

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH  
HELD AT SWANSPool HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH  
ON TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2019**

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

**Officers present:** Mrs L Elliott, (Managing Director), Miss J Thomas, (Director/Monitoring Officer), Mr S Darcy, (Director/S151 Officer), Miss K Denton, Mrs V Jessop, Mr A Piper, (Assistant Directors), Mr S Whiteley (Electoral services Team Leader), Miss B Cox (Communications Officer), Mr G Betts (Mayor's Sergeant) and Mrs C A Mundy (Democratic Services Officer - Committees).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED** to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bailey, Bell, Gough, Henley, Scanlon and York.

**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 declaration was made:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Reason</b>
B Skittrall	Development Committee - Minute 5 Wellingborough BID	Registerable – BCW appointed director on the BID

**3. PRESENTATION OF LONG SERVICE AWARD TO MRS C HAYBYRNE**

The report of the director of place and strategic growth was received in relation to the long service award for Mrs C Haybyrne.

Mrs Haybyrne joined the council in February 1979, serving the council for 40 years. The Mayor, Councillor Ward, thanked Mrs Haybyrne for her years of service to the council and presented her with a gift of an 'One4All' voucher and also presented her Husband, Mr M Haybyrne with a garden voucher.

**RESOLVED** that the long service award presented to Mrs C Haybyrne for 40 years' service to the council be noted.

**4. PRESENTATION OF SCROLL TO HONORARY FREEMAN MR G BLACKWELL**

The mayor welcomed Honorary Freeman Blackwell to the meeting. He had been admitted as an Honorary Freeman at a special council meeting, held on Friday 29 March, for his eminent service to the council and the community. The leader spoke about Mr Blackwell's dedication to the people of the borough generally and particularly to those in his ward of Earls Barton.

Mr Blackwell, signed the roll of honorary freeman and was presented with a framed scroll by the mayor.

He then addressed the meeting and thanked the council for bestowing the honour upon him.

**RESOLVED** that the congratulations of the council be extended to Honorary Freeman Blackwell.

**5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 26 FEBRUARY 2019**

The minutes of the council meeting held on 26 February 2019 were received.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the council meeting of 26 February 2019 be confirmed and signed.

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

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

**7. MINUTES TO NOTE**

The minutes of the following meeting was received to note:

Planning Committee

13 March 2019

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

**8. PARTNERSHIPS & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 14 JANUARY 2019**

The minutes of the partnerships and performance committee of 14 January 2019 were received.

Councillor Maguire asked that it be noted that he had submitted apologies for that meeting but they had not been recorded therein. This was noted.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the partnerships and performance committee of 14 January 2019 be adopted.

## **9. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2019**

The minutes of the development committee of 18 March 2019 were received.

Councillor Maguire made reference to minute 5 – Wellingborough BID and expressed his disappointment that the council had chosen not to support the BID. He also commented on the way that the representative from the BID had been spoken to during the meeting and the intense questioning he had received from members. He called upon the chairman to write a letter of apology to Mr Cable. This concern was also reiterated by Councillor Anslow who also considered that the questioning had been aggressive, and on occasion, rude.

Councillor Ekins responded to this and considered that Mr Cable had arrived at the meeting and was unprepared for the questions that councillors wanted answering about the future business plan. Reference had been made to events which the council, not the BID, had put on during the previous year with no evidence of future plans of how the town centre would be promoted moving forward.

Councillor Griffiths, who had been an observer at the meeting, considered that the questioning had been fair and necessary to enable the committee to make a full decision on the choice before them.

Councillor Partridge-Underwood was concerned that there was an implication that the Conservative group had been told which way to vote, he clarified that everyone had the right to vote how they wished on this item, he considered that the responses to the questions had not been informative and that the BID did not appear to have a vision for the next five years. He had also been mindful that Wellingborough would have been the only council within the new proposed unitary that would have been involved in a BID. The results of the vote by the levy payers had been 68 in favour of continuing with the BID and 74 against.

Councillor Scarborough had not attended the meeting but on reading the report had concerns over the content of the business plan. He considered that there needed to be a clear vision for the town centre and plans should be in place for the future of the town centre including the future development of High Street, the multi-storey car park, Midland Road and empty properties in Silver Street.

The chairman responded to the comments made, and clarified that he would not be writing a letter of apology to Mr Cable, who he had spoken to after the meeting and thanked for attending. He shared the concern of other members about the business plan, which had not taken into account the 'changing High Street'. The council had put on both the 'Beach' and the 'Christmas Lights Switch-on' events and the BID business plan gave no indication of new events that would be put on to encourage footfall. The council had in place a 10 point plan for the town centre and would work with the Chamber of Commerce

and the Town Centre Partnership to move this forward whilst taking into account the heritage of the town centre.

He proposed the adoption of the minutes, and this was seconded by Councillor Partridge-Underwood.

Councillor Maguire asked that his vote against the decision on the BID item be recorded; Councillors Aslam, Emerson, Francis and Skittrall asked that it be noted that they abstained from voting.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the development committee of 18 March 2019 be adopted.

## **10. RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2019**

The minutes of the resources committee of 20 March 2019 were received.

Councillor Griffiths made reference to minute 5 – Terms and Condition of Employment and informed members that he had received three emails from staff thanking members for putting in place the changes to the redundancy pay multiplier to make sure that the council's terms and conditions were comparable with others in the county.

Reference was made to minute 7 – Capital Programme Monitoring and an update was requested on progress with the artificial turf pitch at Redwell. The chairman was able to confirm that work would start in October on this and a member briefing note would be issued in due course about the commencement and general improvements that would be needed at Redwell Leisure Centre.

Reference was made to minute 8 - Capital and Investment Strategy for the medium term and the recommendation therein, the mayor put this to the vote and it was declared carried.

Minute 9 – Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Strategy was also referenced and the recommendation therein was put to the vote and declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) approval be given to the capital and investment strategy;
- (ii) approval be given to the treasury management strategy;
- (iii) approval be given to 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;
- (iv) the minutes of the resources committee of 20 March 2019 be adopted.

## **11. ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN 2019-20**

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received to seek approval of the 2019-20 annual business plan which was appended to the report.

Following a members briefing session in March 2019 the annual business plan had been updated to incorporate the priorities and projects for 2019-20 as discussed with councillors and management team.

Members referred to the achievements of 2018-19 and the ambitious projects agreed for the future, both of which were appended to the report. The leader confirmed that there would be challenging and exciting times ahead for the council. He praised, and thanked, officers for the work that had been undertaken to bring over 60 projects forward, which had either been completed or were progressing during the last year and praised the fantastic achievement of all involved.

Councillor Waters particularly referred to the International Waendel Walk which was celebrating its 40 year anniversary and encouraged everyone to participate, and to encourage others to attend the event this year.

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

**RESOLVED** that the annual business plan 2019-20 be approved.

## **12. COMMITTEE SEAT APPOINTMENTS – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR 2018-19**

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received in relation to the committee seat appointments for the remainder of the municipal year 2018-19.

The leader presented the report, and in doing so cautioned members of the perils of social media and reminded all that care needed to be taken on what members posted and that members needed to be aware of the members code of conduct which also applied to social media posts.

He proposed the following update to the report and appointments to committees:

- Audit Committee – Councillor Gough and Councillor York be replaced by Councillor Skittrall (as Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Walia;
- Services Committee – Councillor Gough be replaced by Councillor L Lawman;
- Appointments, Investigating and Disciplinary Committee – Councillor Gough be replaced by Councillor Anslow;
- Planning Committee – Councillor York be replaced by Councillor M Waters;

- Standards Committee – Councillor York be replaced by Councillor Griffiths;
- International Waendel Walk Weekend Steering Group Councillor York be replaced by Councillor Harrington;
- Councillor Griffiths to remain on licensing committee;
- Councillor Harrington be appointed as Armed Forces Champion.

Reference was also made to the appointment of members to the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee, which would not meet until such time as the decision was known from the Secretary of State.

It was proposed that the following councillors be appointed thereto:

**Councillor M Griffiths;**  
 Councillor S T Partridge-Underwood;  
 Councillor A Scarborough;

**Substitutes:**

Councillor B Graves;  
 Councillor T Allebone;  
 Councillor E Francis.

On being put to the vote the recommendations were declared carried.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to the following removals/appointments to committee:

- (i) Audit Committee - Councillor Gough and Councillor York be replaced by Councillor Skittrall (as Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Walia;
- (ii) Services Committee - Councillor Gough be replaced by Councillor L Lawman;
- (iii) Appointments, Investigating and Disciplinary Committee - Councillor Gough be replaced by Councillor Anslow;
- (iv) Planning Committee - Councillor York be replaced by Councillor M Waters;
- (v) Standards Committee - Councillor York be replaced by Councillor Griffiths;
- (vi) International Waendel Walk Weekend Steering Group Councillor York be replaced by Councillor Harrington;
- (vii) Councillor Griffiths to remain on licensing committee;
- (viii) Councillor Harrington be appointed as Armed Forces Champion.
- (ix) Councillors Griffiths, Partridge-Underwood and Scarborough be appointed to the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee with Councillors Allebone, Graves and Francis being appointed as substitutes.

Other councillors reiterated the concern of the leader about the use of social media.

Councillor Maguire, on behalf of the Labour group, noted that this was the Mayor's last council meeting and thanked him, for the professional way that he had chaired all council meetings during the municipal year; this sentiment

was echoed by other members. The mayor thanked councillors for their kind words.

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

There being no further business the mayor closed the meeting at 8.10pm

Mayor

The meeting concluded at 8.10pm.

