

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH
ON TUESDAY 21 MAY 2019**

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

Officers present: Mrs L Elliott (Managing Director), Miss J Thomas (Director/Monitoring Officer), Mr S Darcy (Director), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mr A Piper and Mr E Symons (Assistant Directors), Mrs E Robinson (Democratic Services Assistant), Mrs 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 Anslow, Bailey, Emerson, and Graves.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019-20 AND APPOINTMENT OF HER CHAPLAIN

Nominations were invited for the election of the mayor of the borough of Wellingborough for the municipal year 2019-20.

It was moved by Councillor Partridge-Underwood and seconded by Councillor Henley and **RESOLVED** that Councillor **Joanne Clare Beirne** be elected to the office of the mayor of the borough of Wellingborough for the municipal year 2019-20.

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

The mayor appointed Elder Peter Skinner from The Church of Jesus Christ the Latter Day Saints as her chaplain for 2019-20.

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

4. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR BADGE

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

The Mayor, Councillor Beirne, presented a badge to the immediate past mayor to commemorate his term of office in 2018-19.

5. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2019-20 and APPOINTMENT OF HIS DEPUTY MAYORESS

Nominations were invited for the election of the deputy mayor for the municipal year 2019-20.

It was moved by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Scarborough and **RESOLVED** that **Councillor Malcolm John Seeney Ward** be appointed to the office of the deputy mayor of the borough of Wellingborough, for the municipal year 2019-20.

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

The mayor announced that the deputy mayor had appointed Mrs Lesley Rankin to be his deputy mayoress. The retiring deputy mayoress, Mrs Bell, 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 2019-20; 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 2019 to August 2020 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 referred to the achievements of the council during the municipal year. A copy of his report is appended to these minutes.

Councillor Scarborough seconded the report and in doing so praised the leader for the work that had been achieved during the year.

The mayor put the proposal to the vote and this was declared carried.

RESOLVED to:

- (i) approve the committee arrangements, seat allocations and appointments (and updates) for the municipal year 2019-20 as detailed in appendices A to E;
- (ii) approve the calendar of council and committee meetings for the period June 2019 to August 2020 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 2019-20;
- (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 2019-20;
- (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 2019-20;

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 her guests to join her at Swanspool Pavilion.

Mayor

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Annual Council Speech by the Leader – 21 May 2019

As we move into a new era of Local Government in Northamptonshire, it's a good time to reflect on what we have achieved over the last 12 months. You're all aware of the long list of achievements, but I'd like to draw on some key areas that really put the Borough of Wellingborough in a strong position going into North Northamptonshire, as well as greatly benefitting the residents of our Borough.

Firstly, we are currently the first and only council in the county with an approved Local Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough and other councils want to learn from us to help get theirs approved. This success has released the Development committee to deliver tangible results for the borough in our remaining time, for the town centre strategy, the wider remit of economic development and regeneration, sports and recreation and attracting more visitors to the town centre.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the success of this council over the last 12 months as Stanton Cross develops further and our second large urban extension at Glenvale Park begins to take shape. These developments will provide much needed housing, together with schools, medical facilities and leisure provision; and both will feature large areas of accessible green open space, something that we know is important to our residents.

Work is starting now on the rebuild of HMP Wellingborough, a project that will not only provide an estimated £80 million boost to the local economy but also 850 long term jobs and a large number of apprenticeships in the construction stage before its final completion in 2021.

At present there are more businesses in our Borough than ever before in its history and in the months ahead we will see more business and job growth. Our town centre 'Tresham campus' will be extensively rebuilt and will provide students with a new curriculum and the skills that they need to further their careers and improve their life opportunities.

The Council has experienced the challenge of homelessness, as have many councils nationally, but we have significantly reduced the numbers from over 100 down to 47 by delivering numerous projects including purchasing temporary accommodation, now managed for us by Corby Borough Council. We are working collaboratively with Greatwell homes on available lets and creating more affordable homes. We have been asked to share our expertise with other councils also seeking to reduce homelessness and have successfully gained funding for mental health pathways and the Rough Sleeping Initiative.

Earlier this month we celebrated the 40th International Waendel Walk, which welcomed a record number of people all enjoying the stunning countryside and villages of our borough, that some people take for granted, but many more are so proud and extremely protective of. There is simply no other international event like this anywhere else in the country and long may it

Annual Council Speech

continue. We're also continuing with Party in the Park, the Beach and the Christmas Lights switch on.

We have plans to improve the offer in our town centre as our growth continues and we will be improving our leisure facilities including our first 3g football facility at Redwell leisure centre. In partnership with Parkwood Theatres, we will be making considerable improvements to our wonderful theatre and with those improvements will come bigger and better shows, so watch this space.

We will continue to ensure we provide what the residents need and want and deliver on our current commitments to things like free car parking for as long as we retain our sovereign status as the Borough of Wellingborough.

We have to build on our successes, like the crematorium, which will now be taken forward by Cllr Bell, who was here at the start of the project and will see it through to its next phase of development. We will continue to invest in our Borough making the right decisions for our residents both now and in the future.

The coming years will be an exciting time that's for sure and I am particularly proud of the support we receive from the opposition group of this council who work with us on the vast majority of our projects, who share our PRIDE objectives and put the resident first and foremost. We will continue to work with our excellent team of officers to tackle our challenges and to provide high-quality and good value for money services.

Last Tuesday we finally got the decision we were waiting for from the Secretary of State approving the reorganisation of the 8 councils in Northamptonshire into 2 new unitary councils for the North and West. The only change from the original proposal is a revised vesting day of 1st April 2021. This gives us a real opportunity to not only deliver more for the residents of Wellingborough as BCW, but also to get the town council in place from 2020 and talk about what services it might take on. It also gives us an opportunity to fundamentally change the services the new unitary council will deliver for our residents in the North and deliver transformation and integration with other public sector bodies, such as health.

The next 2 years will see us all on a journey to deliver not only a safe and legal new unitary council but also a more efficient one, transforming the way we deliver the key frontline services our residents expect at the quality they expect. We need all members and officers alike to embrace this journey, to make it a success and to create a new culture to drive the changes.

The joint committee for the North is being setup to start in June to allow key decisions to be made and the Structural Change Order is likely to be laid by Government in October/November giving time for the councils to have input to the final version. The elections are taking place in May next year for the shadow unitary council ensuring the council can be setup in advance of vesting day and giving the direction and steer required. This will also allow the top tier officer appointments process to start in late spring/early summer to bring in the required leadership and culture steer to drive change and efficiency in the setup of the new council. This will enable good decision making to proceed without the worry that these could be changed later, taking on board learning from others and delivering best practice.

Annual Council Speech

During this time there will be various Programme Boards and Task and Finish groups to feed into the design of the new councils and to align and transform the services for new ways of delivery for each unitary council.

This will be a busy 2 years but I see it as a real opportunity for us to do so much more of what we have planned to do to achieve more of the things we have already got in train and to review any additional capital investment, capacity allowing, to further enhance the town centre and the borough. It is our opportunity to shape the future of what the public sector can really be, making sure we take it forward the Wellingborough way. After all our motto is “forwards together”.

Martin Griffiths
Leader of the Council

Annual Council Speech