

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting
Held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at Bainbridge Hall,
Chapel Road, Carr Vale, S42 6JD

Present

P	Cllr. D. Adams	P	Cllr. C. Jeffery (Vice Chair)
P	Cllr. A. Clarke	A	Cllr. J.M. Rushby
P	Cllr. R. Clarke	P	Cllr. A. Taylor
P	Cllr. M. Cresswell	P	Cllr. R. Tooth
P	Cllr. D. Hales	P	Cllr. J. Woodhead
P	Cllr. P. Goodwin (Chair)		

In attendance: Charlotte Taylor - Town Clerk

4 members of the public and a representative from Bolsover Safer Neighbourhood Team

1. **Welcome**

Town Mayor, Councillor Paul Goodwin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rushby.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

Resolved The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 16 May 2023 were proposed, seconded and duly accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. **Chair's Report**

The Chair provided the following report.

Unfortunately, the April Artisan Market had to be cancelled due to the very high winds that were forecast; the next one will take place in May, and they will be held on the first Saturday of every month until October. The Artisan Markets bring many visitors to the Town, and they have grown in size, and popularity, over the past year. There will also be a teenage market held for the first time in May.

At long last work started on the skatepark on the 22nd April 2024 but I am sure that the wait will have been worthwhile when this project is finally completed and provides a fantastic facility for skaters and bike riders alike to enjoy.

The floral displays are looking wonderful again and there has been the recently added feature of the displays on the renovated telephone box near to the cenotaph. Of course, none of this would be possible without all the volunteers and dedicated local contractors who deliver the displays across the Town.

The Christmas Festival took place and thankfully the weather was kind enough to allow the Lantern Parade to take place. This was the most successful and well attended Christmas Festival to date and the many people involved in its organisation were rewarded with such a fantastic show of support on the day.

We have continued to have a regular dialogue throughout the year with the owners of small local businesses to ensure that we explore ways that we might be able to work together to support them, to do everything possible to help them thrive in the town and to encourage new business ventures as well. On that note welcome to the recently reopened Casa Fresco which was formerly known as Bella Blue and, as with all the other wonderful small businesses that we are lucky enough to have in our Town, we wish them every success.

The Bolsover Comedy Club held in the Assembly Hall continues to go from strength to strength and tickets are available online, at the Byron Tap and The Pump, Bolsover. Once again in 2024 there will be the music festivals Valefest and Under the Castle, the Bolsover Gala and the Scouts Bolsover Beer Festival; we are very fortunate to have such a variety of events taking place in our Town.

The Town Council have funded a new scheme for 2024 called Bolsover Boots on the Ground; this is in partnership with Chesterfield Football Club Community Trust, Bolsover District Council, Derbyshire Constabulary Safer Neighbourhood policing teams and Derbyshire County Council Children's Services. The scheme aims to tackle antisocial behaviour by building stronger and safer communities for all, providing opportunities to engage with young people on the ground, closing partnership working of all the relevant agencies and signposting and diverting young people into local services.

The renovation of the Town Square adjacent to the Post Office has recently been completed. We believe that this has provided a significant enhancement to the Town Centre, and we hope that everyone will have many opportunities to enjoy this area throughout the Summer and Autumn months.

The project to provide a facility that the Town can be proud of on the sports ground on Moor Lane, which was always known locally as the 'Coalite Club', is making progress; we are working with a company called Alliance Leisure, the next stage is to consult with local people to obtain their views on the current proposals before the Council decides what would be most appropriate for the site.

I would like to say that I have enjoyed my five years on the Council and we have worked hard through a difficult period to try and deliver further improvements to our Town; I am sure that the Council will continue to do all that it can to progress the various projects that we have planned in as timely a manner as possible.

5. **Open Forum**

Police advised of local engagement events including "Cuppa with a Copper" and "Street Meets" and advised of ways to contact the police to report incidents. It was reported that the police are looking for more reactive tools to support ongoing issues in the town centre.

Residents asked the police about speeding and parking on Cotton Street blocking pedestrian access to the crossing. It was recommended that any images are reported via Derbyshire Capture, and all incidents are reported directly to the police.

It was confirmed there is now a Safer Neighbourhood Team office based in the town centre; an increased police presence has been noted by members of the public, along with the Enforcement Team.

6. **Town Mayor's Closing Remarks and Thanks**

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed

Dated