

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, STOCKSBRIDGE**  
**ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. A Law (Chair), Cllrs. K Davis, M Whittaker, J Staniforth, C Wilson

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1. Minutes of the Last Annual Assembly

Minutes of the last Annual Assembly held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 were taken as read.

Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. M Whittaker and

RESOLVED:- That the minutes be agreed and signed by the Chair.

2. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

3. Chair's Report

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R Crowther and J Grocutt.

The Chair read out the following report:

I am so proud and grateful for the opportunity of being the Mayor of Stocksbridge for 2024/2025. I have lived in Deepcar for some 65 years since leaving Barnsley as a young teenager. My two children Nicola and Mark, we're brought up in this exceptionally wonderful valley. No doubt a few of you remember them from your school days! During my year, I've seen at first hand the strength of our special local community and the unbelievable number of local people involved in local community activities and enterprises.

The support of last year's Mayor, Cllr Mark Whittaker has been invaluable, as has been the support of the Deputy Mayor. Initially Cllr Julie Wood, who regrettably had to stand down for personal reasons, and successfully followed by Cllr Keith Davis. Both of them gave me great support during the year, and I particularly wish Keith well next year.

I would particularly like to thank the Council Clerks Teresa Bisatt and until her recent retirement Karen Lindley. Karen has held this role for over 20 years and was a true professional, a pleasure to work with and deserves a super retirement. I would also like to welcome Helen Jolley to this role, and wish her well.

Like many of my predecessors I was invited to the local schools. I particularly recall the honour of judging our annual Christmas Card competition. An unbelievably difficult task with over 200 entries. I then had the pleasure of going to the schools and presenting prizes to the winner and nine runners up.

I have had the brilliant opportunity of attending and in some cases judging Easter bonnet competitions, summer fetes/gala's, dog show at the Inman Pavilion. I had the pleasure of opening the new florist shop in Fox Valley, Bolsterstone Fayre, and the newly relocated Bridge Charity Shop, which has served this valley well for some 20 years – among many other events.

It was also a pleasure to attend the 25th Anniversary of Happy Hands - a great achievement added to them being presented with a quality award.

Remembrance Sunday during my year held a special significance as it was the 100th Anniversary of the annual event. I had the great honour of working with our local British Legion Committee in what transpired as a superb, unbelievably well attended event. With helpful funding from your Town Council of the large individual poppies, each one personally dedicated to a local hero who sadly lost their lives in the last two world wars, displayed on lamp posts throughout our magnificent valley. I also had the honour of representing the Town Council at a similar event at Ecclesfield.

Regarding funding, this year Stocksbridge Town Council has been delighted to announce an increase in its support for Stocksbridge Leisure Centre. This decision reflects our commitment to strengthening the longstanding strategic partnership that has greatly benefited the Leisure Centre and the community. We look forward to continuing this collaborative journey, enhancing the Leisure Centre's offerings and promoting the well-being of all our residents.

Our annual Elderly Citizens Christmas Party was again a well-attended event. This year I had the honour of opening as well as my usual role of calling out the bingo numbers, ably assisted by my colleague Cllr Richard Crowther. I also officially opened the relaunch of STEP at the Venue. This included a successful Community event.

To complete my year I had the pleasure of working with local friends and colleagues at Stocksbridge and Upper Don Tenants and Residents Association, and Stocksbridge at War, to have successful Victory in Europe 80th Celebration events.

A busy year, that I've thoroughly enjoyed. Apologies if I've forgotten to mention some of the other events I attended on behalf of the Town Council.

Finally, I wish the new Mayor, Keith Davis, and the Deputy Mayor, all the best for the year to come.

4. Open Session

No questions were raised.

5. Annual Citizens Awards and Presentations

The Chair welcomed recipients of the Town Council's Annual Citizens Award 2025 and was pleased to congratulate and present them with certificates and cheques as recognition for their valuable contributions to the local community.

Chair

The meeting then closed.