

**The minutes of the of the Annual Town Assembly
Held via Zoom
On Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 7pm**

PRESENT

The Town Mayor, **Cllr. A. Millner**, Deputy Mayor **Cllr G.Millner** and **Cllrs. Cutts, Perkins, Rusby, Shiggins, Walker and Wood.**

Also present the Town Clerk T.Ball, with one member of the press.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON

Proposed Cllr G.Millner, Seconded Cllr Walker and Agreed, the **Town Mayor, Cllr. A. Millner** was to act as the Chair of the meeting.

ABSENT

Apologies for absence were accepted from **Cllrs. Kimberley, Unsworth** and **MP Miriam Cates.**

RESOLVED that the apologies were accepted and recorded

MINUTES

The minutes of the last Annual Town Assembly held on the 17th April 2019 were presented at the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Cutts, Seconded Cllr Shiggins and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Town Assembly held on the 17th April 2019 were a true record.

MATTER ARISING

There were no matters discussed.

TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR'S REPORT FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020 TO 2021.

The Town Mayor **Cllr. A. Millner** presented his report that had been circulated prior to the meeting for his half term year of office due to the resignation of the former Mayor Steve Webber (attached herein).

Cllr. Rusby gave her thanks to both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for a difficult year. The Mayor had taken over the position earlier than expected due to the resignation of the former Mayor, increasing his term of office. She noted that the Deputy Mayor had completed 2 years of her duties in a difficult period. She offered her thanks on behalf of the Council for their commitment in fulfilling their duties. Cllr Rusby stated that *'we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for stepping in and always happily representing the council at all times. We wish the Mayor well for his forthcoming year in office.'*

PUBLIC SESSION – QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF PENISTONE.

There were no members of public in attendance therefore no questions or suggestions were posed.

A member of the press reported that she had approached Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for further details on the Principal Towns Initiative Fund.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.15 pm and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Signed.....Mayor /2022

Penistone Mayor's Annual Report.

April 28th, 2021

Thank you for attending our Annual Council Meeting tonight, virtually by Zoom. It has been a challenging year for Penistone Town Council and me as Mayor.

I took over from Steve Webber on 23rd November, following his decision to stand down as Mayor to emigrate to Greece.

During Steve's part year term as Mayor PTC had to adhere to Covid-19 lockdown rules which limited our ability to run the normal functions we are responsible for and this included the Penistone Paramount Cinema.

After a long-enforced closure, the team at The Penistone Paramount officially re-opened to the public on Friday September 18, 2020. The Penistone Paramount has undergone an extensive renovation, funded by Penistone Town Council, during the Covid-19 lockdown. It has been given a new lease of life with new seats, new carpets, new house lights and a full internal redecoration. Mayor of Penistone Town Council at the time, Cllr Steve Webber, said that:-

"The Covid-19 crisis has been devastating in its impact on every part of our lives and in every part of the area. Penistone Town Council has been forced, like many businesses, to close for a period & to take extraordinary measures before re-opening. The financial implications will take years to make good. However, Penistone Town Council has made use of the enforced shutdown to carry out a series of planned improvement works to The Paramount cinema rather than affect future trading. £100,000 has been spent refurbishing The Paramount cinema including replacing the old seating, fully painting the auditorium, sanding, and varnishing the wooden floors, laying new flooring to the Circle area, and laying new carpets. This has been made possible by the hard work and patience of our staff, some of whom have been furloughed for a few months and others who have worked hard behind the scenes co-ordinating the works. I would like to express my own and the Town Council's sincere thanks to them all for their professional attitude and passion to see The Paramount opening again".

The Paramount opened under new rules and guidance, with restricted seating due to social distancing, and with a restructured staffing policy.

We offered pre-booked tickets although the ticketing system will allow people to order their snacks and drinks online at the time of buying tickets. We promoted a cashless system and promoted the purchase of Paramount Gift Cards to pay for goods.

The Paramount is the 'jewel in the crown' of the Town Council and we hope that the refurbishment will give it a new appeal. We hope people will enjoy coming back to watch films as much as we will enjoy re-opening a local venue that all of us have sorely missed. Our management team successfully applied to the government for Covid-19 grant support funding which has enabled the Paramount to continue to function.

During this first period of lockdown PTC caretakers refurbished the floors of St John's Community Centre and redecorated the main rooms.

Our new Clerk, Tara Ball joined PTC in August 2020. Tara began a review of the council processes as part of our plan to achieve a Quality Council status to ensure we become more transparent in our function.

We attended the Remembrance Day event with restricted participants to lay a wreath on behalf of the council.

Before Steve stepped down as Mayor, he donated from the Mayor's Charity account the sum of £1445.00 to BIADS to help towards the provision of services in our area.

Having taken over the role of Mayor in late November, I switched on the Penistone Town Centre Christmas lights providing real trees on the walls this year. There were no crowds allowed but it was a poignant moment bringing festive cheer during a troubling time for the nation and our community.

Following 2 vacancies on the council in Hoylandswaine due to the resignation of Cllrs Steve Marsh and Steve Webber, in February 2021, the council co-opted Cllr David Walker and Cllr Neville Shiggins.

Another vacancy has arisen following the resignation of Cllr Carol Bradbury in Cubley and Springvale. The council are following procedures to co-opt this position.

One Wednesday 31st March, I attended the Resource centre, adjacent to the St John's Community Centre where BMBC were distributing children's holiday food parcels to cover the Easter period, and these were collected by families in the Penistone West and East Wards. The Resource Centre is also being used as a Children's vaccination centre to ensure children have their usual child vaccinations.

We have held our Council meetings over Zoom for the period during the pandemic, but this will change in the next few months, which will be challenging to ensure we meet social distancing and Covid-19 rules.

We have installed a new fire alarm in the Community Centre and are planning to welcome back groups into the community rooms when rules are relaxed, and we look forward to the re-opening of the Paramount and hopefully a return to a new normal.