

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 26TH JUNE 2023

THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2023 IN THE COURT ROOM OF THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillor S Hibbert (Northampton Town Mayor);

Councillor P Joyce (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS: J Birch, M Brown, R Connolly, G Eales, T Eales, J Fuchshuber, E Haque, K Holland-Delamere, F Ismail, J Lane, A Kilbride, L Marriott, T Miah, D Soan and W Tarasiewicz

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: S Carter (Town Clerk) and C Maclellan (Finance Officer)

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Purser, Russell, Stevens, Hallam, Choudary, Alwahabi and Meredith.

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11. APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT AND ANNUAL RETURN (AGAR)

Councillor L Marriott explained to attendees that the AGAR was enclosed within the agenda for this Full Council meeting. The AGAR was legally required to be completed annually at the end of the Financial Year by Local Councils. Northampton Town Council's AGAR was independently verified by external auditors from Northamptonshire County Association of Local Councils, Internal Audit Service (Northants CALC IAS) who provided good feedback. The Auditor was pleased with the prominence of Northampton Town Council's financial workings, risk assessments, policies and internal controls implemented so far. In addition to individual checks completed by members of the Accounts Sub-Committee.

The comments by the internal auditor regarding the lack of internal control between May and October conducted by councillors was highlighted. In response the Finance Officer and Clerk highlighted the through internal controls in place and that they felt this comment was a little unfair. This period coincided with holidays and were in addition to the number of internal controls that take place at the monthly Accounts Sub-Committee meeting. A new internal controls process had been introduced in October which would be circulated by email to all councillors for information.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance & Accountability Return be received, approved and that the Mayor be authorised to sign it.

12. TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

The Final Accounts were presented to the Council by Councillor L Marriott. Cllr Marriott highlighted that they had been scrutinised auditor prior to this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Final Accounts for Financial Year 2022 - 2023 be received, approved and adopted.

RESOLVED: That the Accounting Statement as detailed on Page 5 of the AGAR be approved, accepted and that the Mayor be authorised to sign it.

13. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DIRECT DEBITS

Circulated with the agenda was a list of council direct debits and subscriptions.

RESOLVED: That the subscriptions and direct debits for the year be approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.20pm