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At the Annual Meeting of the Town of Higham Ferrers , held at the Town Hall, Higham Ferrers on Tuesday 10 March 2009.

CHAIRMAN

The Mayor (Councillor G L Moore) being present took the chair in accordance with Statutory Procedure

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11 March 2008 (copies of which being Folio XLIX and L were circulated at the Meeting) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

APOLOGIES

It was reported that apologies had been received from Councillors A Dunn, P Gadsby and AMT Reading R J Gell and Canon Grant Brockhouse.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councillor D C Lawson MBE advised that a traffic survey had taken place regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing near School Lane which had resulted in a decision by the Northamptonshire County Council that there was insufficient use to justify the installation of a crossing.

REPORTS

The Mayor (Councillor G L Moore) gave a report on the issues in which the Town Council had been involved during the year – these included numerous projects such as the continuing work at Castle Fields moated area, the installation of new equipment at Saffron Road Children’s Play Area, which was also due to be extended during the year. The Council together with Northamptonshire County Council were installing bollards on the footway adjoining Market Square to prohibit parking, and a major initiative currently was the provision of an Alcohol Designated Places Order which would cover the whole of the Town Centre and Saffron Road Recreation Ground. The Council was working towards Quality Council Status, and continued to acquire and manage Public Open Space.

A report of the proceedings and progress of the various functions of East Northamptonshire Council was given by Councillors Mrs. P H Whiting and Mrs. A M Sauntson. Information was given on the progress of the Three Towns Plan which had been delayed due to problems following the Planning Inspectorate amending the Oundle and Rural North Plan . The work of the Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing Committee was mentioned and the continuing success of Stanwick Lakes. The Green Waste Scheme had been well received and was continuing, and the Council had recently retained the Investors in People Award. The Greenways Scheme which had been allocated Lottery and local matched funding was now proceeding but on a scaled

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down basis which would bring benefits to the Town by opening up safer routes to school. Information was given on the new year's Council Tax which was a 3.9% increase, with all future expenditure currently under review. The re-siting of the Pemberton Centre and Splash Pool is the main project for the coming years.

A report of the proceedings and progress of the various functions of Northamptonshire County Council was given by Councillor D C Lawson MBE. The County Council continued to deliver services including the imposition of further no waiting areas to improve road safety. Empowering Councillors funding had been used to assist a number of schemes including new Car Park signs, the purchase of TV equipment for residents of the Handcross Way area, assistance was also given to the Higham Ferrers Chichele Society, Higham Ferrers Infants School and the Bede House. Two outstanding schemes which were shortly commencing were the re-siting of the CCTV camera at Saffron Road and the installation of bollards on the Market Square, whilst the possibility of installing street lights in Saffron Lane was being investigated. Liaison continued with Northamptonshire Police via regular meetings with Chief Supt. Paul FELL and local Joint Action Groups, and Council Tax for the new year had been set at increases of 3.9% for Northamptonshire County Council and 4.5% for Northamptonshire Police.

PROPOSED WASTE PLANT

An elector advised that it had been reported that Northamptonshire County Council were proposing the installation of a Waste Plant next to the Ferrers Arts Academy and a brief discussion ensued regarding the issues involved, Higham Ferrers Town Council was yet to be consulted on the proposal.

Chairman