



Burntwood
TOWN COUNCIL

BONEY HAY
BURNTWOOD
CHASE TERRACE
CHASETOWN

TO ALL ELECTORS OF **BURNTWOOD**
YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
AND PARTICIPATE IN THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
AT
BURNTWOOD LIBRARY
BRIDGE CROSS ROAD, BURNTWOOD, WS7 2BX
ON
WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023 AT 6.00 P.M.

**THE TOWN MEETING MAY DISCUSS ALL TOWN
MATTERS AND PASS RESOLUTIONS ON THEM**

AGENDA

1. **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11 May 2022** [ENCLOSURE NO. 1]
2. **Chair's Report** [ENCLOSURE NO. 2]
3. **Financial Statement/Precept** [ENCLOSURE NO. 3]
4. **Public Participation and Resolutions to be decided by the meeting**
To receive questions and comments from registered electors within the Burntwood Town Council boundaries on any matter which affects the Town. (Note: So that the Members at the meeting can be properly briefed in order to enable them to provide a considered response to your question, please advise the Town Clerk of the question(s) you wish to ask the Council at least three working days before the meeting).

Mr R Birch
Chair of the Council

17 May 2023

**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

CHAIR'S REPORT

My year in the role of Chair of Burntwood Town Council has been an absolute privilege to fulfil and has been far more enjoyable than I imagined it would be as well as being lots of hard work at times.

I have been invited to many events locally and further afield and when deciding whether or not to attend, I always looked at whether I felt my attendance would benefit the Council or the people of the Town. I hope I managed to get the balance right when making the decisions on which invites to decline, and I hope I benefitted others when I was able to attend. One of the most enjoyable events I attended was the annual fayre of the University of the Third Age. I was amazed at the range of activities and opportunities they provide for people locally and I myself would certainly like to be able to get involved with their movement when I have the time to do so one day.

There have of course been some events which were more sombre such as those that occurred in relation to the death of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I did not for a moment envisage that I would be chairing this council in such a momentous period as saw the end of her reign. This was balanced by the coronation of a new monarch and the national celebration that we saw only a couple of weeks ago. Another celebration was, in my view, the biggest best Burntwood Wakes festival we have had for some years which we had last summer. The staff and Councillors worked really hard to deliver that event and it was a real honour for me to be able to make a speech to open the festival, even if it was a bit nerve wracking having to do it up on the stage in front of the crowds.

It has been fantastic to see the work the council has achieved over the last year with delivering additional grit bins around the town, a personal favourite subject of mine, setting up BURRT the Burntwood Response and Repair Team and equally as exciting to see what the voluntary organisations and services around the town have contributed to the community. Last year the former Chair Councillor Evans noted that the Sensory Garden at the Old Mining College was about to be commenced and I was fortunate in having the honour of officially opening it during my term of office. The town has made further progress in being dementia friendly and although there will be further to go over the coming years, everything is now moving in a positive direction. It is things like this that add up to building the welcoming, inclusive community of Burntwood.

The town market has gone from strength to strength over the last summer and as you will know it has just started again for the coming season. I would encourage as many people as possible to pop down there and support this venture. It is not only a place to buy high quality produce and crafts but also a place to meet friends for a chat and to help us all build that community spirit that makes our lovely town what it is. Lets do all we can to support the stall holders and make the market an enduring success.

Papyrus was my chosen charity for the last year which is a charity working to raise awareness of suicide in young people. This issue is one which has sadly touched the lives of too many families including some in our own town. I was keen to use this opportunity to raise awareness of this important subject as much as raise funds for the charity as it is one which is uncomfortable for many to talk about but essential that people do so. Thanks to all those who helped with the fundraising as well as thanks to the staff and volunteers at Papyrus for all they do to save lives and support young people and their families.

It would be remiss of me to not mention the unfailing hard work of our staff at the council. They do so much good work to implement the decisions of the Councillors and it is largely because of their commitment and competence that Burntwood Town Council is one which is now seen to be punching above its weight. We sometimes forget we are actually the lowest level of local government as a parish council. That is a good thing as it means our ambition isn't stifled and we look at what we can do and how can we do it rather than what limitations there are on our remit.

Of course, I need to thank all the Councillors who all do their work here voluntarily and without recompense for the time they give freely. There are no allowances payable for being a Town Councillor. Being a Councillor is a great honour when local residents put their trust in you to manage their community and services, and to spend the money they entrust in you through the taxation system. It is fair to say that Councillors do not always agree but it is the debate and discussion that takes place as people with different views exchange them and thrash out their ideas that allow a consensus view to be formed and for the decisions being made to be scrutinised and challenged. I won't be on the Council during the coming term having decided to stand down, but I would hope that there will be good attendance levels at meetings, robust debate and fair challenge when decisions are being made. Like the rest of the town I will be a member of the public in a few minutes, and like them I will expect no less if good decisions are to be made.

Finally I am in debt to many others for the support I received as chair over the last year. Particularly from Councillor Evans the Vice Chair and the other Councillors who have always been there when I needed advice and guidance on how to proceed. I would like to also thank Councillors Sue Woodward and Darren Ennis for their leadership of Burntwood Town Council over the last four years. They have led this council over a sustained period of time with openness and clarity of direction and without that leadership we would not have achieved anywhere near as much as we have.

Councillor Robert Birch
Chair
Burntwood Town Council

Burntwood Town Council Current Year

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2023

31st March 2022		31st March 2023
	Operating Income	
370,346	Corporate	371,897
46,625	OMCC	58,603
7	Supplies & Services	423
4,742	Traffic Islands	7,938
0	Burntwood Town Strategy	5,000
5,325	Events	5,024
0	Community Projects	300
386	Civic Expenses	1,347
1,200	Better Burntwood incl. grants	0
30,822	Burntwood Cemetery	29,111
459,453	Total Income	479,642
	Running Costs	
0	Corporate	21,000
62,767	OMCC	57,131
158,496	Supplies & Services	198,525
1,676	Street Lighting	1,377
0	Bus Shelters	692
3,123	Christmas Lights	2,423
8,228	Traffic Islands	6,393
419	Hanging Baskets & Planters	328
30	Flagpole	12
2,232	Coulter Lane Burial Ground	1,133
0	Burntwood Town Strategy	26,921
11,655	Events	56,633
9,970	Community Projects	1,640
303	Neighbourhood Plan	0
12	Civic Expenses	837
9,052	Better Burntwood incl. grants	26,206
23,215	Burntwood Cemetery	26,985
25	Church Street car park	0
47,749	Capital Works	16,653
338,952	Total Expenditure	444,890
	General Fund Analysis	
179,889	Opening Balance	249,848
459,453	Plus : Income for Year	479,642
639,341		729,490
338,952	Less : Expenditure for Year	444,890
300,389		284,601
50,541	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	(23,101)
249,848	Closing Balance	307,701