

## FULL COUNCIL – 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2024

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 6PM IN THE GUILDHALL'S COUNCIL CHAMBER, NORTHAMPTON

**PRESENT:** Councillor S Hibbert (Town Mayor)  
Councillor P Joyce (Deputy Mayor)

**COUNCILLORS:** J Alwahabi, R Ashraf, J Birch, N Choudary, R Connolly, J Fuchshuber, E Haque, M Hallam, K Holland-Delamere F Ismail, A Kilbride, L Marriott, D Meredith, T Miah, B Purser, C Russell A Steven and W Tarasiewicz

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

**OTHERS:** Miss L Cox (Mayoress), Canon Michael Webber (Mayor's Chaplain) and Mr Clive

### 33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors G Eales, M Brown, D Soan and J Lane.

### 34. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENT TIME:

No public statements or questions were submitted.

### 35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hallam declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 41 & 42 as he was a member of West Northamptonshire Council's cabinet and had voted on WNC's Office Optimisation Plan.

### 36. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor stated he had attended many engagements especially across December 2023 where he visited hospitals and care homes across the festive period. He explained he held a Charity Curry Night at Mewar Hevali that raised an additional £800 for his chosen charity, Spencer Contact and expressed his gratitude to Councillors who had attended.

The Mayor highlighted there would be the Mayor's Civic Service and a Mayor's Charity Dinner scheduled to take place in the coming months and invitations would be issued shortly.

### 37. TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

a) The minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

**RESOLVED:** The Mayor was authorised to sign minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**RESOLVED:** The Mayor was authorised to sign minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

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

**POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

A. POLICY & FINANCE – 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Policy & Finance Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 be approved and adopted.

B. POLICY & FINANCE – 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved and adopted.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES – 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved and adopted.

D. EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY SERVICES – 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved and adopted.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

E. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved and adopted.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

F. PLANNING – 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved and adopted.

G. PLANNING – 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023 be approved and adopted.

H. PLANNING – 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved and adopted.

**39. TO SET THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR**

Councillor Marriott proposed the budget to the Council as outlined within the report and that there be no increase to Band D Council Tax Precept. He added that pleased to maintain the precept at the same level whilst residents experience the cost of living crisis.

A Councillor commented the precept should be reduced to assist residents further with the cost of living crisis. A Councillor explained the amount held in reserves were due to being a newly established Council and the funds would be used to maintain the Council's expenditure and enable us not the raise the precept.

A Councillor raised he would not support the budget this evening due to the large amount of funds held within reserves and welcomes that earmarked reserves would be utilised in the next financial year. He continued to highlight, the success of Northampton in Bloom, Councillor Community Fund scheme and the success of the Freedom of the Town Ceremony that took place in the community rather than the Guildhall.

A Councillor welcomed and thanked the Councillor for the positive comments, he continued to state he recognised the benefit of the Freedom Ceremony being held at the Cinch Stadium, Franklin Gardens.

A Councillor stated there has been great improvement and benefit from the work of the Town Council since its inception especially within the Eastern Wards. He continued that it would not be beneficial to reduce the precept at this moment in time.

A Councillor extended thanks to the Town Council's Officers for their work on the services provided.

A Councillor stated a benefit of the reserves would ensure the Council would be self-sufficient in a time of increasing costs.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed the vote on setting the precept and budget be recorded.

**RESOLVED:** That a budget of £2,064,077 (two million, sixty-four thousand seventy-seven) be set for financial year 2024-2025

**RESOLVED:** That a precept of £1,811,000 (one million, eight hundred eleven thousand) be requested from West Northamptonshire Council who were the precepting authority.

**RESOLVED:** That the earmarked reserves as detailed in the Budget Report enclosed in the agenda be approved.

#### RECORD OF VOTES

COUNCILLOR	VOTE ON THE PRECEPT
S HIBBERT (MAYOR)	FOR
P JOYCE (DEPUTY MAYOR)	FOR
J ALWAHABI	FOR
R ASHRAF	FOR
J BIRCH	FOR
N CHOUDARY	FOR
R CONNOLLY	FOR
J FUCHSHUBER	FOR
E HAQUE	FOR
M HALLAM	AGAINST
K HOLLAND-DELAMERE	FOR
F ISMAIL	FOR

A KILBRIDE	AGAINST
L MARRIOTT	FOR
D MEREDITH,	FOR
B PURSER	FOR
C RUSSELL	FOR
A STEVENS	FOR
W TARASIEWICZ	FOR

COUNCILLOR	VOTE ON THE BUDGET
S HIBBERT (MAYOR)	FOR
P JOYCE (DEPUTY MAYOR)	FOR
J ALWAHABI	FOR
R ASHRAF	FOR
J BIRCH	FOR
N CHOUDARY	FOR
R CONNOLLY	FOR
J FUCHSHUBER	FOR
E HAQUE	FOR
M HALLAM	AGAINST
K HOLLAND-DELAMERE	FOR
F ISMAIL	FOR
A KILBRIDE	ABSTAINED
L MARRIOTT	FOR
D MEREDITH,	FOR
B PURSER	FOR
C RUSSELL	FOR
A STEVENS	FOR
W TARASIEWICZ	FOR

#### 40. MOULTON LEYS – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Town Clerk stated the Community Governance Review and the results of the Boundary Commissioner Report recommended that Moulton Leys currently within Boothvile Ward become part of Moulton Parish Council. He continued he was advised by the Head of the Democratic Services at WNC that to contest this recommendation, the Town Council must provide evidence that Moulton Leys does wish to be retained within Northampton Town Council boundary. The Town Clerk stated there was a live consultation for the residents of Moulton Leys to gain the views of those residents.

A Councillor explained the estate was formed within the 1970's and always been considered part of Northampton rather than the much older Moulton Village. He continued that Moulton Leys had always been part of the former Northampton Borough Council and has been demonstrated by the residents their desire to remain within the Town Council's boundary.

A Councillor commented that the Community Governance Review Board at West Northamptonshire Council had previously been known to be receptive of the view of residents and hoped the board would listen to our residents.

**41. GUILDHALL ACCOMMODATION - UPDATE AND EXTENSION OF LICENCE**

Councillor Hallam left the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk be delegated authority to extend the license to occupy the historic Guildhall until March 2025.

**42. Notice of Motion to be proposed by Cllr Birch and Seconded by Cllr Marriott that:**

Councillor Birch proposed the following motion:

*“This Council requires that WNC honour the previous decision, which was that the Guildhall be the headquarters of Northampton Town Council on a long leasehold on an internal repairing lease, made by NBC at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, and subsequently adopted by WNC in July 2021 when they resolved to capture all previous approved motions within the four previous authorities.”*

A Councillor explained Northampton Town Council was formed out of the financial mismanagement of the former Northamptonshire County and Northampton Borough Council therefore, the Government agreed that two-unitary authorities be formed and supersede their places. She continued, that if the town council was vacated our Offices would be used by the Coroner’s Support Staff and the advisors to West Northamptonshire Council’s political groups alongside, the use of the Mayor’s Parlour. She added, the cessation of the Town Council’s license to occupy would fragment the functions of the Town Council and isolate it away from the Mayoral History encapsulated within the stonework, Shield Gallery and the Great Hall.

A Councillor stated he was concerned about the loss of Northampton’s Civic history that was demonstrated within the Guildhall. He continued that South Northamptonshire Council had agreed to transfer the historic assets of South Northants to the newly formed Brackley Town Council.

A Councillor stated he was disappointed that West Northamptonshire Council would not continue the license to occupy the Historic Guildhall. A Councillor stated the Guildhall was an iconic building within Northampton where many historic events had been made and hoped that West Northamptonshire Council would change their mind. A Councillor expressed her disappointment of the decision made by West Northamptonshire Council’s cabinet most of whom do not live within Northampton.

A Councillor explained they were a member of the Shadow Executive and it was agreed under the former Borough Council that the historic Guildhall would be provided to the Northampton Town Council. He added the West Northamptonshire Council’s motion has proven the lack of trust and integrity held by the Cabinet.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed, the aforementioned motion as proposed by Councillor Birch be presented to West Northamptonshire Council.

**MEETING CONCLUDED 7:04PM**

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Councillor S.Hibbert  
Northampton Town Mayor