

## MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 6PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE GUILDHALL, 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, K Holland-Delamere, F Ismail, L Marriott, D Meredith, T Miah, A Stevens and Purser

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Ms Liz Cox (Mayoress), Mr David Peach (Macebearer) and Cannon Michael Webber (Mayor's Chaplain), Katie Evans, Matthew McNicholas

### 50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Hallam, Lane, Soan, Kilbride, Russell and Tarasiewicz

### 51. PUBLIC QUESTIONS/STATEMENT TIME

None were received or submitted.

### 52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

### 53. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor explained he had attended 295 engagements and events so far, this Civic Year. He wished Mr Steve Scarbrook from Spencer Contact every success in his cycle marathon from Lands End in aid of the charity. The Mayor stated this would be his final Full Council meeting of his Mayoral Year and expressed gratitude from the support of his Mayoress, Ms Liz Cox, Mr Dave Peach, the Councillor and Officer that had supported him.

### 54. TO RECEIVE AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

**RESOLVED:** The Chair was authorised to sign amended minutes of the previous council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

### 55. TO RECEIVE AND WHERE APPROPRIATE ADOPT THE DECISIONS AS DETAILED IN THE MINUTES OF THE UNDERMENTIONED COMMITTEES

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

##### A. COMMUNITY SERVICES – 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were presented, were approved and the recommendations therein be adopted.

#### PLANNING COMMITTEE

##### B. PLANNING – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2024

Councillor Haque explained his name was not included within the present list.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 were presented, were approved and the recommendations therein be adopted.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

### **C. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES – 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

Councillor Stevens in presentation of the aforementioned minutes, explained the deadline to fund the Student Challenge had surpassed.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were approved and the recommendations therein be adopted.

### **56. RECIEVE UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Mayor highlighted West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) had launched a consultation on their website regarding the Community Governance Review (CGR) and requested Councillors submit their comments.

The Town Clerk explained Stage 2 of the CGR had commenced and he would report further details at the Policy & Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 however, residents within Weston Favell and Moulton Leys would be written to by WNC to gain their views on the creation of a new parish council, and in moving Moulton Leys into the Moulton PC area respectively. He added, as instructed at the last council meeting, the Town Council would issue a newsletter door-to-door to Moulton Leys residents which would highlight the consultation, among other things. This newsletter would also be available online.

A Councillor expressed disappointment that residents within the Abington Vale & Weston Favell area were to be consulted about the creation of a new parish council. The Councillor added the proposed Weston Favell village area had historically been tied to Northampton and believed there was not a large desire for a new and separate parish council and the unknown costs this could incur. The Mayor commented that all residents should be encouraged to provide their views.

A Councillor expressed if a new parish council were to be established it would result in Abington Vale & Weston Favell village being excluded from NTC services and activities including Northampton in Bloom, the Mayoralty, allotments and that it would also have implications for Bands in the Park.

Another Councillor commented, if a parish council were to be established it could prove costly to the precept payers within the proposed boundary, as a premises and staff would need to be secured and paid for.

**NOTED**

### **57. TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL FOR SPENCER WARD**

The Mayor requested nominations to fill the casual vacancy on the Council for Spencer Ward. Councillor Birch proposed that Katie Evans be co-opted onto the Council for Spencer Ward. Councillor Marriott seconded Katie Evans nomination for the vacancy. The Mayor asked for any further nominations which there were not.

Upon being invited to address the meeting Katie Evans explained she had spent majority of her adult life in Northampton and prior to this worked in local government and expressed she was happy to work cross-party for the benefit of the ward and the wider Northampton area.

**RESOLVED:** Ms Kate Evans was declared as co-opted as a member of the Council for the ward of Spencer and be summoned to the next Council meeting accordingly.

### **58. TO FILL A CASUAL VACANCY ON THE COUNCIL FOR KINGS HEATH WARD**

The Mayor requested nominations to fill the casual vacancy on the Council for Kings Heath Ward. Councillor Birch proposed that Matthew McNicholas be co-opted to the Council as a member for Kings Heath Ward. Councillor Miah seconded Matthew Nicholas' nomination. The Mayor asked for any further nominations which there were not.

Matthew McNicholas explained he'd been involved in politics since he was 15 years-old, that he was very passionate about swimming and was actively involved on the local county sport boards. He added he hoped to bring his passion into his work as a councillor.

**RESOLVED:** Matthew Nicholas was declared and co-opted as a member of the Council for the Kings Heath Ward and be summoned to the next Council meeting accordingly.

**59. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR CIVIC YEAR 2024/25**

Attached to the agenda was the calendar of meetings for 2024-25.

The Town Clerk explained that a special council meeting would have to be called later this month to approve the AGAR. In response to a question, the Town Clerk advised against approving the AGAR as part of the Annual Meeting due to the civic nature of the meeting.

**NOTED**

**MEETING CONCLUDED: 6:48PM**