

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT BURNTWOOD MEMORIAL INSTITUTE, RUGELEY ROAD, BURNTWOOD ON
WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Evans [in the Chair]
S Lightfoot, Town Clerk
Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk
Ms A James, Finance Officer

17 Town Councillors
2 County Councillors
5 Members of the public

Councillor Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25 May 2021 [Minute Nos. 1-4] were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Evans made the following statement:

During the past year, my time as Chair has been very mixed due to the Pandemic, although I have been able to conduct some functions. However, we are now hopefully moving more towards the normality we knew before this awful problem struck. With this in mind, the council is now going forward to ensuring we become a Dementia Friendly Community where people with dementia and their carers can know that people recognise the correct way to treat and look after sufferers and respect them.

So far a sensory garden will soon be commenced at the Old Mining College, in conjunction with MHA and this can also be used by others seeking a quiet sanctuary if they wish. An exhibition produced by sufferers of dementia has been held in the library and the plans are to move it to different venues around the town to aid understanding. We have also had hundreds of forget-me-nots, the flower of dementia, produced by members of the community in many different formats, but particularly in knitting and crochet. Forget-me-nots plants and seeds have also been given away.

In January we welcomed a new Chief Officer, Mr Steve Lightfoot and he is working hard to make sure our vision for Burntwood can move ahead to improve the quality of life for residents. Some of the planned functions such as the Picnic in the Park and the Christmas Event had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather, but this year we are looking towards a great event to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen, where a large variety of exciting things are planned. The Play in the Parks, enjoyed by so many during the school holidays are once again being organised after

a break due to covid. We have listened to requests from the community and the monthly markets are now up and running and are proving to be very successful.

Despite all the difficulties we have encountered we have continued to work towards a Better Burntwood to improve the town, but this has only been possible with the tremendous support we have had from community groups and voluntary organisations. This has enforced and demonstrated the amazing community attitude that exists here and for all those who have given up their time to help others in numerous ways, my sincere thanks go to them. It is important that we continue to link up with these groups as together we can achieve improvements. Please be assured that if anybody has any ideas or concerns Burntwood Town Council is willing to listen and this can be done by contacting us at the Old Mining College or by attending any meeting of the council.

Once again I am indebted to a number of people for their help and support over the past year. Firstly to the Vice Chair Councillor Rob Birch, my fellow Councillors, especially the Leader Councillor Sue Woodward and all the staff at Burntwood Town Council. I am proud to be a resident of Burntwood as the generosity of spirit is so evident.

Since writing her Chair's report, Councillor Evans confirmed that Burntwood had gained the accreditation, Dementia Friendly Communities, status from the Alzheimers Society and thanked all those involved in making this happen. She also confirmed that work on the Sensory Garden at the Old Mining College should start on 13 May 2022.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT/PRECEPT

RESOLVED That the Summary Budget for 2021-22 as circulated, was received and noted.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Evans informed Members that there had been no notifications received/questions raised from registered electors within the Town Council boundaries on any matter which affects the Town. However, a member of the public present asked why the Council Meetings were not advertised in the TownTrader which was delivered to households around the Town. Councillor Woodward, as Leader, stated that the Town Council had previously advertised in the TownTrader but had not received much feedback. She confirmed that the Town Council was now regularly advertising in the CityLife Magazine, on social media, on our website and were in the process of having leaflets delivered to households.

A member of the public asked if there was a budget for a newspaper and the Town Clerk confirmed that there was a budget for communication.

[The Meeting closed at 6.10 pm]

Signed

Date