Association and handed back to the Town Council in 1985
  - We already have an area of extreme beauty adjacent to the site at Martinwells Lake with picnic areas, walking routes
  - There are other paths/walkways elsewhere in the village
  - The Pit Tip exists for recreational use as are other open space areas in Edlington
  - A Woodland/Country Park is not what Edlington is crying out for. It is an area that cannot be policed effectively. The Police have to visit Martinwells Lake every day due to the anti-social behaviour type activity experienced there on an ongoing basis
  - Why do you want to disturb this area, it is best left untouched and a lot of other things are a greater priority for development in Edlington before this site

In response, Members of the Town Council advised that:-

  - The Woodland Trust were interested in the site being developed as a community woodland project

- The site is subject to significant fly-tipping at present and the Town Council had statutory responsibilities to keep it tidy as landowner
- There was an opportunity to clear the overgrown brambles but retain some trees and enhance the area with some new tree planting, to create a walkway or cycle path through the site
- Funding opportunities were available via the Woodland Trust/Forestry Commission and other potential funders so developing the site would not necessarily impact on Town Council funds
- The Secretary of States approval would be required for an alternative use of this former allotment site
- Volunteers would be attracted to help the long-term vision of enhancing the site and bringing it back in to community use

A local parishioner and allotment holder at Group 1 site adjacent to Martinwells Lake site advised that their allotment site had suffered break-ins and damage had resulted and in addition, some chickens had been stamped on and set alight by mindless individuals. He asked whether the Town Council could assist the Allotment Association via financial support for the provision of some new security fencing along part of the perimeter of the site. In addition, the gate at the entrance to the Lane down towards the Lake was not used and this acted as a step ladder where people were able to gain access in to their site. Members of the Association could fit new fencing themselves if the materials or second hand fencing could be obtained.

The Town Council agreed to undertake a site visit to view the security arrangements at the site and to schedule this matter for further consideration at its next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> June.

The meeting closed at 6.28pm