

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Annual Meeting held at 7:00pm on Thursday 20 May 2021 at YMCA Northumberland in Ashington.

PRESENT:

Councillors:	Mark Purvis (Chair)	Eleanor Armstrong
	Caroline Ball	Michelle Brannigan
	Victor Bridges	Louis Brown
	Vicky Brown	Marjorie Chambers
	Avril Chisholm	Matthew Cuthbert
	Lynne Grimshaw	Lawrence Henderson
	Liam Lavery	Sophie Robinson
	Pauline Thompson	John Tully
	Bob Walkinshaw	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Slaughter – Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Members of the Public – 0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Town Clerk reported that a member of the public had submitted a written question enquiring whether the Town Council would be seeking to work towards the production of a Neighbourhood Plan as a way of ensuring that the wishes of residents on development matters would have to be properly and statutorily considered by Northumberland County Council.

A supplementary question had also been submitted to request that the Town Council resist piecemeal changes to parking restrictions until a comprehensive car parking and road review had been completed that took full recognition of the impact of the planned rail and Portland Park developments.

The Leader of the Town Council undertook to respond on behalf of the Town Council and to reassure the resident that the production of a Neighbourhood Plan and working closely with representative groups and residents on the process, remained a priority. The Leader of the Council informed members that the emergence of a new Town Board and a developing relationship with business groups and representatives would see the town much better placed to move the work forward. There was recognition that the lack of formally recognised and represented community organisations had hampered this work in recent years.

The Town Council agreed that there was a very real need to look again at car parking in a strategic and town-wide basis; there was recognition that schemes that had been agreed by Northumberland County Council did not best meet the need of shoppers, businesses, visitors and residents.

C21/937 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Jim Lang.

C21/938 2. ELECTION OF BUSINESS CHAIR.

Cllr. Purvis thanked members and staff for their work and support during his term of office as Business Chair and reported that it had been an unprecedented and extremely challenging year due to the Covid pandemic.

Cllr. Purvis invited nominations for the position of Business Chair of the Town Council.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Mark Purvis be duly elected as Business Chair of Ashington Town Council for the Civic Year 2021/22.

Cllr. Purvis signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form and assumed the Chair.

C21/939 3. ELECTION OF BUSINESS VICE-CHAIR.

Cllr. Purvis invited nominations for the position of Vice Business Chair of the Town Council.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Marjorie Chambers be duly elected as Vice Business Chair of Ashington Town Council for the Civic Year 2021/22.

C21/940 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.

There were no disclosures of interest from members present.

C21/941 5. ELECTION OF THE CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGTON.

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

Resolved:

That Cllr. Pauline Thompson be duly elected as Civic Head of Ashington for the Civic Year 2021/22

C21/942 6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CIVIC HEAD OF ASHINGTON.

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

Resolved:

That Cllr. Avril Chisholm be duly elected as Deputy Civic Head of Ashington for the Civic Year 2021/22.

C21/943 7. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

Resolved:

That Cllr. Matthew Cuthbert be duly elected as Leader of Ashington Town Council.

C21/944 8. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL.

Resolved:

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

C21/945 9. DATE, TIME AND VENUE FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Full Council was scheduled for Tuesday 29 June 2021, time and venue to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm.