



KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Electors held at Keighley Town Hall, Bow Street, Keighley, BD21 3RY on Wednesday 24 May 2023, 6pm.

Present:

Town Councillors:

M. Nazam – Town Mayor	F. Ahmed	M. Rafiq
G. Hussain – Deputy Mayor	K. Hussain	N. Razak
M. Crangle	P. Corkindale	E. Bailey
C. Abberton	J. Lawless	M. Ibraheem
A. Clark	A. Shohid	

District Councillors

Mohsin Hussain	
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60 members of the public were present.

1. Welcome

The Town Mayor, Cllr Nazam welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2022 and the Town Meeting held on Wednesday 22 June 2022 were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Town Mayor.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

The Town Mayor gave an overview of the achievements and work of the Council and its Committees during the municipal year 2022/23. The Committees of the Town Council during 2022/23 included:

- Allotments & Landscapes
- Civic Centre & Strategy
- Community Development
- Events & Leisure
- Finance & Audit
- Policies & Governance
- Planning Committee
- Watch & Transport

Each of these Committees worked towards the achievements of the Town Plan 2020-2023:

Civic Pride

- The Town Council prioritised enhancing the Civic Centre as a central hub for community activities, events, workshops, and exhibitions, fostering civic pride in Keighley.
- Residents were encouraged to utilise the Civic Centre for their own gatherings and festivities.
- Under the tenure of Town Mayor Cllr Luke Maunsell, there were over 120 visits and engagements, while the Mayor's Charitable Trust raised £11,000 for "Dementia Friendly Keighley" and "It's Worth Talking About" through diverse fundraising activities.
- Notable civic events included remembrance services, Armed Forces Day, and the Coronation Civic Service.
- Regular updates were shared through various media platforms, and the Community Showcase coincided with Yorkshire Day celebrations.
- The Council adopted the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia.

Community Development

- Keighley Town Council actively encouraged community-driven initiatives, fostering engagement and collaboration among local organisations to improve community development, health, and well-being.
- Projects such as Hedgehog Highways, Bee Together, People's Planters, and Mini Bounce Planet Play Sessions were undertaken, alongside initiatives like the James Project's DIY activities and Winter Warmers.
- The Civic Centre's Downstairs Project provided a welcoming space for community groups during the winter, supporting local residents. Networking events like "Broadening Horizons" facilitated partnerships with social prescribers through the Keighley Works employability project.
- Noteworthy annual events included St. George's Day, Eid on the Green, Valentine's Tea Dance, and Christmas celebrations.
- Grant funding and Ward Development Funding supported various community groups and projects.
- The Council engaged in consultations, including a Parish poll and discussions on the LNER timetable.

Developing the Local Environment

- The Town Council prioritised enhancing Keighley's appeal as a desirable place to live, work, and visit by preserving greenspaces, historic buildings, and sites.
- Collaboration with partners focused on addressing climate change and creating safer communities.
- The People's Planters project, in partnership with Bradford Council and Shipley College, empowered local communities to utilise growing spaces.
- Over 20,000 trees were planted across two sites and a community orchard was established at Guardhouse, along with three orchards in the Town Council's allotment sites.
- Litter bins were sponsored through Ward Funding, additional allotment plots were created, and refurbished benches were placed across the Parish.
- Planning applications were regularly reviewed and maintenance responsibilities were assumed for the War Memorial and boundary signs.
- The Council initiated the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and conducted a Parish-wide consultation for the new Keighley Vision 2027.
- A Service Level Agreement secured the Council's maintenance of the Town Hall Square, including the Cenotaph and green spaces.

- A Speeding Action Plan was adopted to address road safety concerns, and a Grit Bin Service with over 95 bins served the Parish during winter.

Arts & Culture

- The Town Council prioritised inclusivity in arts and culture, ensuring that everyone in Keighley had access to creative activities.
- Opportunities for talent development and showcasing were provided to tap into the town's rich pool of talent.
- The Downstairs Project offered free workshops and activities, collaborating with community benefit groups and social care organisations.
- The Project's Gallery exhibited artwork, while the Community Showcase allowed supported groups to promote their causes during Yorkshire Day celebrations.
- Artist in residence services were also offered.

Question Time

The Town Mayor asked if there were any questions:

One member of the public asked about a question regarding the Council's continued support for Keighley Pride. The Town Mayor responded to confirm that this support would continue.

4. Close of Meeting

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending and introduced the "Community Showcase" which featured organisations and groups that Keighley Town Council have funded or supported over the past year.

Signed..... Date.....