

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL HELD
ON MONDAY 16TH MAY 2016 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.**

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Tomas)	
Councillor D Drage		Councillor R Gell
Councillor D Hamblin		Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor Mrs S Mantle		Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor B Prigmore		Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor C O'Rourke		Councillor Mrs A Sauntson
Councillor J Smithers		
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Mr D Wicks (Mayors' Sergeant)

IN ATTENDANCE: 49 Members of the Public, including friends and family of the Mayor and invited guests and dignitaries.

The meeting was opened with prayers led by Rev Margaret Eales.

16/82 **ELECTION OF MAYOR** (Proposer: Councillor R J Gell, Seconder: Councillor Mrs A Sauntson)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs Pam WHITING be elected as Mayor of Higham Ferrers for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

16/83. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Cllr A M T Reading, Cllr H L Jackson, Cllr Mrs O Mayes.

16/84. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR** (Proposer: The Mayor (Mrs P H Whiting) Seconder: Councillor D C Lawson MBE)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Peter TOMAS be elected as Deputy Mayor of Higham Ferrers for the period to next Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

16/85. **VOTE OF THANKS** (Proposer: The Deputy Mayor (Councillor P Tomas) Seconder: Councillor Mrs C Reavey)

RESOLVED:

That the Council on behalf of the people of Higham Ferrers thank Richard for all his good work throughout his term of office as Mayor. Richard has been a good ambassador for our Town, meeting local people and organisations. He has always conducted himself professionally, especially at council meetings being fair in leading debate. He has shown consistent interest in our town and has supported many causes.

Cllr R J Gell responded with the following speech:-

“Due to the change of circumstances since last May, I have not been the most active of Mayors. I thank my Deputy for standing in. Because of this change things I had hoped to do like fund raising events, did not happen, but thanks to the Swivel Club's joint fund raising event and the May Day Fair, I have already been able to make donations to three Higham Ferrers Youth Groups with some still to hand out. My Mayor's Award was successful with the Award being presented to Jennifer Tuffnail and Carol

Allen for their services to Girl Guiding in this town. I have also recognised the work of three non-councillors in producing the Neighbourhood Plan. I have enjoyed being active in the Town. I opened the new SERVE Therapy Centre, an extension to Major International, visited most of the businesses in Bury Close and I spoke to the Business Forum. I have enjoyed many events involving the youth of our Town. I visited both of the Higham Ferrers Scout Groups and the Girls Brigade, but the highlights have been the Junior School Achievement Awards, the Nativity Plays and Carol Services at the Infant, Junior and Henry Chichele Schools and the Community Ambassadors Awards. I have attended over 60 events in Higham Ferrers, East Northants and Northampton but have only attended one outside of the County. I enjoyed having two Civic Services with Father Richard and Father Joe assisting my Chaplain at the Methodist Service and then Rev Margaret assisting Father Richard at St Marys. This gives me the chance to thank the Reverend Margaret Eales for being my Chaplain, which I know she has enjoyed and Father Richard for his friendship and help. Although my wife is not here this evening, I want to thank her for her support and for making sure I was properly dressed for most of my appointments. To finish on a more formal note, chairing Council meetings has been interesting with 6 new Councillors learning the formalities of Council meetings and Standing Orders. Despite a few awkward moments I have enjoyed the meetings and thank the Councillors for making that so. Finally, thanks to all the Town Hall staff for their help and support during my year as Mayor. I now look forward to a return to the back benches.

- 16/86. **ELECTION OF LEADER** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs S Mantle Seconder: Councillor Mrs V Newbery)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Derek Charles LAWSON MBE be elected as Leader of the Town Council.

- 16/87. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER** (Proposer: Councillor D C Lawson MBE Seconder: Councillor D Drage.)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs Anna Marguerite SAUNTSOON be elected as Deputy Leader of the Town Council.

- 16/88. **MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Mayor reported that she had appointed Canon Stainer to be the Mayor's Chaplain during her period of office.

- 16/89. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED: Proposer: Councillor B Prigmore, Seconder: Councillor Mrs V Newbery

That the membership of the Committees of the Town Council for the period to the next Annual Meeting be as follows:

**POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor R Gell
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson

**RECREATION AND
AMENITIES
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor Mrs S Mantle

Councillor B Prigmore
Substitutes
Councillor J Smithers
Councillor A M T Reading

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor D Hamblin
Councillor C O'Rourke
Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor Mrs S Mantle
Councillor R Gell
Substitutes
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor D Drage

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor D Drage
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs V Newbery
Councillor H L Jackson

GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor D Drage
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery

Councillor J Smithers
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor C O'Rourke

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor C O'Rourke
Councillor D Hamblin
Substitutes
Councillor J Smithers
Councillor Mrs S Mantle

EVENTS COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor D Drage
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor J Smithers
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor C O'Rourke

APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor Mrs S Mantle
Councillor J Smithers
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor H L Jackson

16/90. **DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: (Proposer: Councillor J Smithers, Seconder: Councillor Mrs C Reavey)

That the days and times for the Committees and the Town Council Meetings for 2016/17, including Statutory Meetings be fixed in accordance with the list now circulated.

16/91. **JOHN WHITE HOMES (WAR MEMORIAL) TRUST**

RESOLVED: (Proposer Councillor C O'Rourke, Seconder: Councillor R J Gell)

That the Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting) and the Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas) be nominated for appointment as the 'Corporation Trustees' to the John White Homes (War Memorial) Trust for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

16/92. **REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES:**

RESOLVED: (Proposer: Councillor Mrs S Mantle, Seconder: Councillor B Prigmore)
That the representatives to the Higham Ferrers/Hachenburg Twinning Association for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council be:-
To the Higham Ferrers/Hachenburg Twinning Association
The Mayor (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
The Deputy Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery

It was further **RESOLVED:**
That Cllr R J Gell be appointed to Higham Ferrers Angling Association.

It was further **RESOLVED**
That Cllr R J Gell be appointed as Parish Tree Warden and Roy Dexter as Parish Paths Co-ordinator.

16/93. **CHICHELE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

RESOLVED: Proposer: Councillor D Hamblin, Seconder: Councillor R Gell
That Councillor H L Jackson and Councillor D C Lawson MBE be nominated as Trustees to the Chichele Education Foundation:

Mayor

Date: