

Minutes of the 35th Annual Town Meeting of Darley Dale

Held at 6.00pm on 21st May 2015-

In the Library at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale

Councillor John Evans welcomed residents of the town to the meeting

1. Mrs C Lavell was appointed Clerk for the meeting
2. The minutes of the 34th Annual meeting were accepted as a true record.
3. Councillor John Evans, the Town Mayor, presented his summary of the work of the Council during 2014/15. Hard copies were available of the report,

Whitworth Centre, the business of the Centre is proceeding well despite the downturn in lettings to Local Authorities. The expectation is that the Centre will have achieved break even financially in the financial year just ended.

Planning Applications, The Town Council considers and comments on planning applications submitted to Derbyshire Dales District Council for developments within Darley Dale.

The Town Council has been in discussion with the partners of the Medical Practice on the matter of the proposed location of a new medical Centre

Neighbourhood Plan, good progress is being made with the plan though there is a lot of work ahead. There is an exhibition currently at the Whitworth Centre providing a summary of views to the recent questionnaire which residents are encouraged to view

Policing, Austerity measures nationally have reduced the presence of police at all Council meetings

Grant Aid, The Town Council has continued its policy of financial assistance to local clubs and organisations with a total of £2807 being awarded to 10 organisations

Communication, A professional editor has been appointed for Community Voice and a new Town Council website have been introduced to aid communications

Twinning The twinning link remains active with a visit to France last year and French visitors arriving for the forthcoming weekend.

Carol Singing and Pantomime Two annual events which remain popular on the community calendar, both well attended and planned again for 2015

Footpaths and Highways Flowerbeds along the A6 are maintained and planted under the supervision of Darley Dale in Bloom. They also provide a host of flowers

throughout the Town which was recognised in their achievement of a silver gilt award in the East Midlands in Bloom competition

Youth Provision, The Youth Club continues to operate successfully and planning permission has recently been granted for the erection of a sectional building for the purposes of the youth club and other youth activities.

Remembrance Day, This was well attended and a new plaque installed to commemorate the centenary of the First World War

Allotments Inconsistencies in rent at Church Road are in the process of being addressed and steps being taken to control water usage.

May 2015 Elections Unfortunately the Council is currently not quorate as there are only three elected Councillors which mean the Council is unable to conduct Council business. In order to be able to conduct essential business, a trustee has been appointed from the District Council.

The Annual Town Council meeting will therefore not follow the Annual Town meeting, as planned. The process of seeking residents to be co-opted to the Council has commenced.

People Thanks were given to the Town Clerk for her work. Goodbyes and thanks were given to the 9 Councillors who did not seek re-election. A welcome back was given to Councillor Faulkner and a special welcome to our new Councillor, Maresa Mellor.

4 Financial Summary for the Town Council

The finances were talked through, with hard copies being available. The budget for 2015/16 was presented and the end of year accounts were summarised, with £66,400 being brought forward as reserves from 2013/14 after all expenditure for 2014/15 had been accounted for £64,740 was being carried forward into 2015/16, this represents a strong financial position for the Council. However increased demands on the Council are envisaged over the forthcoming year as austerity cuts elsewhere impact on the work of the Council therefore expenditure is expected to be higher in 2015/16, as indicated within the proposed budget for this period.

5 Receipt of Financial Accounts

Whitworth Centre

The accounts for the Whitworth Centre have changed their trading period to bring in line with the Town Council, and finalised accounts are not yet available. However after a discussion with the Business Manager and a review of the management accounts (day to day trading information) the expectation is that the Centre will achieve a financial break even situation.

The Shack Youth Club

The accounts were presented (hard copy available) and are awaiting verification by the Responsible Finance Officer as an independent individual.

6 Other Town Matters, raised by members of the public

The question was raised whether there is a cost associated with the recent resignation of a Councillor. It was explained that there may be, up to a figure of £3000 if an election is held.

Two members of the public presented two different views on the liability of the Whitworth Trust for business rates. The Town Council's understanding is that the Trust is not liable for business rates.

A query was raised to the continued existence of the Alfred Clay Trust (in excess of 12 years since last notified of accounts/minutes). This will be investigated by the Town Clerk.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm