

MINUTES OF THE **MEETING OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL** HELD ON **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019** AT 6.30 P.M. AT THE TOWN HALL, GREAT WESTERN HOUSE, 9 DEVON SQUARE, NEWTON ABBOT

Present: Councillors R D Jenks (Mayor)  
M Joyce (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors: P Bullivant M Hocking  
Mrs C Bunday D Howe  
D Corney-Walker C Jenks  
Mrs K Crout Mrs A Jones  
C Davieson C N Parker  
R Hall M Pilkington  
B Hayes Mrs L Sheffield  
R Hayes

Invited guests: Former Mayor and Mayoress Ken & Dulcie Purchase  
Honorary Freeman of Newton Abbot Henry L J Cole  
County and District Councillor Gordon Hook  
County and District Councillor Mrs Jackie Hook

Reverend Gareth Regan  
Reverend Patrick Parkes  
Family Members and Friends of Mayor

Representatives From:  
Street Pastors Newton Abbot  
Dyrons Journal Talking Newspaper  
ATC Cadet Corporal Jacob Whittle  
ATC Cadet Freddie Walker

Representative of the Press: Sam Hall – Mid Devon Advertiser

In attendance: Philip Rowe Town Clerk  
Samantha Scott Deputy Town Clerk  
Kelly Burridge Events Co-ordinator  
Sally Henley Town Development Manager  
Natalie Hicks Events Co-ordinator  
Carla Winsborrow Mayor's Secretary  
Alexandra Robinson Committee Administrator

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the outgoing Mayor invited his Chaplain, The Reverend Patrick Parkes, to deliver prayers.

### **RETIRING MAYOR**

The Mayor, Councillor Ken Purchase, reported on his year of office, commenting on how quickly it had passed and that it had been an honour to represent the Town at over 128 engagements where upon he had met some wonderful people and made new friends. The Mayor noted that he had supported the town for over 27 years, as Town Crier for 26 of those, alongside 12 years as a Town Councillor and that it had been a privilege to be Mayor in his final year with the Council. The Mayor noted that the Newton's Place Project had been the highlight of the last year and he was sure

that the continued efforts of the Town Council would ensure that the new premises would become the 'heart and soul' of the town. Councillor Purchase thanked all his fellow Councillors; in particular Councillor Richard Jenks as his Deputy Mayor; The Town Clerk and the officers of the Town Council and the Town Development Manager. In thanking the Town Council staff for their support, in particular the Mayor's Secretary Mrs Carla Winsborrow, he presented them with gifts and cards.

The Mayor recorded his appreciation for the support received from Members of the Council in carrying out his duties throughout his year of office. He felt it a great privilege to have been able to represent the people of the town and had particularly appreciated the varied mix of events he had been invited to attend.

In recording his appreciation to all the people of Newton Abbot for supporting his charities, he announced that they had raised £2,100.00 and presented cheques to the Dyrans Journal Talking Newspaper £1,050.00 and Street Pastors £1,050.00. Both organisations thanked the Mayor and the Town Council for their support and acknowledged the benefit that the financial assistance would bring for their respective charities.

The Mayor particularly thanked his Chaplain Reverend Patrick Parkes for his continued support; his Cadet Corporal Jacob Whittle and noted that he carried out his role with enthusiasm and dignity. The Mayor especially thanked his wife, Mrs Dulcie Purchase who had been a tremendous support throughout his Mayoral Year and presented her with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her invaluable support.

The Mayor thanked everyone once more for the guidance and encouragement that had been extended to him and recorded that it had been an honour to be Mayor.

The Mayor concluded that he hoped that the new Council would continue with such support and he wished the very best for the incoming Mayor.

## 1. **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR – 2019/2020**

The Mayor invited nominations for the election of the Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Richard Jenks be elected Mayor for the year 2019/20.

There being no other nominations it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Richard Jenks be hereby elected Mayor of Newton Abbot for the year 2019/2020.

Upon transferral of the Mayoral Chain to Councillor Jenks, Ken Purchase was presented with a Past-Mayor's insignia.

## 2. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Richard Jenks read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

During his initial acceptance speech, Councillor Jenks thanked his family, friends and the Town Councillors for their support and paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and expressed his hope to continue the strong leadership

demonstrated by his predecessor and for the Councillors to continue to work together in support of the town. He acknowledged the prestigious honour of being Elected Mayor and his commitment to it.

The Mayor invited Councillor David Howe (the Father of the House) to respond to the outgoing Mayor's comments. Councillor Howe firstly congratulated Councillor Richard Jenks on his appointment to the office of Mayor and he paid tribute to Mr Purchase on the Council's behalf. He noted the length of service Mr Purchase had given to the town as Town Crier and his transition into the Office of Mayor and wide variety of events and engagements that he had attended on behalf of the Town Council. He closed in thanking both Ken and Dulcie Purchase for their tremendous efforts and he wished them both well.

Honorary Freeman of the Town, Mr Henry Cole also paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Ken Purchase and thanked him on behalf of the Town Council for his service to the town over many years and extended his appreciation for all his hard work. Mr Cole congratulated the incoming Mayor, Councillor Richard Jenks on his appointment. He thanked all the Town Councillors and welcomed the new Councillors wishing them all a good year ahead.

The Mayor thanked both Councillor Howe and Mr Cole for their tributes to the former Mayor Ken Purchase.

The Mayor welcomed his family and fellow Councillors, congratulating those newly elected and noting that it was a privilege to serve the community. The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and officers, for their support and professionalism. He congratulated County and District Councillor Gordon Hook for his appointment as Leader of the District Council and wished him well.

The Mayor welcomed his ATC Cadet Freddie Walker and the Reverend Gareth Regan, whom he had know for some time and had agreed to be his Chaplain for the year ahead. The Mayor thanked Reverend Patrick Parkes for his support and counsel to the Council and he thanked Ken and Dulcie Purchase for their commitment and service to the town over 26 years as Town Crier, 12 years as Town Councillor and in his final year as Mayor.

The Mayor quoted the value of public service, to help others and give back to the community and added that he was both proud and humbled to be in public service and support the development of the town for generations to come. He highlighted key areas of the town, in particular Newton's Place as an opportunity to celebrate the heritage and culture in the heart of the town. The Mayor thanked Mrs Sally Henley, Town Development Manager for her excellent efforts in promoting the town alongside the many events organised by the Town Council such as the Christmas Light Switch On; Victorian Evening and Carol Service. He particularly thanked Councillor Mrs Carol Bunday for her work in the town and together he and his fellow Councillors would work to ensure that Newton Abbot was a town to be proud of.

The Mayor continued by thanking those Councillors who had not been re-elected, for their commitment and hard work over many years of service. He made particular mention of Mike Ryan who had been a Councillor for 30 years and who had made a remarkable contribution to public service and

fellow Councillors endorsed their appreciation for his tremendous efforts. He also acknowledged former Councillors; Julie Cleave, Chris Coyle-Moore, Sheila Kingdom, Liz Roberts and Terry Ward all of whom had contributed a great deal to the town.

The Mayor nominated two charities, those being Homestart and 4 Dementia Carers, both wider charities with a local focus and who provided support to families.

Finally, he was pleased to announce that his wife, Mrs Karen Jenks would be his Mayoress, and he presented her with an insignia and closed in thanking fellow Councillors for their support and wished the Town Council a good year ahead.

3. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received; all Councillors were present.

4. **INTERESTS**

None declared.

5. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR – 2019/2020**

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

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Mike Joyce be appointed Deputy Mayor for the year 2019/2020.

There being no other nominations it was;

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mike Joyce be hereby appointed Deputy Mayor (Mayoral Elect 2020/21) of Newton Abbot Town Council for the Year 2019/2020.

6. **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Councillor Mike Joyce read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Joyce upon his appointment as the Deputy Mayor. Councillor Joyce thanked the Council for his appointment and recorded that he was humbled by the appointment and it would be a privilege and honour to serve the Council. He valued the advice and encouragement from his fellow Councillors and he he would work hard to deliver the Council's priorities and he was looking forward to the year ahead.

7. **TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2019**

The Mayor referred to the summary of the Results of the Town Council Elections, held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019, previously circulated.

**RESOLVED** that the summary of the Results of the Town Council Elections, be hereby, noted.

## 8. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

To Mayor invited the Town Clerk to provide background to the General Power of Competence. The Clerk advised members to give consideration to reaffirming the Council's eligibility to adopt the General Power of Competence under the Localism Act 2011 by confirming that the Council met the criteria for eligibility relating to the electoral mandate and relevant training of the Clerk and recommended that Council readopt the General Power of Competence.

- a) The Council confirmed that at least two thirds (12) of the Council held office as a result of being declared elected (i.e. not co-opted) as this was duly noted in Minute (7) above).
- b) The Mayor confirmed that the Clerk held a recognised professional qualification; the Certificate in Local Council Administration, which also ensured that the Council met the eligibility criteria.

Accordingly, it was;

**RESOLVED** that since Newton Abbot Town Council met the eligibility criteria in terms of the number of elected councillors and that the Clerk held the required qualification that the Council hereby, readopted the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011).

## 9. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

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

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

## 10. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

At 7.17 p.m. the meeting adjourned for ten minutes to allow the Council's committees to meet to elect and appoint their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen.

## 23. RESUMPTION OF THE MEETING

At 7.27 p.m. the meeting resumed.

## 24. PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

A. The Committee Administrator reported and the Council received and approved, the minutes of the following Special meetings: -

- |      |                                |   |                           |
|------|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| i.   | Community & Heritage Committee | – | 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 |
| ii.  | Finance & Audit Committee      | – | 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 |
| iii. | Planning Committee             | – | 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 |
| iv.  | Policy & Resources Committee   | – | 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2019 |

B. Arising from A. above it was: -

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

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

The Council received and noted the statement on appointments to outside bodies, as circulated.

26. **APPROVAL OF SIGNATURES FOR CHEQUES**

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

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

The Mayor  
The Deputy Mayor  
Chairman of Finance & Audit Committee  
Vice-Chairman of Finance & Audit Committee

MAYOR

At the conclusion of the Meeting the Mayor invited all those present to join him in Parlour for refreshments.