

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT GOSFORTH LODGE, CLIFFE PARK, DRONFIELD
ON TUESDAY 13 MAY 2014

Present:

Councillors: L Blanshard (The Town Mayor), J Allsop, S Allsop, G Baxter, A Blackburn, M S Emmens, R Hall, D Oxspring, C Smith, R Smith, A Talford, W Temple.

Also Present:

Liz Boswell – Clerk to the Council, Pam Barker – Office Supervisor, twenty-three members of the public and representatives of the press.

1. Election of Town Mayor

Councillor S Allsop was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2014/2015. No further nominations were received.

01/14-15 Resolved

That Councillor S Allsop be duly elected to the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2014/2015.

Mayor Councillor S Allsop then took the Mayoral seat and was invested with the chain of office.

The Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor S Allsop then took the position of Chair and was invested with the chain of office. She then made the following declaration:

"I, Susan Allsop, having been elected to the Office of Town Mayor hereby declare that I take this office upon myself, and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to be guided by the National Code of Local Government Conduct in the performance of my functions in that Office".

The declaration was witnessed and dated by the Proper Officer of the Council.

The Mayor's Address to the Council upon Appointment

Mayor Councillor S Allsop gave the following address to the Council:

Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen. This evening I do admit to having a feeling of "déjà vu", but that phenomenon is. I'm afraid. Mainly a function of young brains, and so, this must all be real.

It is of course a great honour to be asked to represent Dronfield again, as Mayor, for the coming year, and I will make every effort to uphold that office. I enjoyed my previous year in office tremendously, and so I am really looking forward to the next 12 months. At least this time John and I have some idea what to expect!

It is just over 40 years since the formation of Dronfield Town Council, in April 1974, but much more importantly, as we all know, this year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War on the 28 July 1914.

For the Mayor's Charity Appeal this coming year therefore, it seems fitting to support our armed forces, both those who are even now, risking their lives in the course of duty, as well as those still suffering from past conflicts. There are 2 charities which have been in place for many years. The Royal British Legion, founded in 1921 by the amalgamation of 4, then existing organizations, and perhaps less well known SSAFA, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association which was formed in 1885. I therefore intend to support both these organizations. The Royal British Legion both nationally and also the local Dronfield Branch, and the North East Derbyshire-Chesterfield Branch of SSAFA.

Two years ago I supported Wateraid and I hope to be able to continue that support this year, as nearly ¾ million children die each year because they have no safe water to drink. In addition there will be the opportunity for local charities to apply in the usual way.

So Liz, having done a splendid job, is now, and I quote "demob happy", and so now I will be up at 6 o'clock on Thursday, making scones for the Coffee Morning. It will be just like old times!

Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure and privilege, on behalf of the Council, to thank Councillor Liz Blanshard, hereinafter referred to as Liz, for all her hard work during the last 12 months. The thing about being Mayor for the first time, is that you don't really know what is involved until it's too late, and, believe me, it can be hard work. However, I am sure that Liz has enjoyed herself, carrying it all off in her own inimitable style, which I will not even try to emulate

Liz has worked hard raising money for the Mayor's Fund and I think Doug's grand total may be in danger of being surpassed. Perhaps Liz will be able to tell us shortly.

I am sure you would also wish me to thank Liz's consort, John Nelson, who has supported her throughout the year. Thank you John

Now Liz, so you don't forget your year as Mayor we have a Past Mayor's Badge for you.

Councillor L Blanshard was presented with a Past Mayor's Badge and a box containing mementos of her year in office.

The Retiring Mayor's Response

Madam Mayor, Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you very much. I have had a super time, but have never worked so hard, for so long, for so little. It has been an absolute privilege meeting all the different groups in Dronfield; it is difficult to believe how many there are and all that they have to offer. A big thank you to John Nelson for being a wonderful consort and for carrying my handbag for the last year. I owe him a few bottles of whisky! During the year I have raised £6,100, so have not beaten the amount raised by Doug. From the funds £3000 is to go to Weston Park Hospital and the rest to be divided between the local charities. The worst thing about being Mayor is the coffee mornings, I have never made a cake or scone, as my mother never taught me, though she provided me with many other skills for life. Friends have been so wonderful in baking for me, and it has cost me a few lunches. Following this weekends four day visit with the representatives from Sindelfingen I have really gone out with a bang. I hope that Sue has a wonderful second time as Mayor and I thank her and everyone for their support and help. I particularly want to thank the girls in the office with particular Pam Barker (Office Supervisor) and Liz Boswell (Clerk to the Council), without whom this year would not have been possible.

Councillor L Blanshard presented Pam Barker and Liz Boswell with flowers.

2. Election of Deputy Town Mayor

Councillor A Talford was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2014/2015. No further nominations were received.

02/14-15 Resolved

That Councillor A Talford be duly elected to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2014/2015.

Councillor A Talford then took the position of Vice Chair and was presented with the chain of office.

3. Apologies for Absence

3/14-15 RESOLVED

The following apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from the following members:

- Councillor P Blackburn - Other
- Councillor S Clark - Other
- Councillor A Foster - Other
- Councillor N Foster - Other
- Councillor B Gachagan - Other
- Councillor S O'Donnell - Other
- Councillor P Widdowson - Other

4.1 The Leader of the Council

Councillor J Allsop was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2014/2015. No further nominations were received.

04/14-15 Resolved

That Councillor J Allsop be duly elected to the position of The Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2014/2015.

4.2 The Deputy Leader of the Council.

Councillor L Blanshard was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of The Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2014/2015. No further nominations were received.

05/14-15 Resolved

That Councillor L Blanshard be duly elected to the position of The Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2014/2015.

5. Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members considered a schedule of elected members who sit and represent the Council on various outside bodies.

06/14-15 Resolved

That the list of members representing the Council on various outside bodies (as per the attached listing Appendix 1) be received and noted.

6. Cycle of Meetings for Council

Members considered a proposed cycle of the dates and times of Council Meetings throughout the forthcoming Civic Year.

07/14-15 Resolved

That the cycle of ordinary meetings for the Civic Year 2014/2015 (as per the attached listing Appendix 2) be received and approved; but that the date and location of the Annual Meetings be placed on the agenda for discussion at the meeting scheduled for the 2 June 2014.

There being no other Business the Meeting was closed and the Annual Town Meeting Commenced.