

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018**

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor P Bell and Councillors Abram, Allebone, Aslam, Anslow, Bailey, Beirne, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Francis, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scanlon, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Stevenson, Walia, Ward, M Waters, V Waters, Watts and York.

**Officers present:** Mrs L Elliott, (Managing Director), Mrs B Gamble, (Director), Miss J Thomas, (Director/Monitoring Officer), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mrs S Knowles (Assistant Directors), Mr G Betts and Miss S Gibson (Mayor's Sergeant and Deputy Sergeant) and Mrs F Hubbard (Democratic Services Officer).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that an apology for absence was received from Councillor Hallam.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, the following declarations were made.

<b>Name of Councillor</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Abram	12 -Theatre management	Personal - son works at the Castle Theatre
Maguire	Planning 14/03/2018 WP/18/00012/FUL	Other - is a ward councillor and supporter of the planning application
Partridge-Underwood	12 - Theatre management	Personal - a member of his family works at the Castle Theatre

**3. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2018**

The minutes of the council meeting held on 27 February 2018 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting held on 27 February 2018 be confirmed and signed.

**4. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF 1 MARCH 2018**

The minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on 1 March 2018 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary council meeting held on 1 March 2018 be confirmed and signed.

**5. QUESTIONS/PETITIONS/REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that no questions, petitions or requests to address the meeting had been received.

**5. MINUTES TO NOTE**

The minutes of the following meetings were received to note:

Planning Committee	21 February 2018
Planning Committee	14 March 2018

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the above meetings be noted.

**6. STANDARDS ASSESSMENT SUB-COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2018**

The minutes of the standards assessment sub-committee of 9 March 2018 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the standards assessment sub-committee of 9 March 2018 be adopted.

**7. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 19 MARCH 2018**

The minutes of the development committee of 19 March 2018 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the development committee of 19 March 2018 be adopted.

**8. REPORT OF THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 21 MARCH 2018**

The minutes of the resources committee of 21 March 2018 were received.

Reference was made to minute 6 - Reserves Policy 2018-19 - and the recommendation that the policy be adopted, which on being put to the vote was declared carried.

Minute 7 - Capital Strategy for the Medium Term – and the recommendation therein, that the strategy be agreed, which on being put to the vote was declared carried.

Minute 8 - Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy 2018-19 - and the recommendation therein, which on being put to the vote was declared carried.

Minute 9 - Asset Management Policy and Strategy 2018-28 - and the recommendation therein, which on being put to the vote was declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to:

- (i) the reserves policy 2018-19;
- (ii) the capital strategy for the medium term;
- (iii) the treasury management strategy statement;
- (iv) increasing the Lloyds Bank total investment limit to £7m;
- (v) borrowing being considered as a source of financing for certain capital schemes, based on a strong business case for investment and revenue returns to cover the costs;
- (vi) the asset management policy and strategy 2018-28;
- (vii) the adoption of the minutes of the resources committee held on 21 March 2018.

## **9. REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received in relation to the review of the constitution, with the revised version being appended to the report.

The constitution working party had met on a number of occasions, along with senior officers and a local government lawyer, to identify any omissions or weaknesses in the current constitution. The constitution had been updated and agreed by the working party. The report detailed the salient changes that had been made.

The leader of the council thanked officers for their hard work on the refresh of the constitution. He acknowledged that a further review was required to address punctuation and typographical issues raised by members. He also noted that the working party had agreed that responsibility for twinning be moved from the remit of resources committee and moved to services committee. He suggested the constitution be adopted in its current form for the next municipal year and that there be one more sitting of the working group in the autumn to discuss any further changes/corrections.

The leader of the opposition considered the constitution to be a tremendous piece of work, a more user friendly helpful document and a big step forward.

It was agreed to adopt the updated constitution for the next municipal year and to reconvene the working party in the autumn to review and recommend any necessary changes.

This recommendation for approval of the constitution was proposed by Councillor Griffiths and seconded by Councillor Scarborough.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to the adoption of the constitution entitled Constitution April 2018, Version 1.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING**

There was no further business in relation to the above.

(Councillor Abram and Partridge-Underwood left the meeting during the following item having declared interests).

**11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items in accordance with section 100A(4) to the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information of the descriptions shown in schedule 12A to the Act:

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Items</b>	<b>Paragraph of Schedule 12A</b>
12	Theatre Management Contract	E3

**12. THEATRE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

The annexed circulated exempt report of the director was received in relation to the tender for the contract to manage and operate the Castle Theatre, Wellingborough.

The report detailed the tender process, which had been completed in accordance with the relevant regulations. A working group of councillors and officers had agreed the tender documentation and the leader of the council, leader of the opposition and the senior management team had carried out a scoring exercise against the tender to identify a preferred bidder, who they believed was capable of providing a good service to the current and future users of the Castle Theatre and the residents of the borough. The scrutiny of the tender included clarification questions and a visit to other theatres, both of which were satisfactory.

The leader of the council acknowledged the work of officers in bringing this project to a satisfactory conclusion and took the view that the award of the contract would be an opportunity to provide a local theatre for local people for the next 10 to 15 years.

The leader of the council proposed the recommendation that the contract for the management and operation of the Castle Theatre be awarded to Parkwood Creative Ltd. This was seconded by the leader of the opposition

who, having been part of the tender evaluation process, was satisfied that Parkwood Creative Ltd met the council's requirements and could deliver the contract.

The leader of the council proposed a recorded vote and under rule 4.1.6 (d) of the constitution and more than seven councillors seconded his request for a recorded vote on this item.

The following votes were cast:

For: Councillors Allebone, Anslow, Aslam, Bailey, Beirne, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Francis, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Morrall, Patel, Scanlon, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Stevenson, Walia, Ward, M Waters, V Waters, Watts and York (No.32);

Against: None (No.0);

Abstention: Councillors Bell (as mayor) and Councillors Abram and Partridge-Underwood (who had left the room) (No.3);

Absent: Councillor Hallam (No.1).

The motion was unanimously declared carried with 32 votes in favour.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to Parkwood Creative Ltd. being awarded the contract for the management and operation of the Castle Theatre, as detailed in the tender process.

Mayor

The mayor closed the meeting at 7.35pm.



**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 16 MAY 2018**

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor P Bell and Councillors Abram, Allebone, Aslam, Anslow, Bailey, Beirne, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Stevenson, Walia, Ward, M Waters, V Waters, Watts and York.

**Officers present:** Mrs L Elliott, (Managing Director), Miss J Thomas, (Director/Monitoring Officer), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mrs S Knowles (Assistant Directors), Mr S Whiteley, Elections Team Leader, Mr G Betts (Mayor's Sergeant) and Mrs C A Mundy (Democratic Services Officer).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Emerson, Francis and Scanlon.

**2. MINUTES SILENCE IN MEMORY OF HONORARY FREEMAN MRS E HIGGINS**

A minutes silence was held in memory of Honorary Freeman, Mrs Eileen Higgins who passed away on 13 May 2018. The Mayor informed the meeting that her funeral service would be held at Wellingborough Crematorium on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 3pm.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note that in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the council's code of conduct and the council's constitution, no declarations were made.

**4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received to update members on the current situation regarding the potential for local government reorganisation within Northamptonshire; and to also recommend that a community governance review be initiated to look at the potential for a town council for Wellingborough.

Appended to the report were the following:

Appendix 1 - Executive summary of best value report on Northamptonshire County Council;

Appendix 2 - Secretary of State's letter to district and borough councils;

Appendix 3 - Terms of reference for community governance review.

The mayor had received one request to speak from Marion Turner-Hawes who addressed the meeting about her concerns over the financial situation at Northamptonshire County Council and the knock-on effect this would have on borough and district councils and, in turn, the future of public services.

The leader of the council presented the report to the meeting.

Members discussed the report before them and expressed their concern about the situation at the county council; and that, as a result of this, the borough and district councils would suffer the consequences for many years ahead. Most considered that a town council would be a good way forward and that within this there should remain the tradition of a mayoral role. Assurances were sought that if a town council was established, careful consideration would be given to the functions that would be delegated to it, and that such town council would need to be appropriately funded and staffed. The residents of the borough needed to be kept informed of any changes that were proposed and they should be consulted accordingly.

Concern was expressed that, should a unitary authority be agreed, there would be a considerable reduction in the number of councillors which could result in a reduction in local input. If meetings were held in the day time this could prohibit working councillors from attending meetings and therefore standing for election. It was also felt that a committee system could work better than a cabinet system so that more members could be involved in major decisions. Questions were also asked about whether Swanspool House would be transferred to a town council; rather than the town council having to purchase or lease a building from which to conduct its business. This would need be discussed in detail in the future when it was known whether a town council would be formed.

Members also noted that some residents were not concerned who provided services, as long as they were provided at the lowest cost. There was also concern that the time scale for implementation was very limited, and a lot of work needed to be undertaken behind the scenes to adhere to this timescale, even with the extension of a further month.

The leader thanked members for their input and useful comments. He assured council that weekly meetings were taking place on this fast moving project; his aim was to do the best he possibly could for the people of the borough and for council employees, and he would continue to work with countywide colleagues.

He moved the report which was seconded by Councillor Scarborough. On being put to the vote this was declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) approval be given to work continuing, with other county district and borough councils, on a draft unitary proposal for consultation, to be submitted to the Secretary of State;

- (ii) it be noted that a further report would be submitted to council, once the proposal was in a final draft form, to enable consideration to be given to whether to support the submission to the Secretary of State by the new deadline date of 31 August 2018.
- (iii) approval be given to the commencement of a community governance review in relation to a town council for Wellingborough and that the terms of reference be agreed.

Mayor

The mayor closed the meeting at 8.15pm.



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 22 MAY 2018**

**Present:** The Mayor, Councillor P Bell and Councillors Abram, Anslow, Allebone, Aslam, Bailey, Bone, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Graves, Griffiths, Hallam, Harrington, L Lawman, Lloyd, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Stevenson, Walia, Ward, M Waters and V Waters.

**Officers present:** Mrs L Elliott, (Managing Director), Miss J Thomas, (Director/Monitoring Officer), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop and Mr A Piper (Assistant Directors), Mr H Edwards (District Law), Mrs E Robinson, (Democratic Services Assistant), Mr G Betts, (Mayor's Sergeant), Miss S Gibson, Deputy Mayor's Sergeant) Mrs F Hubbard and Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officers).

(Prayers were said before the commencement of the meeting).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beirne, Francis, Gough, Henley, G Lawman, Scanlon, Watts and York.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED** to note that there were no declarations made by councillors.

**3. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19 AND APPOINTMENT OF HIS CHAPLAIN**

Nominations were invited for the election of the mayor of the borough of Wellingborough for the municipal year 2018-19.

It was moved by Councillor Griffiths and seconded by Councillor Scarborough and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Malcolm John Seeney Ward be elected to the office of the mayor of the borough of Wellingborough for the municipal year 2018-19.

Councillor Ward made his declaration of acceptance of office, was invested with the insignia of office, and took his seat as mayor.

The mayor appointed Reverend Richard Keith Robert Coles as his chaplain.

The mayor then welcomed his family, friends, distinguished guests, honorary freeman, and fellow councillors to the annual meeting of the council. He presented his inaugural speech as mayor.

**4. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR AND MAYORESS BADGES**

**RESOLVED** that the council record its appreciation to the immediate past mayor, Councillor Bell, for the service he had given to the council, and to the borough, during his year of office.

The mayor presented badges to the immediate past mayor and mayoress to commemorate their term of office in 2017-18.

**5. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19 AND APPOINTMENT OF HIS DEPUTY MAYORESS**

Nominations were invited for the election of the deputy mayor for the municipal year 2018-19.

It was moved by Councillor Partridge-Underwood, seconded by Councillor Emerson and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Paul Bell be appointed to the office of the deputy mayor of the borough of Wellingborough, for the municipal year 2018-19.

The deputy mayor made his declaration of acceptance office and was invested with the insignia of office by the retiring deputy mayor, Councillor Waters.

The mayor announced that the deputy mayor had appointed his wife Mrs Carol Anna Bell to be his deputy mayoress. The retiring deputy mayoress, Councillor V Waters, invested the deputy mayoress with her chain of office.

**6. REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR ON COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS, SEAT ALLOCATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19; APPROVAL OF THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND TO AUTHORISE THE USE OF THE COMMON SEAL.**

The report of the managing director was received in relation to the committee seat allocations, appointments to committees, appointment of lead advisers, the appointment of representatives on outside organisations, the calendar of meetings from June 2018 to June 2019 and the use of the common seal; along with a request to note the appointment of the leader and deputy leader and the leader and deputy leader of the opposition.

Councillor Griffiths presented the report, and informed the meeting of the following additional nominations to committee and outside organisations:

**Development Committee** - Councillors Bell and Graves be appointed as conservative councillors to the committee;

**Town Centre Sub-Committee** - Councillors Bell (Chairman), Carr (Vice-Chairman), Ekins, Graves and Skittrall be appointed as the Conservative councillors; Councillor Emerson confirmed the Labour councillors on this sub-committee would be Councillors Anslow and Maguire;

**BID Board** - Councillor Skittrall

He moved the report, and additional nominations, which were seconded by Councillor Scarborough and on being put to the vote declared carried.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (i) approve the committee arrangements, seat allocations and appointments (and updates) for the municipal year 2018-19 as detailed in appendices A to E;
- (ii) approve the calendar of council and committee meetings for the municipal years 2018-2019 as detailed in appendix F;

- (iii) authorise the use of the common seal of the Borough Council of Wellingborough for the sealing of documents to give effect to any of the business of the proceedings of the council for the municipal year 2018-19;
- (iv) note the appointment of Councillor Martin James Griffiths as leader of the council and Councillor Stephen Thomas Partridge-Underwood as deputy leader of the council for the municipal year 2018-19;
- (v) note the appointment of Councillor Andrew Michael Julian Scarborough as leader of the opposition and Council Brian Emerson as deputy leader of the opposition for the municipal year 2018-19;
- (vi) approve the inclusion in the scheme for members remuneration, as agreed by council on 27 February 2018, of the special responsibility allowance for the chairman of any sub-committee to be paid an amount equal to 75% of the allowance paid for the chairman of the parent committee, pro rated in the first year for the period after the initial meeting of the sub-committee.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE MAYOR OR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that there being no correspondence, communication or other business to consider, the mayor closed the meeting and invited his guests to join him at the Tithe Barn for a reception.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

