



Northampton TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MEETING – 5TH SEPTEMBER 2022 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 6PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER NORTHAMPTON GUILDHALL

PRESENT: **CHAIR:** Councillor S Hibbert (Deputy Town Mayor)
COUNCILLORS: J Alwahabi, R Ashraf, J Birch, M Brown, N Choudary, R Connolly, G Eales, T Eales
M Hallam, J Fuchshuber, E Haque, K Holland-Delamere, F Ismail, P Joyce, A Kilbride, J Lane
L Marriott, T Miah, B Purser, C Russell, D Soan, A Stevens and W Tarasiewicz
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) & Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillor D Meredith (Northampton Town Mayor).

10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENT TIME

There were no questions or statements submitted.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interests were submitted.

12. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Mayor made attendees aware that the Mayor's Civic Service would take place on 25th September 2022 at All Saints Church and requested that they be in attendance. In addition to the COVID-19 Reflection Service that has been organised in cooperation with the Multi-Faith Forum and that attendees should receive invitations shortly.

The Deputy Mayor noted that the recent election of the new Prime Minister and commented that regardless of political affiliation, we hoped that she succeeded at what was a challenging time. The Deputy Mayor highlighted that he had attended the centenary anniversary dinner for the Northampton Town Football Club and wished the team a successful season.

13. TO AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING HELD ON 16TH MAY 2022

RESOLVED: The Deputy Mayor was authorised to sign the minutes of the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making held on 16th May 2022.

14. TO RECEIVE AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE DECISIONS AS DETAILED IN THE MINUTES OF THE UNDER MENTIONED COMMITTEES

(a) **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 30th May 2022 be received, approved and adopted.

(b) In presentation of the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee, Councillor L Marriott made attendees aware of items that had been resolved in relation to the opening of a deposit fund with CCLA

to gain interest on funds as this was not provided within the main Unity Bank account. Furthermore, Councillor L Marriott explained the intention to develop a long-term investment strategy.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 6th June 2022 be received, approved and adopted.

- (c) In the presentation of the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting, Councillor J Birch highlighted to the Council the various community groups it had funded via the Community Grants Scheme and Councillor Community Fund for example the Northampton Association for Youth Clubs, Wall Games and Youth Summit who had received Community Grants to support their projects that ran successfully. Councillor J Birch advised that Councillors had spent £27,000 in the 2022-23 financial year supporting projects within their respective wards moreover, £53,675 had been spent through the Community Grants Schemes that has provided great investment into projects for Northampton Town. Councillor J Birch stated to attendees that there had been some concerns with time sensitive grant applications being delayed payment and that the Grants Sub-Committee had been delegated powers via the Community Services Committee to consider and issue payment for grants that were time sensitive to enable the project to go-ahead as planned.

Councillor J Birch thanked the Events and Projects team on their commitment and work on Town Council supported events such as Northampton Pride, Carnival, Party in the Park, the Town Festival and Show. Councillor C Russell congratulated all those involved with the events across the Town and highlighted how the Town Council had grown with demonstrable benefits to the Town and how the Town Council had developed from its inception in 2021.

Councillor J Birch also made attendees aware that the design for the Memorial Dedicated to Victims of the Pandemic had been dwindled down to two and hopes the final design be confirmed shortly. In addition, they added that work had taken place in partnership with Northants Police to research where the two Town Council funded Bleed Kit cabinets would be installed and the ten kits across wards.

Reference was made to twinning and the fact that the link with Poitiers had been not so strong recently with the French town appearing to not engage as it once did. It was also commented that a virtual twinning with Northampton Massachusetts should be investigated.

In response to a question the Town Clerk explained that Twinning had been passed over on the formation of the town council and was the town council's remit. It was noted that the boundaries were different but that the principle of twinning remained.

It was suggested that the Twining Association be consulted on the current arrangements with the twin towns as Poitiers had sent representatives to TwinFest.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 13th June 2022 be received, approved and adopted.

- (d) In presentation of the Environmental Services minutes, Councillor A Stevens highlighted the creation of Bloom Grants that provides community groups up-to £200 that would be deducted from Councillors' Community Funds for creating or renewing greens spaces within their wards.

Councillor Soan explained that during the Environmental Services meeting the Climate Change plan was discussed and that the Mayor's car was a potential issue that could be looked at . The Town Clerk made attendees aware that the Mayor's vehicle was now formally within the ownership of the Town Council and that the Mayor's car and future council vehicles more generally could be considered when the committee considers its position statements at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 27th June 2022 be received, approved and adopted.

(e) **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25th July 2022 be received, approved and adopted.

(f) **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th August 2022 be received, approved and adopted.

15. REQUEST FROM THE NORTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL CHURCH CHARITY FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL TO APPOINT TWO TRUSTEES

The Deputy Mayor explained that The town council had been approached by the Northampton Municipal Church Charity Board asking the council to nominate two representatives to join the board of trustees. The Town Clerk added that the charity met every 4-6 weeks and agendas were circulated prior to these meeting, in addition the board assisted in the assessment for individual and community group grants.

RESOLVED: It was decided through nomination that Councillor K Holland-Delamere be appointed to the Northampton Municipal Church Charity Board of Trustees.

16. CONCLUSION OF ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Town Clerk explained that PKF Littlejohn had concluded the external audit of Northampton Town Council's accounts and had raised no issues. The Town Clerk added that the relevant documents and notices would be added to the website shortly in line with the requirements.

NOTED

MEETING CONCLUDED 6:55PM