

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**  
AT 6.00 P.M. AT NEWTON'S PLACE, 43 WOLBOROUGH STREET, NEWTON ABBOT.

Present: A Hall (Mayor) Presiding  
C Parker (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: B Bailey A Gibbs  
J Bradford G Jennings  
P Bullivant M Joyce  
R Buscombe M Ryan  
L Cooke L Wood  
D Corney-Walker N Yabsley  
C Davieson

Invited guests: Family members and friends of Councillors  
Father Matthew Cashmore  
Inspector James Johnson  
Representative of Devon Air Ambulance  
Representative of The Life Chance Trust  
Outgoing ATC Cadet Adam Poel and family

In attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk  
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk & RFO  
Sally Henley Town Development Manager  
Carla Winsborrow Mayor's Secretary  
Linda McGuirk Principal Administrator

Also, present Jackie Hook Teignbridge District Councillor  
Ethan Heppell Representative of the Press: Mid Devon Advertiser

**RETIRING MAYOR**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor David Corney-Walker, welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Council, in particular invited guests. Councillor Corney-Walker reflected on his term in office where he had been privileged to attend several events, highlights included:

- Unveiling of the artwork on Church Walk.
- Twinning exchange visit to Besigheim.
- Christmas events.
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Austen's Stores.
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Newton Abbot Town Council.
- Inaugural Newton Abbot Sunday Market.

Councillor Corney-Walker stated it had been an honour and privilege to represent Newton Abbot as Mayor. Special thanks were given to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Alex Hall for his support. Councillor Corney-Walker advised that he intends to make a personal presentation to the Council in due course. A representative of the Mayor's charity, the Devon Air Ambulance was presented with a cheque for £2,059.86. The representative expressed their thanks on behalf of the charity and gave a summary of how the money raised through the mayoral year

Chair initials.....

will benefit the work of the charity. Councillor Corney-Walker concluded by reading a quote by Maya Angelou.

Outgoing Mayor Corney-Walker - presided over the start of the meeting.

1. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR – 2024/2025**

The outgoing Mayor, David Corney-Walker invited nominations for the election of the Town Mayor for the forthcoming year.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Alex Hall be elected Mayor for the year 2024/25.

There being no other nominations it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Alex Hall be hereby elected Mayor of Newton Abbot for the year 2024/2025.

Upon transferral of the Mayoral Chain to Councillor Alex Hall, Councillor David Corney-Walker was presented with a Past-Mayor's insignia.

Councillor Phil Bullivant expressed his thanks to Councillor Corney-Walker.

Father of the House, Councillor Colin Parker thanked Councillor Corney-Walker for his contribution over the past 12 months.

2. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Alex Hall read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

During his acceptance speech Councillor Alex Hall thanked Councillor David Corney-Walker for his leadership. Thanks, were also expressed to Mrs Carol Bunday and Councillor Mike Joyce for their continued advice and guidance.

The Mayor confirmed the following arrangements for his term in office:

Mayoress will be Jayne Murden.  
Mayoral Charity will be The Life Chance Trust.  
There will be a Civic Service in October.  
The Chaplain will be Father Matthew Cashmore.  
There will be a formal dress code at Full Council meetings.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Valid reasons for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Tom Corney-Walker and Amanda Ineson. Members **agreed** to approve the absences.

Councillor Jamie Cook did not attend.

4. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR – 2024/2025**

The Mayor invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Colin Parker be appointed Deputy Mayor for the year 2024/2025.

There being no other nominations it was;

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Colin Parker be hereby appointed Deputy Mayor (Mayor Elect 2025/26) of Newton Abbot for the Year 2024/2025.

6. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Colin Parker read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Parker upon his appointment as the Deputy Mayor. Councillor Parker thanked Councillors for voting for him and assured members of his commitment.

7. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Council noted and adopted the details of the memberships of committees and sub-committees of the Council (circulated at the meeting), accordingly it was;

**RESOLVED** that the membership of committees and sub-committees of the Council be hereby noted and adopted.

8. **PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL**

Further to the Informal Meeting of the Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024, where upon Members discussed the proceedings of the Council; it was,

**RESOLVED** that the existing Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the parent Committees will be responsible for any necessary decisions arising from the business of its Committee, Sub-Committees and Working Parties until such time as the respective Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, as appropriate, are elected and appointed at their first meeting.

9. **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council received and noted the statement on appointments to outside bodies, as circulated at the meeting, accordingly it was:

Chair initials.....

**RESOLVED** that the appointment of representatives on Outside Bodies be hereby noted and adopted.

10. **APPROVAL OF SIGNATURES FOR CHEQUES**

The Mayor reported on the need for the Council to pass a mandatory resolution authorising Lloyds Bank plc to continue to provide banking arrangements for the Council and designate authorised signatories for the purpose of signing cheques on behalf of the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the following persons be hereby authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Council:

- Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Town Clerk
- Deputy Town Clerk (RFO)
- Office Administrator
- Chairperson of Finance & Audit Committee
- Vice-Chairperson of Finance & Audit Committee

11. **CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING**

At the conclusion of the Meeting the Mayor reminded Members that it is the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday and reminded Councillors of their duty to attend.

The Mayor invited all those present to join him for refreshments.

Meeting closed at 18:30

Chairperson.....Date.....

Chair initials.....