MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF DRONFIELD

HELD ON MONDAY 10 MAY 2021

**IN MAIN HALL, CIVIC HALL**

# Present:

Councillors S. Burkitt, A. Dale, L. Deighton, A. Foster, R. Gilmore, R. Hall, M. Hanrahan, M. Ireland, W. Jones, P. Parkin, A. Powell, R. Spooner, R. Welton (Chairman) and P. Wright

**In Attendance:**

### 1 member of press and public, Joanne Mitchell (Assistant Town Clerk) and Andrew Tristram (Town Clerk)

1. **To appoint a clerk for the meeting**

Andrew Tristram was nominated and seconded to be appointed clerk of the meeting.

**01/21-22 RESOLVED**

That Andrew Tristram is appointed clerk for the meeting.

1. **Welcome by the Mayor**

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

1. **Apologies**

 There were apologies from Councillors M. Emmens, M. Foster and K. Tait.

1. **Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 13 May 2019**

The meeting considered the minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 13 May 2019.

**02/21-22 RESOLVED**

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

## To receive a report from the Town Mayor

The following report was given by Cllr Richard Welton.

“Just over a year ago the COVID-19 shutdown plan took effect everywhere and the pandemic changed things for us all.

Now as I look around town the sunny weather has brought a spring into the hearts of the people of Dronfield and I can see that slowly but surely the area is emerging out of lockdown and things are at last coming back to life. The shops have reopened, there are queues for the barbers, shops are bustling, cafés have tea, coffee and sandwiches at the outside tables and people have smiles on their faces. It has been wonderful to see Dronfield come back to life after being asleep for so long. Let us all hope that this is just the beginning, and we will all be able to enjoy a normal summer.

It has been an exceptional year for the Town and its Civic Life impacting on all of us and with events overwhelming all of us. In March 2020, we have all been living and working virtually. Meetings and much of the council business are now conducted via Zoom meetings, with the exception of the Events Committee which did well to hold two physical socially distanced committee meetings at the Civic Hall. The new normal has now been incorporated into all our routines to ensure that we have achieved a ‘business as usual’ status as closely as possible. I thank members, staff, and the public for their patience as we adapted to the new way of working for the year.

It was a great disappointment that as the pandemic took hold some Civic Events had to be cancelled this year, but thankfully due to careful planning we successfully adapted to the situation and we organised a variety of competitions throughout the year and over the Festive season Christmas Trees were lit up displayed in primary locations around Dronfield and, although Remembrance Sunday was held a little different this year, I was thankful we were still able to put together a service and remember together across our community.

I was also overjoyed that we were able to form a partnership with The Rotary Club to continue the Santa’s Sleigh Procession albeit in a socially distanced and reduced format but at least it continued much to the delight of local children who once again came out in great numbers to see Santa.

Throughout this, we at Dronfield Town Council have used our time to reflect on the Civic Year and have spent time discussing how events could be more relevant and better in future years.

On a more sombre note, a minute’s silence was held at the Council to respect the life of Prince Philip, the Union Jack flag was displayed at half-mast and a letter of condolence sent to the Queen by The Town Mayor, as requested by the Council, on behalf of the residents of Dronfield.

As the Government Regulations now expire and we return to physical but still socially distanced meetings. I would like to take this opportunity to say a thank you to staff, outside community groups and Town Residents for responding to the challenges of the year.

I hope in the work of the new Events Committee our residents will see a return to many traditionally supported events and a positive reception to trying new ideas.

**03/21-22 RESOLVED**

## That this report be received and noted.

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

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

During the year 2020/2021 we have remained focused on running the Town Council efficiently and providing residents with value for money. We adapted to meeting via virtual when required and have continued to work throughout the pandemic.

Residents have commented positively on the small actions taken over the last year. June saw the emergence of the wildflower meadow in Sindelfingen Park, we have also continued to run the tree planting project and playground refurbishments.

We teamed up with the Dronfield Eye to sponsor and support the introduction of Business pages within the magazine and a VIP card to encourage residents to shop local.

Unfortunately the Town Council were forced to cancel many of the popular community events. However, in November, in partnership with local groups and organisations, the Town Council organised a service and event on Remembrance Sunday.

The Town Council also sponsored the Santa Sleigh, run by Rotary in Dronfield, to enable children to catch a glimpse of Santa, from a distance.

April saw the passing of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and the Town Council observed a minutes silence at its April Council Meeting and has sent a letter of condolence to HRH the Queen on behalf of the residents of Dronfield and the council.

Although we have had to make many changes to the way we operate as a Council we have continued to work with our community and I must thank all the Dronfield Community Groups who have continued to help and support their members throughout this crisis.

I would also like to thank all residents for their continued effort and co-operation throughout the last 12 months to help protect the NHS and save lives during these very challenging times. Hopefully as restrictions continue to ease and the vaccination programme continues to be rolled out, we can return to some sort of normality soon.

Finally, I would like to thank all our councillors and council staff, who have continued to work throughout the pandemic, for their hard work and commitment.

Looking ahead, we will continue to work hard this year to help Dronfield recover from this crisis, bringing together community Groups, local businesses and residents and keeping Dronfield a great place to live.

Please stay safe and help keep each other safe.

Cllr Angelique Foster, Leader of Dronfield Town Council

**04/21-22 RESOLVED**

## That this report be received and noted.

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

No concerns or comments were raised.

1. **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 7:12pm.