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**FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20TH MARCH 2023 AT 6PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Meredith (Town Mayor)

 Councillor S Hibbert (Deputy Town Mayor)

**COUNCILLORS:**  J Alwahabi, R Ashraf, J Birch, M Brown, N Choudary, M Hallam, J Fuchshuber, E Haque, K Holland-Delamere, P Joyce, A Kilbride, J Lane, L Marriott, T Miah, B Purser,

D Soan and W Tarasiewicz

**OFFICERS:** Mr S Carter (Town Clerk) and Miss F Barford (Democratic Services Officer)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** One Member of the Public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Connolly, Ismail, Russell and Stevens

1. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENT TIME**

No public statements were submitted

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interests submitted.

1. **MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor expressed thanks for those who attended his Civic Gala that enabled him to raise a further £2,000 to his chosen charities St Vincent De Paul’s Society and the Army Benevolent Fund. The Town Mayor issued his gratitude to the Mayoral Officer for her continued effort and her success in organising the Civic Gala.

The Town Mayor highlighted that his Mayoress had planted a rowan tree in Abington Park the previous week and again thanked all those in attendance. The Town Mayor continued he would host a Curry Night on 24th April 2023 to further fund raise and invitations would be sent shortly via the Mayoral Officer.

The Town Mayor stated since the start of his Mayoralty he had now raised £11,170.50.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** The Town Mayor was authorised to sign the minutes of the Council meeting held 23rd January 2023 as a true and accurate record.

The Town Clerk advised he received a response from His Majesty’s Home Office regarding the motion passed under item 34 of the Council meeting held on 23rd January 2023 and that copies of the response had been circulated.

The response from His Majesty’s Home Office regarding the motion on consultation prior to the booking of hotels in Northampton for asylum seekers was **NOTED**.

**RESOLVED:** The Town Mayor was authorised to sign the minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 15th February 2023 as a true and accurate record.

1. **TO RECEIVE AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE DECISIONS AS DETAILED IN THE MINUTES OF THE UNDER MENTIONED COMMITTEES**
2. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 6th February 2023 be received, approved, and adopted.
3. **RESOLVED**: That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held on 27th February 2023 be received, approved and adopted.
4. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Community Services Committee held on 27th February 2023 be received, approved and adopted.
5. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 1st March 2023 be received, approved and adopted.

1. **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 13th March 2023 be received, approved and adopted.
2. **ARMED FORCES COVENANT – TO CONSIDER WHETHER NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL SHOULD SIGN UP TO THE ARMED FORCES COVENANT**

A report was circulated with the agenda recommending that the Council agree in principle to sing the military covenant. It was highlighted that there were seven themes within the Armed Forces Covenant and that the covenant was built around all or some of these themes. The covenant was tailored for each organisation, so for example the Town Council already did lots along the themes of Civic and Promotion, however it was unlikely that the housing would be applicable.

A Councillor stated he had attended the Headlands Veterans Association and highlighted the great work and assistance they provide. A Councillor stated there were many provisions entailed within the Armed Forces Covenant and the Policy and Finance Committee could review these in depth and provide them with further substance.

**RESOLVED:** That in principle Northampton Town Council sign-up to the Armed Force Covenant and that it be referred to the Policy and Finance Committee to review the items outlined within the commitment.

1. **COUNCILLOR NOMINATION TO SERVE ON THE NORTHAMPTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

A report was circulated with the agenda asking for a Council representative to join the twinning committee. It was noted that as part of the Mayoralty, the Mayor was president of the Twinning Association

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Marriott be nominated as a representative to the Northampton Twinning Association for the remainder of the Council term.

1. **PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 23/24**

The Town Mayor explained a proposed schedule of meetings was enclosed within the agenda and requested if Councillors had any objections.

The proposed schedule of meetings for 2023-2024 was **NOTED** and **AGREED**.

**MEETING CONCLUDED**: **6**:**30PM**