

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT 7.00PM ON 26 APRIL 2013 AT CROMER PARISH HALL**

Members of the Town Council and 50 members of the public were present.

Town Crier Jason Bell made a Cry of Welcome to all present and introduced the Mayor of Cromer Cllr. Gwen Smith.

1. Welcome from Mayor of Cromer

The Mayor of Cromer Cllr. Gwen Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and made her report summarising the highlights from her year as Mayor (refer attached). The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16 March 2012 were approved and signed.

2. Guest Speaker Philip Haslam (chief Exec. E.I.F.C.A.)

Mr Haslam made a presentation in respect of his work as C.E.O. of E.I.F.C.A.

Q1. How healthy is our area of the North Sea?

A1. The water quality is fine and is closely monitored. Some places are getting silted up in areas not usually silted. The cause is not known.

Q2. Is there a problem with rubbish on the seabed?

A2. Plastics at sea are an enormous problem as it takes a long time for plastic to break down.

Q3. 9 people are not many to cover such a large area.?

A3. 99% are fishermen and they look after their environment. EIFCA routinely liaise with fishermen.

Q4. Coastal erosion?

A4. This is outside the EIFCA remit. The Environment Agency deal with coastal erosion. EIFCA are consulted in respect of dredging licences.

Q5. Fishermen have been mentioned. What about divers?

A5. Yes, EIFCA are well aware of diving activities.

Q6. Because of legislation lots of fish have to be thrown back but many are already dead. Would it not be better to make an economic profit from the dead fish?

A6. This has been recognised as a problem and schemes are being worked on.

3. Questions to Councillors

Q1. Why does the proposed Crematorium have to be at the Cemetery? It does not have to be in Cromer.

A1. This is still in the pipeline and is felt to be a fantastic opportunity for Cromer. The Heads of Term have been agreed and prior to any decision the public will be consulted. The majority of comments received from the public have supported the project.

Q2. There is still a problem with potholes and bins at the Cemetery.

A2. The potholes are a matter for discussion but if the Crematorium progresses a new driveway will be built.

Q3. The display board for Parish Plan states 'more parking' but where? How much would this cost?

A3. The questions are to prepare for a questionnaire to get the views of residents in respect of various issues.

Q4. It is noted that Cllr. Woodcock is in her 62nd year as a serving councillor. A councillor in the Peterborough area is claiming to be the longest serving councillor and needs to be corrected.

Q5. What is the point of public participation in meetings if questions raised are not answered or minutes in full?

A5. Any matters to be discussed at a meeting have to be included on the agenda. Public Participation does not have to be recorded in the minutes. Members of the public can request in writing for a matter to be added to an agenda.

Q6. What is happening to the Children's Play Area in North Lodge Park?

A6. Consultants are looking in to how the park can be governed and possibly run by a trust. This is not straight forward. NNDC own and run the park and it is to them that questions should be asked.

Q7. At long last the shelter in the Marrams is looking good.

4. Presentation of Grants

The Mayor presented cheques in respect of grants made from the bucket collection taken at the New Year Day Firework Event and S137 grants

5. Cromer Honours Awards and Christmas Shields

The Mayor presented Cromer Honours Awards and Certificates of Commendation (refer attached).

6. Christmas Tree Festival and Nativity Festival

The Mayor presented shields to the winners of the two festivals.

The Deputy Mayor gave a vote of thanks and presented the Mayor with a bouquet of flowers.

There being no further business, the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

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Signed

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Dated