

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING - 15TH MAY 2023

THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE GUILDHALL, NORTHAMPTON

PRESENT: Councillor S Hibbert (Northampton Town Mayor);

Councillor P Joyce (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS: J Birch, J Fuchshuber, M Hallam, E Haque, K Holland-Delamere, F Ismail
A Kilbride, L Marriott, D Meredith, T Miah, B Purser, C Russell and W Tarasiewicz

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: S Carter (Town Clerk), J Thorneycroft (Assistant Town Clerk), L Hawkins (Mayoral Officer), C Maclellan (Finance Officer), F Barford (Democratic Services Officer), D Peach (Macebearer), S Kennedy, L Hannam-Jones and J Haines (Events and Projects Officers).

There were approximately 20 invited guests and members of public present.

The outgoing Mayor thanked his wife and Mayoress Mrs Rona Meredith, fellow Councillors and His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for their support over his Mayoral Year. Cllr Meredith stated he was proud to serve the Town of Northampton with the Queen's Jubilee, Operation London Bridge, The King's Proclamation and Coronation. Cllr Meredith continued by thanking all of the Town Council's Officers especially Miss L Hawkins for her support over his Mayoral year.

1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Kilbride proposed that Councillor S Hibbert be elected as Town Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year 2023/24. In proposing, Cllr Kilbride stated he was proud to nominate Cllr Hibbert who was a proud a father, grandfather and Chesterfield Football Fan. In addition, Councillor Kilbride congratulated Cllr Meredith's 52nd Wedding Anniversary to his wife and Mayoress Mrs Rona Cox and their successful Mayoral year.

In seconding Cllr Hibbert's nomination, Cllr Marriott highlighted Cllr Hibbert's worthy character, his knowledge and his dedication to his ward residents both at the former Northampton Borough Council and now at Northampton Town Council.

There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED: That Cllr S Hibbert be elected as Mayor of Northampton for 2023/24.

Cllr D Meredith removed the Chains of Office and disrobed and handed them to the Macebearer. Cllr D Meredith then took his seat in the Council Chamber.

Cllr S Hibbert received the Chains of Office and robe from the Macebearer then, read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was attested by the Town Clerk. The Mayoress, Ms Liz Cox was then presented with her Chains of Office.

In response to his election the Town Mayor thanked Cllr Kilbride and Marriot for their nomination and their kind words and thanked his fellow councillors for the honour. As part of his acceptance speech the Town Mayor congratulated the outgoing Mayor Councillor Meredith on his great work and fundraising through out his Mayoral year.

The Town Mayor stated that his chosen charity was Spencer Contact who operate in Northampton providing mostly new and second-hand furniture to those in-need with no questions asked.

2. VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING MAYOR AND CONSORT

A vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor was proposed by Cllr Birch. Cllr Birch highlighted the hard work and dedication Cllr Meredith had applied to the Office of the Mayoralty through connecting with and honouring members of the Community who complete outstanding work and may have not received any acknowledgment. Cllr Birch also praised outgoing Mayoress Mrs Rona Meredith for supporting Cllr Meredith at almost all of his engagements.

Cllr Fuchshuber seconded a vote thanks to outgoing Mayor Cllr Meredith and his Mayoress Mrs Rona Meredith.

RESOLVED: That the outgoing Mayor Cllr D Meredith and his Mayoress Mrs R Meredith receive a vote of thanks from Northampton Town Council.

The outgoing Mayor and Mayoress were presented with their Past Mayor and Mayoress badges with the Mayoress also presented with a bouquet of flowers.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Birch proposed that Cllr P Joyce be elected Deputy Town May for the municipal year 2023/24. Cllr Kilbride seconded this motion.

There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED: The Cllr P Joyce be elected as Deputy Mayor for municipal year 2023/24.

Cllr Joyce received his robe and chain from the Macebearer then read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was attested to by the Town Clerk.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were submitted from Councillors Ashraf, Brown, Connolly, G Eales, Lane, Soan and Stevens.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following appointments:

- Chaplain - The Reverend Cannon Michael Webber
- Macebearer – Mr. Dave Peach
- Mayor’s Cadet - Lead Cadet Emily Horne
- Mayor’s Charity – Spencer Contact

7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: The Town Mayor was authorized to sign the minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 20th March 2023 as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

8. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Cllr Birch proposed that the report enclosed within the agenda outlining the membership of committees be adopted. Cllr Hallam seconded this motion.

RESOLVED: The following committee membership as attached be approved and adopted.

Committee Membership

Members of the Policy and Finance Committee: 14

Councillors Marriott (Chair), Joyce (Vice Chair), Alwahabi, Birch, Connolly, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, Holland-Delamere, Kilbride, Purser, Russell, Stevens and Tarasiewicz

Members of the Environmental Services Committee: 12

Councillors Stevens, (Chair), Kilbride (Deputy Chair), Ashraf, Brown, Choudary, Fuchshuber, Haque, Joyce, Meredith, Miah, Soan and Tarasiewicz

Members of the Community Services Committee: 12

Councillors Birch (Chair), Holland-Delamere (Deputy Chair), Alwahabi, Ashraf, Hallam, Hibbert, Ismail, Lane, Marriott, Miah, Russell and Soan

Members of the Planning Committee: 12

Councillors Connolly (Chair), Haque (Vice Chair), Brown, Choudary, G Eales, T Eales, Fuchshuber, Ismail, Lane, Meredith and Purser (1 vacancy)

Members of the Accounts Sub-Committee: 4

Cllrs Marriott (Chair), Birch, Hibbert and Purser

Members of the Grants Sub Committee: 4 + 1 for Environmental Grants

Cllrs Birch (Chair), Hibbert, Holland-Delamere and Russell

(Stevens for Environmental Grants)

Named substitute: Cllr Lane

Members of the Staffing Sub-Committee

Councillors Marriott (Chair) Birch (Vice Chair), Hibbert, Kilbride, Purser and Russell

Members of the Civic Matters Working Group:

Councillors Marriott (Chair), Choudary, G Eales, Hibbert (Mayor), Joyce (Deputy Mayor) and Lane

MEETING CONCLUDED: 12:03PM