

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

HELD AT THE OLD TOWN HALL, STROUD

### **Present:**

- Mayor: Kevin Cranston
- Councillors: Geoffrey Andrews, Alice Campbell, Paul Flinn, Rob Green, Steve Hurrell, Val Lock, Mike Lovell, Rachel Lyons, John Marjoram, Margaret Poulton, Vanessa Price, Susie Roberts
- Town Council officers: Helen Bojaniwska (Town Clerk); Marianne Sweet (Communications contractor plus photographer); Julie Prockter; Lilia Zaretskaia; and Mike Dando
- 15 Stroud residents and award recipients

Apologies received from Deputy Mayor Amanda Moriarty, Hugh Barton and Leonora Rozee.

### **Minutes**

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

The Mayor presented the Annual report for 2015-16. No questions from the public were received.

Camilla Hale presented an illustrated talk on the *Shaping the Heart of Stroud Neighbourhood Development Plan. What is and what difference will it make?*

The Mayor presented the following awards:

### **Environment:**

Winner: Hugh Barton, Camilla Hale & Leonora Rozee for their hugely important contribution to the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which will impact the town for decades to come. Although the plan is not yet in place they should be honoured anyway for the vision and commitment to this community through relentless work and attention to detail.

### **Trader:**

Winner: Carphone Warehouse. The staff in this shop provide superb customer service and are a credit to the town. They take the time to listen to their customers' needs and offer products and services to meet them, unlike many of the other chains who just try to sell you as many extras as they can. All of the staff are friendly, caring and welcoming.

### **Young Person:**

Winner: Anne Townsend In the past 12 months Anne has completed her Business Admin apprenticeship at Stroud College with The Door and has successfully transferred into a part-time Fundraising Administrator role. She repeatedly goes above and beyond the scope of her role, and

has contributed massively to the growth of the volunteer base, business network and fundraising capabilities. Despite being just 21 she is now able to recruit and inspire teams of volunteers for activities like Street Collections and PR events at Sainsbury's. She oversaw much of the Christmas Presence concert in St Laurence Church in December, creating an amazing Christmas Celebration of music for the community. She is involved in other community projects and charities in her own time - helping out with activities in her church (Stroud Methodists) as well as with Marah. She is on the management committee for the Stroud Family Fun Day, and has just started providing volunteer admin support 2 mornings per week for the Gloucestershire Mini-Bus Scheme. On top of all that, she bakes cakes for The Door staff every Friday!

Runners up: Sam Beard Sam is a volunteer and fundraiser for Allsorts and lives in Stroud. On Saturday he is running for 12 hours straight to raise funds and awareness. He has worked tirelessly in the last few years to lose weight and change young people's attitudes towards fitness after being obese himself. He helps at lots of the Stroud sports clubs and supports the young people of the town.

Charlotte Bignell One of the founders of the Stroud Town Youth Forum, representing it on Stroud District Youth Council, which she has now been elected Chairperson.

### **Community:**

Winners: Stroud Fringe Festival For service to the community for the way the team reinvented the Fringe Festival.

Runners up:

Philip Booth and Stroud Community TV: Philip has done a brilliant service to Stroud by setting this up and running it. There are more than 2000 local films linked from the website.

Stroud District Special Constables: The Stroud Local Policing Area has 24 Special Constables who provide a professional and committed service in the communities they serve, and valuable support to their regular colleagues.

Together, these men and women dedicate their free time, on top of their regular jobs and busy lives, policing the local area and by doing so make a huge contribution to delivering the Police and Crime Plan.

Special Constables play an important role within the police service providing efficient and effective policing to support the achievement of force priorities contributing to community safety and are integral to the future of policing. 2015 saw some fantastic results from the Special Constabulary, who have provided record hours in supporting policing in the local area.

**Special Community Award:**

Winner: Refugee Aid Stroud Nominated by the Mayor for the way this organisation have galvanised community efforts to support Syrian refugees, including the pop-up shop and art auction.

**Mayors Award:**

Winner: HfT - Future Clean Car washing team In recognition of the employment support that HfT provide and the excellent, environmentally friendly service provided by the team at Brunel Mall.