

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT GOSFORTH LODGE, CLIFFE PARK, DRONFIELD**  
**ON TUESDAY 14 MAY 2013**

Present:

Councillors: S Allsop (The Town Mayor), G Baxter, A Blackburn, L Blanshard, M Emmens, M S Emmens, N Foster, B Gachagan, R Hall, S O'Donnell, D Oxspring, C Smith, R Smith, A Talford, W Temple, P Widdowson

Also Present:

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

**1. Election of Town Mayor**

Councillor Elizabeth Blanshard was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013/2014. No further nominations were received.

**01/13-14 Resolved**

That Councillor Elizabeth Blanshard be duly elected to the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013/2014.

The Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

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

"I, Elizabeth Blanshard, 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 Elizabeth Blanshard gave the following address to the Council:

Little did I imagine when I became a Councillor two years ago that I would become Mayor of Dronfield. This is a wonderful opportunity to raise lots of money, hopefully beating Doug's record! I will be raising funds for Western Park Hospital and local groups. Many people I know have been treated in Western Park and I have been involved in lots of events including Sings Christmas raising money for the hospital. This opportunity is also the best excuse for me buying a new hat. Following the meeting I welcome all Councillors and friends to join for a refreshments and an imbibe of wine.

Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

The elected Mayor Councillor Elizabeth Blanshard offered a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Susan Allsop. She has been a superb Mayor and I aspire to be like her; though would draw the line at riding side saddle on a horse! She has done everything perfectly and professionally, a real lady. I tremble in trepidation of the year ahead, but it will be fun and I endeavour to do as well as Sue with fund raising and running the meetings.

The Retiring Mayor's Response

Madam Mayor, Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you very much. I have never known a year pass so quickly. Representing Dronfield has been a privilege. I have met with many organisations and individuals and I have thoroughly enjoyed it all. I would like to thank my husband John, for all his help and support throughout the year. I was a little concerned at the start, about his baking skills but I need not have worried as my son Robert has baked the cakes for my coffee mornings, cooked the bacon sandwiches, and also run the kitchen at other events, so thank you Robert. In total we have raised just over £6000 for the Mayor's Appeal and my thanks go to all who have supported the various fund-raising events. My thanks go to the Town Council office, especially to Pam, for help in

organising the year. Now, my very best wishes go to Liz, for a happy and successful year in office. I am sure she will enjoy it, so over to you Liz and the hard work starts now!

Councillor Elizabeth Blanshard presented a commemorative book and a past Mayoral badge to Councillor Susan Allsop stating this is an album of all your Mayoral activities and your Mayor's Badge, wear it with pride, jolly well done.

## **2. Election of Deputy Town Mayor**

Councillor Doug Oxspring was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013/2014. No further nominations were received.

### **02/13-14 Resolved**

That Councillor Doug Oxspring be duly elected to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013/2014.

Councillor Doug Oxspring then took the position of Vice Chair and was presented with the chain of office.

## **3. Apologies for Absence**

### **3/13-14 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

## **4.1 The Leader of the Council**

Councillor Doug Oxspring was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2013/2014. No further nominations were received.

### **04/13-14 Resolved**

That Councillor Doug Oxspring be duly elected to the position of The Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2013/2014.

It is with sadness that I accept this position in place of Councillor Mike Emmens who for health reasons is currently unable to fulfil the role. I sit next to a man who has done a lot of hard work and who has undertaken so much for the Town, the Council and the people of Dronfield. Thank you for the appointment, but I wish it was not under these circumstances.

## **4.2 The Deputy Leader of the Council.**

Councillor Susan Allsop was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of The Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2013/2014. No further nominations were received.

### **05/13-14 Resolved**

That Councillor Susan Allsop be duly elected to the position of The Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2013/2014.

## **5. Representatives on Outside Bodies**

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

### **06/13-14 Resolved**

For Councillor Roger Hall to be appointed on to the Dronfield Children's Centre Local Advisory Group.

For Item 21 to be deleted as repetition of Item 2

That subject to the above 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.

**07/13-14 Resolved**

That the cycle of meetings for the Civic Year 2013/2014 (as per the attached listing Appendix 2) be received and approved.

There being no other Business the Meeting was closed at 7.46pm and the Annual Town Meeting Commenced.