



Ashington Town Council
Town Hall
65 Station Road
Ashington Northumberland NE63 8RX
Town Clerk: Mike Slaughter
Tel: (01670) 624520 / 624521
E-mail: mikeslaughter@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Annual Meeting held at 7:00pm on Monday
22 May 2017, at the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Station Road, Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Victor Bridges	Marjorie Chambers
Nicola Chambers	Avril Chisholm (Chair)
Matthew Cuthbert	Stephen Fenwick
Brian Gallacher	Lynne Grimshaw
Lawrence Henderson	Liam Lavery
Ken Parry	Mark Purvis
Ely Turnbull	Bob Walkinshaw
Tom Wilson	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Stephen Humphrey – Funding & Projects Officer
Sharon Parmley – Snr. Admin. Officer (minute taking)
Members of the Public – 1

C17/690 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr. Chisholm thanked members and staff for their support during her own term of office as Chair and gave a last report on events she had attended as Mayor of Ashington including:

- International Women's day at St Mary's Church Morpeth Emily Davidson commemoration,
- Woodhorn Museum - Steelworkers Art Exhibition,
- School Debate on behalf of pupils from Josephine Butler Academy held in the Council Chamber,
- Opening of Wansbeck Music Festival at King Edward's High School, Morpeth,
- Celebration of Women's Day 150th Anniversary Event,
- Alligator Club, Easter Event and Disco,

- Wansbeck Music Festival Winners' Concert at St George's Church, Morpeth, a Town Council bursary presentation was also made to Tonya Reed, a brilliant local musician,
- Workers Memorial Day Event,
- A YMCA Play portraying the history of the YMCA,
- Holy Sepulchre Church Concert, Male Voice Choir,
- Brownies litter-pick evening, Salvation Army Hall, Ashington.

Cllr Chisholm invited nominations for the position of Chair of the Town Council.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Mark Purvis be duly elected as Chair of Ashington Town Council for the Civic Year 2017/18.

Cllr Purvis, as newly elected Chair, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form and assumed the Chair.

C17/691 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Chair invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Town Council.

Resolved:

That: Cllr. Liam Lavery be duly elected as Vice-Chair of Ashington Town Council for the Civic Year 2017/18.

Cllr.L.Lavery signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form.

C17/692 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Jim Lang, Kris Lavery and Pauline Thompson.

C17/693 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of interest from Members present.

C17/694 5. REVISION OF COUNCIL STANDING ORDERS

The Town Clerk advised members of the requirement to formally review the Council's Standing Orders in order to give effect to the Town Council's proposed structural proposals. Members were reminded that the Council wished to rename the title of Chair to Business Chair, to replace the Mayor with the new position of Civic Head of Ashington and to establish one main standing committee to be titled Finance and General Services Committee.

Resolved:

- (a) That the revision of the Standing Orders be approved and that the following amendments be noted:**
 - (i) That the position of Chair of the Council be re-named Business Chair of the Council**
 - (ii) That the position of Vice-Chair of the Council be re-named Vice-Business Chair of the Council**
 - (iii) That the entitlement of the position of Business Chair and Vice-Business Chair of the Council to the style of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s245(6) be forgone and the titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor be revoked with immediate effect**
 - (iv) That the new positions of Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head of Ashington be created with immediate effect,**
 - (v) That the Town Clerk be requested to draft a Civic Protocol for the role and duty of the new Civic Head and Deputy Civic Head**
 - (vi) That the Town Clerk be delegated to make the required amendments to the Civic Regalia of the Town Council, the cost to be met in accordance the Financial Regulations of the Town Council**
 - (vii) That in accordance with Standing Order 54 "Committees & Sub-Committees", the Council establishes one main standing Committee to be named Finance & General Services Committee.**

C17/695 6. ELECTION OF CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGON

The Town Clerk informed members that as titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor had been revoked and a Civic Head of Ashington and a Deputy Civic Head of Ashington, were now to be duly appointed.

The Business Chair invited nominations for the new position of Civic Head of Ashington.

Resolved:

That Cllr Victor Bridges be duly elected as Civic Head of Ashington for the Civic Year 2017/18.

C17/696 7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGON

The Business Chair invited nominations for the new position of Deputy Civic Head of Ashington.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Marjorie Chambers be duly elected as Deputy Civic Head of Ashington for the Civic Year 2017/18.

C17/697 8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Resolved:

That Cllr. Stephen Fenwick be duly elected as Leader of Ashington Town Council.

C17/698 9. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY COUNCIL LEADER

Resolved:

That Cllr. Kris Lavery be duly elected as Deputy Leader of Ashington Town Council.

C17/699 10. NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Further to questions from members, the Town Clerk advised that under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act, 1972 the Town Council had powers to arrange for the discharge of its functions by a Committee, Sub-Committee or an individual Officer of the Authority.

The Leader of Council stated that the new committee structure of one main standing committee allowed for a more streamlined model. The Leader stated that meetings were to be held monthly, with any urgent business going onto Full Council meetings or special meetings arranged to accommodate required timescales.

Resolved:

That the new single Committee Structure be formally approved and adopted.

C17/700 11. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Leader requested that this item be deferred until a later meeting of the Town Council.

C17/701 12. DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The Town Clerk circulated a copy of the draft Final Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 and informed members that the Council's appointed Internal Auditor was currently undertaking the year- end audit work required as part of the statutory return.

Members were informed that the Council's 2016/17 Final Accounts would be circulated on completion of the internal audit and that consideration of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements would require formal approval at the next meeting of the Full Council scheduled for Tuesday 13 June 2017. The Town Clerk informed members that the Internal Auditors report would also be submitted prior to that date for Full Council consideration.

C17/702 13. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for 7:00pm, Tuesday 13 June 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm.