



# Ware Town Council

Ware Priory, High Street, Ware, SG12 9AL

[www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.waretowncouncil.gov.uk)

01920 460316

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.30pm Fletchers Lea, Ware Priory, Ware**

### **Minutes**

Cllrs Kemp (Chair) Ballam, Butcher, Day, Curtis, Fernando, Kaye, Pope, Reed, S Shaw, V Shaw.

Officers Terry Philpott, Town Clerk, Sarah Fenton, Kat Harter.

24 Member so the public

#### **1. To receive Apologies for Absence.**

- None received, all Councillors present.

#### **2. To receive the Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

- The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the mayor.

#### **3. Reports for on the Civic Year 2021/22:**

Reports were presented by Town Councillors with a variety of question which Councillors and officers responded to: -

##### **3.1 Report from the Town Mayor, Cllr Ian Kemp, on the work of the Town Council during the year.**

Cllr Kemp reported on the challenges of the Covid period. He identified a number of projects including the new skatepark with thanks to Sean Higgins Finance Manager who led the project. Thanks to Ros Montgomery for a season of events, including Riverside Real Ale, Film Festival, Rock in The Priory and an outdoor Carol Concert. Plus, a number of other community events supported by WTC.

Thanks to Sarah Fenton for the development of the Christmas lights and the Ware Bear.

Fletchers Lea was used as a Vaccination centre, new play areas coming later in 2023.

Cllr Kemp highlighted the mayor's charity Guideposts.

Thanks to Terry Philpott and the officer team.

Thanks to the Councillor team., in particular Cllr Ballam the Mayors consort who has been made an honorary Alderman in the last year.

Town Council elections will be held in 2023, call for community members to consider standing.



**Ware Town Council**  
MAKING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

### Mayor's review of the year

Cllr Ian Kemp  
Ware Annual Town Meeting, 9 May 2022

### Mayor making



### Ware Skatepark



### Events throughout the year ...

- Ware Food Festival (Tudor Square, May)
- Summer concerts (Bandstand, May-Sep)
- Rock [not] at the Priory (Drill Hall, Sep)
- Town twinning pledge renewal (Zoom, Sep)
- Riverside Real Ale Festival (Oct)
- Ware Film Festival (Oct)
- Civic Service (Oct) / Civic Dinner (Mar)
- Mayor's reception for volunteers (Dec)
- Christmas carol concert and lights (Dec)
- Easter egg hunt and decorating (Apr)
- Hertford and Ware Book Festival (May)



### Community events ...

- Royal British Legion centenary (July)
- Music and Motors (Tudor Square, Aug)
- Remembrance Day parades (Nov)
- Leaside Christmas tree festival (Dec)
- Lego "Ware's the Bricks" festival (Apr)
- Community orchard tree planting (Apr)
- Swimming gala with Wulfrath (Apr)
- St Georges Day parade (Apr)
- Performances and concerts:  
Southern Mallings  
Ware Drill Hall



### Serving our community ...

- Fletchers Lea vaccination centre
- Lido season (Apr-Oct 2021)
- New skatepark
- Plans for Priory play area
- Allotments
- Cemetery
- Museum support
- Launchpad
- Bridget's Tea Room
- Town Centre Group / Survey
- Ware Neighbourhood Plan
- N&E Ware Masterplanning
- Supporting local businesses



**Guideposts UK**

- Supporting people living with mental health problems, disability, or caring responsibilities to have a better quality of life
- Have a base in Ware
- Supported by my 10 mile run for Ware 10s in June and Civic Dinner




<https://www.guideposts.com/ware-10k-race-raises-funds-for-our-projects-4us17n1d1264ac0bd61190e9f13d8e5ca74a99b8e9>

**Thanks for support**

- All our 12 staff on the Town Council
- Especially Tony Philpott, Town Clerk
- Our 11 Town Councillors
- Everyone around the town who volunteers or helps our community




**Keep in touch!**


- Follow the Town Council @WareTownCouncil on Twitter
- Sign up to receive the fortnightly Ware Town Council newsletter on the WTC website - <https://waretowncouncil.gov.uk/>
- And.....



- ... Next local elections (Town/District Councils) are in May 2023
- Good community-minded people always needed
- Ever thought of becoming a councillor?
- Know someone who would be a good councillor?

**Any questions?**

- Please feel free to ask questions on this report and other general topics in the final part of the meeting
- "It is better to ask some of the questions than to think you know all the answers" (James Thurber)



### 3.2 Report from the Chairman of the Finance & Policy Committee, Cllr Mark Pope

Cllr Pope highlighted the positive reserves held by WTC. The council saved money against budget due to restrictions as a result of Covid.

The grants allocated totalled c£30K.

The cost for a band D property is £2.90 per week.

Thanks to Terry Philpott and the officer team for the scrutiny in running the council operations.

### 3.4 Report from the Chairman of the Community & Environment Committee, Cllr Phyllis Ballam

Cllr Ballam thanked Cllr Kemp for the contribution in the mayoral year.

A number of events were impacted by the Covid restrictions, however free concerts were reintroduced. Rock at The Drill Hall was held in September, monthly cinema has been relaunched.

An Eco audit was completed with a number of recommendations implemented in 2022.

An expanded series of events are planned for 2022.

**4. To receive a presentation of the key points of the Ware Neighbourhood Plan. Jan Stock, Chair Ware Neighbourhood Plan. (This item was presented before the Town Council reports)**

A presentation on the neighbourhood plan was received, members of the community were encouraged to review the plan online and provide feedback so that the steering group could update plan. Ultimately the plan will go to referendum in 2023 and if approved will become a legally binding document.

Five key themes

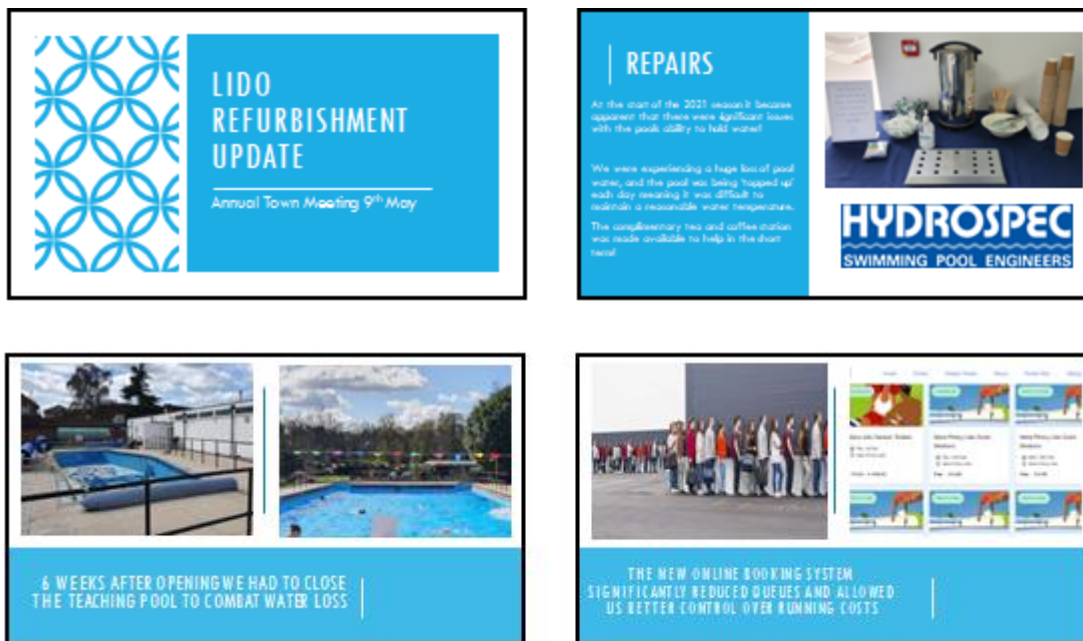
- Housing
- Heritage
- Economics and Town Centre
- Environment and Green Spaces
- Transport

**5. To receive a presentation on the Ware Town centre strategic plan**

Chris Wade from People and Places presented the findings of research into the future plans for Ware Town Centre. Focused on Economic, Heritage and other factors.

**6. To receive an update on the Lido refurbishment.**

Kat Harter presented an update on the Lido refurbishment project.





**SWIMMING LESSONS**

102 children came for swimming lessons or crash courses in July and August

4 local schools had their swimming lessons with us for KS2 children





NUMEROUS GROUPS HIRED THE LIDO FOR PRIVATE USE INCLUDING DIVING CLUBS, SWIM CLUBS AND PRIVATE POOL PARTIES

**VISITOR NUMBERS**

Over 21,000 Adults  
Over 7,000 Children



**DOG SWIM**




THE POOL WAS DRAINED TO ENABLE FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO THE WATER LOSS



CLOSURE ANNOUNCED — FEBRUARY 2022

WHAT ELSE CAN WE IMPROVE?



WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?




STUDIO OCTOPI-ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNERS





A broad range of questions were asked related to the presentation. There was some concern that the works had not been completed during the Covid lockdown, it was explained that the severity of the works required was not known at that stage.

There were a number of suggestions related to fundraising.

Councillors reinforced the message that the refurbishment work would go ahead with a string commitment to retaining the Lido.

Members of public expressed strong support for the refurbishment project with a desire to see the Lido open for the 2023 season.

**7. To receive a presentation of the key points in Ware Town Council four- year plan.**

As time was limited members of the public were advised that the plan was available on the WTC website, Terry Philpott, Town Clerk would be happy to answer any questions.

There were no questions raised at this stage of the meeting.

**8. To consider any Question, Observation or Proposal by those present on items affecting the Town.**

Southern Maltings issues with repairs, concerns over EHDC commitment.

Several comments from the public were received related to Ware residents not feeling the Town was receiving support from the District Council. The perception was that Bishops Stortford and Hertford were the beneficiaries of the majority of EHDC funding.

District Councillors present agree to present this view to EHDC.

An update from the Men's Shed organisation was received, noting in particular the difficulties in finding a permanent site for the group to meet. Potential options were discussed with Network Homes agreeing to look at the feasibility of converting some garages.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Councillors and members of the public remained for informal discussions about some of the issues raised.