

The Town Council meeting was held on Thursday 18 August 2022. Following standard opening items, including a report on the recent 40th Anniversary of Twinning with Wertheim, the Council were addressed by Mr Thackray on the topic of the transport survey, which was covered later in the agenda. The 800 Club numbers were drawn – with 5 further lucky winners, but not the mayor! We were then addressed by two of the 4 candidates to fill the casual vacancies on Council; we look forward to meeting the other candidates next month.

Cllr Simpson reported on the Business Portfolio, covering: Policy Reviews; the Town Council Risk Register; amendments to Standing Orders; report from the Land Ownership Panel; and completion of the Newsletter for distribution. It was agreed that Cllr Taplin would be the Council representative for the Armed Forces Covenant. Cllr Radford advised that we have been approached by HGTA to provide a location for a 'Twin Town Mural' due to be created as part of next year's Cultural Festival.

Cllr Pauley, as Chairman of the Planning Portfolio, started with a recommendation that the application for a garage at 108 Gumcester Way be approved, and that the Council stands by its previous comments regarding its opposition to the development east of Cardinal West Park. Under her guidance, the Transport Study WG are meeting fortnightly to progress ideas to improve safety and reduce traffic within the town; the County Council are considering a blanket 20 mph speed limit within a number of towns and villages, including Godmanchester. This would be supported by a number of traffic calming measures, possibly including designated parking on some roads. Current speed limit enforcement is being stepped up, including the frequent relocation of the Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) and reforming the Speedwatch Group.

The Environment Portfolio Chairman, Cllr Hooker, gave his report, covering various improvements to play parks, but also including the major improvement to the Judith's Field car park. The most disturbing item was a report of vandalism at various locations, and specifically the torching of the environmental 'Bug Hotel' at the Osier Beds between the Rec and the Lock. In her Property Report, Cllr Radford also underlined the problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour at Judith's Field, as a result of which the Council has regretfully taken the decision to limit opening hours for the new toilets. CCTV is being upgraded, and the Police would be more involved in investigating such criminal behaviour. She also advised that, having re-assumed full ownership of the Council Building, a Cambridge firm of architects had been approached to oversee its refurbishment.

The next Council meeting is on Thursday 15th September at 19.00 – all are very welcome to attend.

Dick Taplin
Mayor