

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF DRONFIELD
HELD ON MONDAY 15th MAY 2023
IN GOSFORTH LODGE, CLIFFE PARK**

Present:

Councillors L. Deighton (Chair), S. Burkitt, A. Dale, P. Jones, M. Emmens, A. Foster, M. Foster, M. Ireland, K. Tait, G. Hopkinson, R. Welton, P. Wright, G. Baxter, D. Cheetham, Christine Smith, Caroline Smith, J. Yates, A. Hutchinson and L. Coles.

In Attendance:

Joanne Mitchell (Town Clerk), Michael Keys (Assistant Clerk) plus four members of press and public

1. To appoint a clerk for the meeting

Joanne Mitchell was nominated and seconded to be appointed clerk of the meeting.

01/23-24 RESOLVED

That Joanne Mitchell is appointed clerk for the meeting.

2. Welcome by the Mayor

The Town Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received for Councillor G. Hopkinson.

4. Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 9th May 2022

Members received and reviewed the minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 9th May 2022.

02/23-24 RESOLVED

That the minutes be received and approved as a true and accurate record of events.

5. To receive a report from the Town Mayor

Cllr Lilian Deighton, spoke about the highs and lows of her year in office, as Town Mayor.

03/23-24 RESOLVED

That this verbal report be received and noted.

Councillor G. Hopkinson entered the meeting at 19:14.

6. To receive a report on the activities of the Town Council from the Leader of the Council

The following report was given by Cllr Angelique Foster, Leader of the Town Council.

“Welcome to the 2022-2023 annual report for Dronfield Town Council. Here we take a look back at the town council’s achievements over the last 12 months and reflect on the great work done and the achievements.

During the year 2022/2023 we have remained focused on running the Town Council efficiently and providing residents with value for money. We have provided a well-balanced and carefully managed budget with healthy reserves. We have kept council tax low over the years, with a small increase this year to reflect the rise in costs seen by the Council and we will continue to deliver the things that matter most to residents.

The new council year got off to a busy start in May, with Cllr Lilian Deighton being elected Mayor and a motion being passed at the council meeting to reiterate the Town Council's concerns over fracking within proximity to residential buildings in response to Derbyshire and Derby Minerals Local Plan (Winter 2021 to 2022 Consultation). June started with celebrations for the HM Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, with the lighting of the Beacon in Sindelfingen Park, bunting on the High Street and a competition held at the annual Dronfield Gala. July saw the continued emergence of the two wildflower gardens in Sindelfingen Park and a further two at Hilltop, which we have received many compliments from our residents. During August grounds maintenance work was carried out in the Cemetery, which has this last year included tree maintenance, the removal of spoil heaps and the clearing of the drains as well as some work on the Chapel.

Following celebrations earlier in the year, September saw the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Town Council opened a book of condolence in the Civic Hall, held a Proclamation service to announce the new King, laid flowers in the Library Gardens and participated in the National Moment of Reflection - sharing in the nation's grief at this time. In October the council agreed to apply for UK SPF funding to refurbish Sindelfingen Park. 165 poppies were attached to lamp posts around the Town and new LED lighting was also installed in the car park behind Coal Aston Village Hall. November saw the basketball court at Sindelfingen Park being resurfaced and the installation of five new bus shelters, to help improve accessibility at each of those stops. During December 20 new trees were planted in Sindelfingen Park, following some tree work earlier in the year, which had required several trees to be felled. A new climbing structure was installed in Stonelow play area and a new zip wire was installed within Sindelfingen Park. The Council were also notified that they had been successful in their application for UK SPF funding and were awarded a grant of £150,000.

February saw work start on the refurbishment of Sindelfingen Park. Following heavy snow fall in March, our outside services team undertook work to several trees, which had been damaged by the snow and refilled every grit bin within the town. Two speed indicator devices were installed at the start of March initially being located on Eckington Road in Coal Aston and Carr Lane in Dronfield Woodhouse, these were then relocated to Bowshaw and Gosforth Drive at the start of May. Following weeks of wet weather the refurbished Sindelfingen Park re-opened on 16 April and has been popular with residents since. Extreme Wheels also began running weekly sessions at Sindelfingen Park from Easter to the October half term holidays. Sessions are also running at Coal Aston.

Throughout the year the Town Council were pleased to have organised so many popular community events, which bring people together. In the summer the annual Dronfield Gala was another success with many people enjoying the activities on offer during a sunny June day. During September the Civic Service, was held in the Civic Hall in coordination with Dronfield Churches Together. In November, in partnership with local groups and organisations, the Town Council organised a service and event on Remembrance Sunday, which included a well-attended parade. Christmas Trees and lights were installed around the town in December and the popular Christmas Lights Switch-on and much-loved Christmas fest attracted many local residents, who enjoyed fairground rides, food and drink stalls and a visit to Santa.

There has also been a change of staff throughout the year with a new Responsible Finance Office in position and the departure of our long serving Outside Services Manager, who has yet to be replaced. We continue to see what a caring, helpful and resilient community Dronfield is and I must thank all the local Community Groups who have continued to help and support their members and community throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to thank all councillors who have served selflessly over the past four years, particularly Cllr Richard Spooner, Cllr William Jones and Martin Hanrahan, who were not fortunate enough to be re-elected to the Town Council and to congratulate all those new councillors that have recently been elected. I would also like to thank all the council staff, for their continued hard work and commitment to our Town.

Looking ahead, the Council will work hard this year to help Dronfield continue moving forwards, bringing together community Groups, local businesses and residents and keeping Dronfield a great place to live and work.”

Cllr Angelique Foster, Leader of Dronfield Town Council

04/23-24 RESOLVED

That this report be received and noted.

7. To receive a report on the activities of the Thomas Taylor Charity.

The following report was given by Cllr Richard Welton.

“The Thomas Taylor Charity was established by a blacksmith who died in 1681, he bequeathed a fund for the training of Dronfield children in apprenticeships.

The fund currently grants awards to young people between the ages of 16 – 21 embarking on a full-time educational course or an approved apprenticeship.

Last year, five successful applicants received a grant of £200.00 each.”

05/23-24 RESOLVED

That this report be received and noted.

8. To receive comments, requests and recommendations of any elector residing within and on the electoral roll of ward within Dronfield Town Council

One resident gave comments to the Council.

06/23-24 RESOLVED

That the resident’s comments be noted.

9. Town Mayor’s Closing remarks and thanks

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7:19pm.