

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT BURNTWOOD LIBRARY, BRIDGE CROSS ROAD, BURNTWOOD ON
THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Coe MBE (in the Chair)
S Lightfoot, Town Clerk
Ms J Minor, Deputy Clerk
Ms A James, Finance Officer

18 Town Councillors

Councillor Coe MBE welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 23 May 2024 (Minute Nos. 1-4) were taken as read and approved as a correct record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Councillor Coe MBE made the following statement:

As I took on the role of Chair of Burntwood Town Council last year I was very aware of the shoes I was stepping into. I had a wonderful mentor in my year as Vice Chair and was given the opportunity to learn from Councillor Diane Evans. She was a hard act to follow but I have learned a great deal during the last year.

In my role as Chair I have had so many chances to attend some amazing events and to meet so many inspirational people who work to make our community a safer and more supportive place to live. I have attended events as diverse as flower festivals to switching on the Christmas lights, and open days at a farm to a school road safety event.

It has been an exciting time to be Chair. The Town Council bought the Methodist Church on Princess Street and it is currently being given a new lease of life for the next chapter in its life as a community hub. It will provide the town with a much needed venue for charities and voluntary services to hold their meetings and events. Watching the building go through its transformation as it enters the next part of its history is really exciting.

I am constantly surprised by the amount of work that our council is able to achieve in supporting our community. We have been able to organise and fund the Sunday markets during the summer, the Christmas events, the Play in the Parks, and the Wakes. We make those events available for all, inclusive and free for our families. Being able to provide lunches for the children, thanks to our sponsors, has made those events even more supportive of our families.

I love the strong and committed voluntary sector in our town and I was able to choose my charity of the year. I chose Pathway Project, the domestic and sexual

abuse charity. This is a hidden crime and one that affects many families. Being able to raise some money is a privilege and I know that every penny raised will be well used to support survivors. I was really pleased when the event raised £868.36. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

I could not have achieved all of these things without the help and support of some very special people. Our team at Burntwood Town Council have done a huge amount of work to make the things I have done happen, and to make them successful. They are a wonderful team and I have been so lucky to work with such skilled and committed people.

Councillor Diane Evans has been there for help and guidance whenever I have needed her. My Vice Chair, Councillor Laura Ennis has stood in for me when needed and has shared in the events. It has been a joy working with them both.

It has also been a great experience to work with all of the councillors and to absorb the knowledge and expertise that they have. They give their time to work together to make Burntwood a safer and stronger community.

Burntwood is a wonderful place to live and I can now pass on the role of Chair into the safe hands of Councillor Laura Ennis. I know that she will do a brilliant job and I send my best wishes to her.

3. FINANCIAL STATEMENT/PRECEPT

RESOLVED That the Summary Budget for 2024-25 as circulated, was received, and noted.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Coe MBE 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.

(The Meeting closed at 6.07 pm)

Signed

Date