

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MAY 2017 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor P Tomas)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor J Smithers)	
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 Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor A M T Reading
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Mr D Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)

IN ATTENDANCE: 35 Members of the Public, including friends and family of the Mayor and invited guests and dignitaries.

The meeting was opened with prayers led by Debbie Smith-Wilds

17/81 **ELECTION OF MAYOR** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting, Seconder: Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson)

RESOLVED:

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

The newly elected Mayor spoke as follows:

‘It is good to see you all here this evening. I am pleased and honoured to be elected as Mayor of this Council. During my year of office I will be supported by my good lady, Trish, who will now receive her Chain of Office.

Throughout this coming year I plan to meet as many people as possible to encourage them to work together and support me to raise money for my chosen charities. All of us are aware of the horror of cancer and my chosen charities are all involved with the issue of this terrible disease. They are: the Crazy Hats charity which supports ladies affected by breast cancer; the prostate charity supporting men affected by prostate cancer and finally the Macmillan support charity which care and help all people affected by cancer. I call upon all of you to support me to raise lots and lots of money for these very worthwhile charities.’

17/82 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None.

17/83. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR** (Proposer: The Mayor (Councillor P Tomas), Seconder: Councillor D C Lawson MBE)

RESOLVED:

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

17/84. **VOTE OF THANKS** (Proposer: Councillor D C Lawson MBE, Seconder: Councillor

Mrs C Reavey)

RESOLVED:

That the Council on behalf of the people of Higham Ferrers thank Councillor Mrs P H Whiting for all her good work throughout her term of office as Mayor.

Councillor Mrs P H Whiting responded with the following speech:-

‘I would like to start by saying how much I have enjoyed this past year, I really do not know where the year has gone but I put this down to age, I have made lots of new friends with the “Chain Gang” some of which are carrying on for another year, some of which are stepping down during the next few days. We all intend to keep in touch and I would like to wish them all good luck for the future.

The past year has been a little strange without the Mayor’s Sargent, David attended last year’s Mayor Making and then disappeared, having undergone surgery for two new knees during the year, I am delighted to welcome you back David.

I would personally like to thank Geoff Moore for standing in as Mayor’s Sargent at different Civic Functions, it has been greatly appreciated, not only by me but by the Town Council.

There are a few people I would like to say thank you to, firstly my family for all their support, the Town Council Members for bearing with me through Council Meetings, the Town Hall Staff, who have been a great help and support, especially Sandra and Julie who has taken care of the organising of my events and reminded me of where I have to be when, and Marian, Val & Tina who have accompanied me on several occasions, I have enjoyed your company ladies so thank you. I must also thank all those who have given donations and raffle prizes for my functions.

Not many people realise that when you take on the role as Mayor and organise events, you have to be first there to put the tables and chairs up and the last to leave to put them away. I have been very fortunate this year as I have had tremendous support from both Val and Tina, girls I could not have done a lot of what I have without your help. So I do have just a little something for you as a thank you.

My Charities have been the Northamptonshire/Warwickshire Air Ambulance and the Northamptonshire Association for the Blind, I still have some money to come in but I hope that I shall be able to present both Charities with a cheque for approximately £2000 each at the end of the month, so thank you to everyone who supported my events, which I am pleased to say have all been very successful and enjoyable. The filmed carton snail race in particular was a huge success with everyone in fits of laughter wondering which snail would get stuck in the mud or blown up before the finishing line. The evening with Flossie included an impromptu song from the Chairman of East Northants Council and the St. Georges Day Afternoon Tea, provided by Norma was delicious and this finished in true St George’s Day tradition, with a last night of the proms complete with flag waving and a good sing song thanks to Tony the organist at St Mary’s.

Looking back it has been a very good year so I would now like to wish Peter good luck and success in his year of Office and I hope he enjoys it as much as I have.’

17/85 **ELECTION OF LEADER** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs V M Newbery, Seconder: Councillor Mrs S A Mantle)

RESOLVED:

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

- 17/86 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER** (Proposer: The Deputy Mayor (Councillor J Smithers) Seconder: Councillor D Drage)
RESOLVED:
That Councillor Mrs Anna Marguerite SAUNTSOON be elected as Deputy Leader of the Town Council.
- 17/87 **MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**
The Mayor reported that he had appointed Canon Stainer to be the Mayor's Chaplain during his period of office.
- 17/88 **ELECTION OF COMMITTEES** (Proposer: Councillor B Prigmore, Seconder: Councillor H L Jackson)
RESOLVED:
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 P Tomas)
The Leader (Cllr D C Lawson MBE)
Councillor J Smithers
Councillor R J Gell
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor A M T Reading

**ENVIRONMENT AND
RECREATION
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
The Leader (Cllr D C Lawson MBE)
Councillor Mrs S A Mantle
Councillor R J Gell
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor C O'Rourke
Substitutes
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor J Smithers
Councillor Mrs C Reavey

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
The Leader (Cllr D C Lawson MBE)
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor D Drage
Councillor D Hamblin
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor H L Jackson
Substitutes
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor C O'Rourke
Councillor Mrs S A Mantle

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
The Leader (Cllr D C Lawson MBE)
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Substitutes
Councillor D Drage
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor C O'Rourke

**GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr P Tomas)
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting
Councillor B Prigmore

APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Leader (Cllr D C Lawson MBE)
Councillor Mrs O Mayes
Councillor D Drage

Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor R J Gell

Councillor C O'Rourke
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery

17/89 **DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS** (Proposer Councillor R J Gell, Seconder Councillor Mr A M T Reading)

RESOLVED:

That the days and times for the Committees and the Town Council Meetings for 2017/18, including Statutory Meetings be fixed in accordance with the list now circulated.

17/90. **JOHN WHITE HOMES (WAR MEMORIAL) TRUST** (Proposer Councillor C O'Rourke, Seconder: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)

RESOLVED: That the Mayor (Councillor P Tomas) and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor J Smithers) 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.

17/91 **REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs S A Mantle, Seconder: Councillor O Mayes)

RESOLVED:

That the representatives to the Higham Ferrers/Hachenburg Twinning Association for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council be:-

The Mayor (Councillor P Tomas)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor J Smithers)
Councillor Mrs V M Newbery

It was further **RESOLVED:**

That the representative to the Higham Ferrers Angling Association for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council be:-

Councillor R J Gell.

It was further **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor R J Gell be appointed as the Parish Tree Warden for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council

That Mrs Marion Darnell be appointed as the Parish Paths Co-ordinator for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council

17/92 **CHICHELE EDUCATION FOUNDATION** (Proposer: Councillor D Hamblin, Seconder: Councillor Mrs C Reavey)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor H L Jackson and Councillor D C Lawson MBE be nominated as Trustees to the Chichele Education Foundation.

Mayor

Date: