

The Annual Meeting of the Town of Heanor and Loscoe held on Thursday 12 May 2022

Present: Councillor E Hamilton (Mayor), Councillors S Bower, C Cox, C Emmas-Williams, B Gration, C Gration, K Hill, S Hind, T Holmes, P Jones, J Ward, and D Wright.

Also present: Four members of public.

001 Apologies

No apology for absence was received.

002 Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Heanor and Loscoe Town meeting held on Tuesday 4 May 2021, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Mayor.

003 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

004 Financial Statement

The Town Council year-end accounts for 2021/22 have been finalised. They show a net asset balance of £374,548.

During this financial year we gradually started to see covid restrictions lift. Town Council staff worked proactively to ensure that the appropriate covid risk assessments, procedures and policies were all in place in anticipation of this, and as a result, lettings improved gradually and continued to do so over the year. The Town Council held on to historical users of our buildings and hirers that came to us from alternative venues, closed due to the restrictions, have remained with us. The Town Council continue their tenancy agreement with Derbyshire Dales Citizens Advice for Units 3, 4 and 5 on the lower level of the Town Hall.

The Town Council continue the Service Level Agreement with Groundwork for the maintenance of The Red River Local Nature Reserve. Quarterly reports are received detailing information on the tasks, activities, event days, meetings held, and funding achieved that quarter.

The Town Council continue the Service Level Agreement with Derby and Burton NHS Trust which secures their hire of The Old Fire Station for the provision of a regular phlebotomy service.

Although the uncertainty of covid loomed over us, as a Town Council we enjoyed a glorious summer planting display, improved, and extended Christmas Lights and a sorely missed and much welcomed return of our Annual Christmas Lights Switch On Event.

The Town Council were able to access money from the European Regional Development Fund and used this to brighten the Town Centre with colourful bunting, removal of graffiti and a deep clean of problem areas. These monies also enabled us to provide a 'Happy to Chat' bench, Street Wardens, Dress Up Character Visits to Heanor Market and a very sunny and successful Dino Day held in March 2022.

The Town Council also funded/sponsored the following organisations:

Blend Youth, Derby County Community Trust, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, All About Jogging, Heanor Musical Theatre, Heanor Bowls Club, Heanor Town Football Club, Heanor Weenies, Heanor Vision and several self-defence classes.

The precept for 2022/2023 has been set at £228,300.

005 Mayor's Report by Councillor Eileen Hamilton

This past civic year has been a very strange one with the lifting of some covid restrictions and small steps to normality, or pre-covid life, beginning.

The Wilmot Street Centre also played a part in the fight against Covid, 19 as it was used as a testing centre again this year.

Many of the usual events did not take place at the beginning of this year and we can all hope that some of these will return for the new civic year.

We started the year with our flower baskets which brightened up the town and brought joy to the residents.

Last year also saw the return of our christmas lights switch on event – this was very successful, and I am sure that it was an enjoyable event for the residents and traders alike Our Christmas lights display was considered to be a fabulous display by both residents and visitors to the town - e-mails and letters were received praising the display.

This year, with the help of European Funding children's character days and a very popular dino day was held in March.

The European funding also provided the bench outside the Town Hall for anyone to sit and chat.

This has now been moved to opposite the gates to the Memorial Park, so is still available for residents to sit and chat or just sit and think. Bunting was also purchased to brighten up the town.

During the past year, the Council has funded many community groups. The total came to £5k and I urge anyone who knows a community group in need to get them to apply.

We will also continue our support of the Gregg Cup – an inter schools football tournament.

What of the future? What can we look forward to?

The redevelopment of the Market Place – the design has been finalised. What we need to ensure now is that we pressure for the tenders to be finalised so that the work can start.

The Grammar School project is looking very hopeful with its purchase, let us all hope that the design stage will take place soon, so that the build can begin as soon as possible.

Charles Hill Development – we must all work together to deliver this.

The Commemorative Sculpture for the Memorial Park is not yet in place but hopefully this can be finalised soon.

I would like to thank Laura and Kerry – our Clerk and Deputy Clerk. Their help and guidance have been invaluable this year.

I would also like to thank the Deputy Mayor - Councillor Kieran Hill, the Leader of the Council - Councillor Paul Jones and Deputy Leader of the Council - Councillor Celia Cox for their help and support.

Thanks, are also given to the Councillors who traffic marshalled at the Remembrance Service and to all the Councillors who helped at the Christmas Lights switch on and to Laura and Kerry whose hard work in organising the event made it such a success.

To Councillor Stefan Kruczkowski and Kerry for their work in securing the European funding, to all other Councillors who helped on the dino day and finally to all members of Heanor and Loscoe Town Council for their support towards me this year.

006 Public Comment

No comment.

007 Any Other Business

There being no other business raised, the Mayor thanked those present for their presence and closed the meeting at 6.56pm.