

**The minutes of the of the Annual Town Assembly  
Held in the Lower Hall of St John's Community Centre  
On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7pm**

**PRESENT**

The Town Mayor, Cllr. Cutts, Cllrs. Barron, Marsh, Millner, Mrs. Hinchliff, Pilkington, Mrs Rusby, Starling, Unsworth and Webber and Mrs. Webber

Also present the Town Clerk K. Coulton, press and members of the public.

**ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON**

Proposed Seconded and Agreed, the **Town Mayor, Cllr. Cutts**

**ABSENT**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs. Beever, Chapman, Hand – Davis and Hinchliff

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the last Annual Town Assembly held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor accordingly.

**THE MAYORS REPORT**

The Town Mayor presented his report on the municipal year.

As Mayor I have had a very enjoyable year attending many events including the Gala and Parade, Bonfire Night, school concerts, Fairtrade and Remembrance Sunday.

We also had two Mayors Charity Concerts one a joint one with the Mayor of Barnsley and one at the Paramount with local scouts guides and Penistone Players taking part, a real local event!

Visits to the Mayors of Sheffield and Stocksbridge have also been undertaken and many events with the Mayor of Barnsley to promote an understanding of what Penistone as a town has to offer to our close neighbours.

I have also tried to promote a good relationship with local organisations, schools and churches and have always been received with a warm welcome.

On the Town Council front we have now the public toilets in our ownership and refurbishment to take place in the very near future. The Tour de France will be passing through in July an event which I hope will attract people into our area to see what we have to offer. The effect will also continue after the event with people from all around the world cycling the route. Numbers are uncertain, between 10,000 and 50,000 are estimated.

The Paramount which I have attended for fifty years is doing well and has moved forward. A digital projector, on – line bookings for all events and now a satellite link to enable us to show ballet, plays and sporting events from all over the world. How times have changed! Next year the building celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and celebrations are already being planned.

The Community Centre continues to be well used and we have a planned programme of maintenance to keep the building up to the standard required as it is now showing signs of age.

I was also pleased to open the Neville Roebuck Archives in the Centre this keeps the history of the area available for research to future generations and I wish to thank all concerned.

The allotments at Berrywell Avenue are now fully occupied with minor tasks remaining to complete the project.

Signed..... on behalf of the Mayor – 8 April 2015

Planning issues area continual topic of debate many people are unaware that the Town Council is not the Planning Authority Barnsley MBC is. We as a Town Council can only make comment on applications which we do, and forward our comments to Barnsley MBC on issues such as Wind Farms, housing and industrial developments. Small scale developments such as at Hawleys sawmill improve the area, Penistone 1 Gateway provides office space and increases retail outlets in the Town Centre. It is the larger schemes that will put pressure our already insufficient infrastructure, the highway network, schools, parking, transport and medical services. The Community Led Plan makes these points and as a Town Council need to work on these issues. As a Town Council we are fortunate to have 4 councillors who are also members of Barnsley MBC who fight our corner with these matters and also in keeping our other services to the standard we expect.

Finally many thanks must go to all our staff, the Town Clerk, Keith Coulton, Brian Barnsley at the Paramount, Amanda Hart and Nadine Bentley in the administration office, caretakers and the Paramount staff who are always cheerful and friendly.

Thank you and well done

In return Cllr. **Unsworth** thanked the Mayor for his splendid year in office and for the way he and the Mayoress Glenda had conducted themselves with selflessness and dignity on the many public engagements they had carried out, and that they had been a credit to Penistone

### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2013**

A summary of the most recent audited accounts was presented to the meeting with an explanation of any variances on the previous year.

**RESOLVED** to note the accounts

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Comments and Suggestions from the Electorate of Penistone on Matters relating to Penistone Town Council

Q – What is the position with achieving Quality Parish Status?

The Town Clerk replied that at this present time NALC (National and Local Councils) and its steering groups has belatedly appeared to realise that the scheme was wallowing dead in the water, and has been suspended until further notice.

Cllr. Unsworth stated that the Town Council may be in a stronger position should it be reignited.

Q – What is happening at Lairds Way?

Discussions have taken place with the SYPTE Barnsley MBC regarding the provision of parking, a park and ride and managed work space units on the site, however part of the land has now been approved for housing.

There being no further questions the members of the public expressed their customary vote of thanks to the Town Council for the work that they carry out.

There being no further business, the Town Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Signed..... on behalf of the Mayor - 8 April 2015