

MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 23rd MAY 2018

HELD AT LANSDOWN HALL, STROUD

Present:

- Mayor: Kevin Cranston
- Councillors: John Bloxsom, Alice Campbell, Rob Green, Camilla Hale, Sarah Lunnon, John Marjoram, Margaret Poulton, Vanessa Price, Alan Sage, Lucas Shoemaker and Chas Townley
- Town Council officers: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk); Marianne Sweet (Communications contractor plus photographer); Kate Montgomery (Deputy Clerk), Sheral Gardner (Assistant Clerk), Shelley Dyte (Administration Officer) and Kim Cowan (Project Officer)
- Stroud residents and award recipients

Minutes

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Councillors present were introduced.

The Mayor presented the Annual report for 2017-18.

A question from the public was raised concerning the provision of housing for homeless people.

Presentations

A presentation was received from Stroud Youth Forum who spoke about their activities, including plans an event at the Sub Rooms, and answered questions on a range of topics including Votes at 16 and Brexit.

A presentation was received from Stroud High School VI formers on their visit to the Commission on the Status of Women Convention in New York.

The Mayor thanked the speakers for sharing their experiences and congratulated them on the quality of their presentations.

Awards

The Mayor presented the following awards:

Environment:

Runners up:

Gail Bradbrook – for environmental campaigning

Marling School Eco- Committee – for improving the schools environment and reducing waste.

Winner:

Erik Wilkinson – Erik Wilkinson is the lead director of Transition Stroud. Erik's has worked tirelessly for many years as a volunteer in his fair, inclusive and warm-

hearted way, Erik has been driving Transition Stroud forward to build stronger foundations so all the volunteers receive the support they need. His encouragement and confidence in one of the volunteers persuaded them to set up the Repair Café which has now prevented hundreds of items from going into landfill and has been featured on Radio Gloucestershire many times. Erik's commitment to making anyone feel they are a valued member of the organisation is reflected in the strapline he composed: 'Anyone can be involved – everyone is needed'.

Trader:

Runners Up:

David and Sandra Ireland – Time After Time

Simon Vincent – Trading Post

Winner:

Mary Shiner – for long service to the community at Shambles market (over 30 years). Mary is a well-known Stroud personality, very kind and is always cheerful.

Young Person:

Runners up:

Helen, Laurie and Isabella – Stroud Valley Guide Group – for being excellent role models and giving their time to younger members.

Stroud High delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women – for promoting and raising awareness of human rights and gender equality issues.

Ellie Tripp – for her charity work

Winner:

Alfie Stephens – Access Bike. Alfie has been running Access Bike for 18 months and it is making a brilliant contribution to local youth social, health and well-being and building a more cohesive youth community. Up to 25 young people every day go to the workshop, including disabled and disadvantaged young people and huge numbers of volunteer hours are making cycling more accessible to the whole community. Alfie runs the workshop with great humour, maturity and insight, supporting everyone to participate, modelling positive relationships, giving people space and opportunities to develop their own skills including in running mini-enterprises within the workshop. There is no doubt that without Alfie the place would be good but not exceptional.

Community:

Runners up:

Street Pastors – for their dedication, empathy and courage

Sue Griffiths – for community service to Middle of the Hill Residents Association

Winner:

Pamela Tawse – for long service and dedication to Uplands Care Service, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. A co-founder and treasurer of UCS providing essential day care for elders in the community. Pamela has tirelessly dedicated herself to raising grants and funds to keep the service going. She also founded the Good Companions Club.

Special Social Cohesion Award:

Runners up:

Socialite Café – for coming to the aid of a homeless person and introducing a suspended coffee scheme to support people in need.

Sue Tomlinson, Independence Trust – for supporting residents who suffer from mental ill health and reducing the stigma attached to it.

Winner:

Martyn Edwards, Chicken Peri Peri – for offering free meals and drinks to the homeless during a very cold spell.

Design (chosen by Stroud Civic Society):

Winner:

Fone Revive We are pleased to nominate Fone Revive for the award. Everyone was disappointed at the appearance of their bright green and orange plastic shop front in a prominent position in the High Street but to our delight all that has been changed. A pleasing white wooden shop front appeared with attractive lettering on the fascia board.

The new front fitted in well with other shop fronts and is an attractive addition to the streetscape.

We wish to recognise the goodwill of the owners in making this alteration and we hope that the shop has a long and successful stay in our High Street.

Mayors Award:

Winners: Cotswold Canals Trust and Stroud District Council

For successful completion of the restoration of the canal between Brimscombe and Stonehouse; and for securing funding for the next phase *Stroudwater Navigation Connected* which will connect Stroud to the national canals network