

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

PRESENT

16 members of the Council, together with 2 members of staff and 15 members of the public and press

1. Welcome by the Mayor

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

2. Minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 15 May 2012

The Meeting considered the minutes of The Annual Town Meeting held on 15 May 2012.

Resolved: That the minutes be received accepted and approved as a true record of events.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. Report on the Activities of the Town Council

The report was given by retiring Mayor Councillor Susan Allsop.

Madame Mayor, Members of the Council, Ladies and Gentlemen; My giving this report is, of course, tinged with sadness, as is should be Councillor Mike Emmens speaking to you tonight. However, we all know that Mike has a battle to fight, and I know I speak for everyone when I say that our thoughts are with Mike and his family and that we wish him well.

I think we can all be proud of the way Dronfield Town Council works together for the good of Dronfield, and we can look back on a successful year.

The Civic Service was held on 24 June and in view of the weather in the lead up to the day, the parade was cancelled and the service was held in the Parish Church. This was a chance to say goodbye to the Reverend Jonathan Haigh who, having led the service for many years, has moved into Sheffield, and an opportunity to welcome our new Rector, Reverend Peter Bold, attending his first Civic Service. During the service we were entertained by children from Gorsey Brigg School, and our thanks go to them, the staff and parents involved and also to the Salvation Army Band who played during the service.

This summer saw the re-introduction of the Gala, something close to Mike's heart. It was an undoubted success, and will be repeated this year and it is planned that it should become an annual event.

The Gala and the Party in the Park took place, as I am sure you will remember, in the wake of the most appalling weather. The attendance at the Party was, not surprisingly, down, but those who braved the weather had a thoroughly enjoyable time and, like the Gala, the Party in the Park looks set to continue to be an annual date in the town's calendar.

I would like to record the Council's thanks to our Outside Services Foreman and his team for all their hard work both before and after the events, in preparing the ground and facilitating its recovery, Also to Malcolm Giles for his help with the fair ground rides and to everyone else who gave their time.

Dronfield Town Council was able to secure grant funding to resurface the MUGA pitch in Cliffe Park; the surface had become much worn. The Town now has an excellent facility, much appreciated by those who use it. Unfortunately we were unsuccessful with funding to refurbish the tennis courts, so this has had to be deferred.

We have continued to improve the play area facilities, particularly in Cliffe Park and at Marsh Avenue and intend to continue this programme at Dronfield Woodhouse.

November, of course, meant the Remembrance Day Service and the laying of the Dronfield Town Council and Town wreath by the Mayor. The attendance seems to grow each year, and the reading of the names of the dead brought home to all, the magnitude of the sacrifice made by so many. Dronfield Town Council would like to thank the Dronfield ATC for the organisation of the parade and the St John Ambulance Band who lead it.

The Christmas Lights were switched on, by The Mayor, on the 7 December and the event was very well attended. Our thanks go to Father Christmas for his annual appearance, the children of Gorsey Brigg who sang for us and the office staff at the Town Council for making the whole thing happen.

The following day saw the Christmas Fest, again popular, and we again thank the staff and Malcolm Giles for all their hard work.

Our town-twinning with Sindelfingen continues. This year is their 750 Anniversary and, last week, The Mayor, ably assisted by her Consort and the Chairman of the Town Twinning Committee, planted a cherry tree in Sindelfingen Park. This compliments a similar tree, planted recently, by the Mayor, in Dronfield Park in Sindelfingen.

The Town Council Website is progressing but remains a work in progress.

I would like to finish by thanking all the Town Councillors for their hard work. Attending Committee Meetings is not always fun and their dedication to the position they have taken on is much appreciated.

Resolved: That this report be received and noted.

5. Report on the Activities of the Dronfield Charities

Councillor Christine Smith reported on the Dronfield Charities.

The Dronfield Relief in Need Charity provides grants for people in need who live in the ecclesiastical parishes of Dronfield, Holmesfield, Unstone and West Handley. Applications can be made in writing to the Secretary Dr Tony Bethell of Ramshaw Lodge, Crow Lane, Unstone S18 4AL; or through any member of the Committee, social worker, doctor, member of the Clergy, Citizens Advice Bureau or other welfare agencies.

The Committee members are Tony Bethell, Reverend Peter Bold, Miss Jane Shute, Mrs Frances Robinson, Councillor Godfrey Smythe of Holmesfield, Councillor Christine Smith, Councillor Doug Oxspring, Councillor Sue O'Donnell, Councillor Angela Talford and Councillor Rosie Smith of Unstone.

The Charity monies come from endowments to the Town and from donations. Endowments have been made in the name of D Hall, Elizabeth Richardson, Kent and Moorwood, Roberta Moore, Frederick Back and others.

Each year approximately £3,000 is given out. Some of the recipient are the Welcome Club, Disabled Club, Old People's Welfare Committee and to the clergy for parishioners.

Trustees can give out grants of up to £50 in an emergency. As I said last year I don't have £50 in my pocket tonight so please don't approach me after the meeting.

Resolved: That this report be received and noted.

6. Report on the Activities of the Thomas Taylor Charity

Councillor Graham Baxter reported on the Thomas Taylor Charity. The Charity was established by a blacksmith who died in 1681, he bequeathed a fund for the training of children of the town in apprenticeships. The fund currently makes awards to young people between the ages of 16 – 21 embarking on a full time educational course or an approved apprenticeship. Last year 12 applicants received a grant of £120.00 each; this year there were 25 applicants who received £80 each. It was sad to note that no grants were given for apprenticeships; but the fund has helped 25 young people embarking on their career.

Resolved: That this report be received and noted.

7. Concerns and Comments from Local Electors

No concerns or comments raised.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.58pm.