

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DRONFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT GOSFORTH LODGE, CLIFFE PARK, DRONFIELD**  
**ON TUESDAY 15 MAY 2012**

Present:

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

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 Susan Mary Allsop was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2012/2013. No further nominations were received.

**01/12-13 Resolved**

That Councillor Susan Mary Allsop be duly elected to the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2012/2013.

The Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

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

"I, Susan Mary 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 his Appointment

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

Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I begin by saying how honoured and delighted I am to have been given this opportunity to represent the town of Dronfield for the forthcoming year. I arrived in Dronfield in 1969, so like my predecessor I am an "incomer" and I came knowing nothing about the town, but simply because I was offered a job here. But this town grows on you and I am now pleased and proud to call Dronfield home. Tonight, however isn't about me, or any individual, but about the continuation of the Office of Mayor. As I am sure that many of you know, Dronfield has had a Mayor since 1974, when the then Urban District Council became a Town Council. However the Office of Mayor is very old, dating from the beginning of the twelfth century, when following the Norman Conquest the Office began to replace the Anglo Saxon Office of Reeve. So, on a personal note, as someone fascinated by history I do have to say that to hold such an ancient title is very exciting. It is customary at this point for the Mayor to say which charities the Mayor's Appeal will be supporting this year. Deciding has not been easy but I have decided to split the fund three ways. The first charity is the Smile Train, where surgeons give their time and expertise to operate on children born with a cleft palate. This can cause difficulties with feeding and failure to thrive as well as problems with speech. In its mildest form, when only the lip is involved, this causes facial deformity, which, where no treatment is available or cannot be afforded, can mean a child will be ostracised for life. An operation to change a child's life will cost on average £150.00. The second charity is Wateraid, which is dedicated to bringing safe water and sanitation to the world's poorest communities. Every 24 hours 4000 children die through drinking infected water. They drink it because they have no alternative. Since I started to speak 8 children have died from enteric diseases caused by dirty water. The remainder of the Appeal funds will be divided between the local charities that choose to apply. I finish by saying that during the year I will wear this chain with great pride and do all I can to uphold the honour and dignity of the office which it represents.

### Vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor

The Leader of the Council Mike Emmens offered a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Doug Oxspring for all the work he had undertaken during the year. He said it had been a year of fun. Events had included a Fiesta Night with Bobby Knutt, an Aquarius Night and Past Masters Event at the Civic Hall and that it had been a pleasure working with him.

### The Retiring Mayor's Response

Councillor Doug Oxspring thanked Councillor Mike Emmens. The Fund raising had been a big part of the year, but also a major part had been the immense pride he had to be part of this wonderful community in Dronfield and the honour of visiting groups and schools in the town. Children have been interested in the roll of Mayor and in the chain of office and still say Hi Mayor Doug to him. When he commenced in the roll an unnamed person set a target of £7500 to be raised. He was delighted to be able to say that funds raised will have just crept over that target. This time last year he announced that one third of the funds would go to Help the Heroes and the remainder to local charities. Having visited a number of service charities over the last twelve months he is now to split a third of the funds between SSAFA, British Legion and Help the Heroes the remainder will be split amongst the local charities that have applied. Humble thanks go to all that helped in raising these funds, with particular regard to the couple that raised £1200 on a sponsored walk of the Pennine Way, his wife Sue for all her help and support, for all those that have helped with the coffee morning and Hilltop Club for hosting a number of events and selling tickets. Finally he thanked all that have helped in the last 12 months.

Councillor Emmens presented a commemorative book and a past Mayoral badge to Councillor Oxspring stating this is your life and I hope it brings back many memories of this past year.

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

Councillor Angelique Foster was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2012/2013. No further nominations were received.

### **02/12-13 Resolved**

That Councillor Angelique Foster be duly elected to the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2012/2013.

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

## **3. Apologies for Absence**

### **3/12-13 RESOLVED**

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

Councillor S Clark - Other

Councillor N Foster – Other

Councillor P Widdowson - Other

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

Councillor Mike Emmens was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2012/2013. No further nominations were received.

### **04/12-13 Resolved**

That Councillor Mike Emmens be duly elected to the position of The Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2012/2013.

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

Councillor Doug Oxspring was nominated and seconded to be appointed to the position of The Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2012/2013. No further nominations were received.

### **05/12-13 Resolved**

That Councillor Doug Oxspring be duly elected to the position of The Deputy Leader of the Council for the Civic Year 2011/2012.

**5. Representatives on Outside Bodies**

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

**06/12-13 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.

**07/12-13 Resolved**

That the cycle of meetings for the Civic Year 2012/2013 (as per the attached listing Appendix 2) be received and approved.

There being no other Business the Meeting was closed at 7.48pm and the Annual Town Meeting Commenced.