

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF DRONFIELD
HELD ON MONDAY 9 MAY 2022
IN GOSFORTH LODGE, CLIFFE PARK**

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Joanne Mitchell (Town Clerk), Michael Keys (Assistant Clerk) plus three 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.

01/22-23 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

There were apologies from Councillors R. Gilmore and V. Kirk.

4. Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 10th May 2021

Members received and reviewed the minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 10th May 2021.

02/22-23 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

The following report was given by Cllr Richard Welton.

“It has been over two years since I first Chaired this Council and I am pleased to see both the Town and the Council in a better place than when I started my terms at the hight of the Covid pandemic and the strictest of lock down restrictions on personal and business freedoms.

Today we are in a very different place and this was demonstrated to me by the Town Notice Boards over flowing with advertising community events and activities, compared to data when the notice boards were barren, bar the odd lone official gazette.

It has been a privilege to serve the town during this period.

There is now a new team in the Civic Hall, which has been recruited over the past two years, bringing new skills and knowledge, to what remains a small secretariat. I believe this team is now well positioned to support the Towns needs for the future.

The Mayors Charity Fund raised £1,379.92 for the year and I am grateful for all donations, with a special thank you to Dronfest in its final year. All the money will go to the Dronfield community and a list of donations from the fund will be published on the website. It is a regret that due to limited resources I was unable to fulfil plans to

obtain Charitable Status for the Fund with trustees and a remit to look at creating a community trust for the long term benefit of the Town. I hope that my successor will complete this with the new team we have in the office.

There was no international festival held in our town twinning partner of Sindelfingen in Germany due to Covid restrictions. However, these festivities will resume this year again in June.

2021 saw the successful return of many events including the annual Gala in fantastic Summer weather, a Civic Service, a Remembrance Sunday - with its well supported parade from School Lane to the Library and a vibrant Xmas Fest and Christmas Lights Switch-on. Much thought and work by staff, Councillors and volunteers and community groups went into improving these Town sponsored events to make them bigger and more attractive.

I wish my successor good luck in the role and thank all councillors and staff for their support over the last two years.”

Dronfield Town Mayor, Cllr Richard Welton.

03/22-23 RESOLVED

That this report be received and noted.

6. 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.

Welcome to the 2021-2022 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 times that we found ourselves within.

During the year 2021/2022 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 tax freeze for several years previously and we will continue to deliver the things that matter most to residents.

The new council year got off to a different start in May 2021, with Mayor, Cllr Richard Welton, elected via a socially distanced council meeting held in the Civic Hall. June saw the emergence of two wildflower meadows in Sindelfingen Park and a further two up at Hilltop planted by the Town Council.. The huge variety of wildflowers provides an increase in bio-diversity within the town and attracts a number of insects and bees to the area. This is part of our ongoing commitment to preserve and enhance our local environment. Residents were delighted with the additional feature and we received much positive feedback. July saw the re-opening of the tennis courts at Coal Aston, following resurfacing and repainting and lining of the courts. August was a busy month which saw the refurbishment of Moonpenny play area, which had new equipment, safety surfacing and new fencing installed, as part of the Town Council's rolling programme to refurbish all the play areas in town. September saw the cleaning of the tennis courts at Cliffe Park, the installation of a new CCTV system at Gosforth Lodge and the installation of new showers in the changing rooms at Cliffe Park. October saw the replacement of the basket swing at Sindelfingen Park and new polysafe flooring installed in the changing rooms at Coal Aston. November saw the Town Council take delivery of two new work vehicles.

January saw the installation of a new IT system within the council. More recently, in March and April we saw the refurbishment of the tennis courts at Dronfield Woodhouse, which are now open for use, as well the cleaning of the roof at Gosforth Lodge and the replacement of external doors on the changing rooms and bowling pavilion at Cliffe Park plus the office, toilets and storage at the Cemetery. March also saw some major tree works undertaken at Sindelfingen Park, following an extensive tree survey by an independent tree surgeon. We will make sure that these are replaced in due course as we are committed to continue increasing the number of trees in our Town.. Throughout the year a number of bus shelters have also been upgraded and this will continue to be added to in 2022, with the introduction of five new bus shelters to help improve accessibility on and off buses. There are also some exciting development lined up for the year ahead with the introduction of speed indicators devices, to help improve road safety within Dronfield.

In terms of events we are pleased that the Town Council have been able to return many of the annual popular community events. In the summer the Dronfield Gala returned with great visitor numbers on the day. September saw the return of the Civic Service, which was held in the Civic Hall. In November, in partnership with local groups and organisations, the Town Council organised a service and event on Remembrance Sunday, which included a return of the parade. An increased number of Christmas Trees and lights were installed around the town in December and the popular Christmas Lights Switch-on returned and we welcomed back our very much loved Christmas fest.

There has also been a change of staff throughout the year with a new Town Clerk taking over at the start of 2022 and a new Assistant Clerk and Responsible Finance Office now also in position. We continue to see a remarkable response from our Dronfield community, which has shown once again what a caring, helpful and resilient community we are. I must thank all the Dronfield Community Groups who have continued to help and support their members throughout the last two years. Finally, I would like to thank all our councillors and council staff, for their continued hard work and commitment to our Town.

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

Cllr Angelique Foster, Leader of Dronfield Town Council

04/22-23 RESOLVED

That this report be received and noted.

7. **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.
8. **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 7:15pm.