

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor C O'Rourke)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey)	
Councillor D Hamblin		Councillor J Smithers
Councillor Mrs S Mantle		Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor P Tomas		Councillor N Brown
Councillor B Prigmore		
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		
Mr D Wicks (Mayor's Sergeant)		

IN ATTENDANCE: 31 Members of the Public, including friends and family of the Mayor and invited guests and dignitaries.

The meeting was opened with prayers led by Reverend Michelle Dalliston.

19/109. **ELECTION OF MAYOR** (Proposer: Councillor J Smithers, Seconder: Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mr Christopher O'ROURKE be elected as Mayor of Higham Ferrers for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor C O'Rourke said it was an honour and privilege to be elected the Mayor, with reference to a Mayor having been in the Town for around 700 years. He has lived in the town for over 50 years, attending the local schools, working in the High Street and having played for the cricket team. He is pleased to have Kathleen as Mayoress and knows she will support them well. It promises to be a busy and exciting year with many events planned. He is looking to raise money for two good causes, firstly local community and voluntary groups and secondly a charity that helps those who have suffered from encephalitis and offers support to their families. Thanks were given to his chaplain, the Reverend Dalliston, the Town Hall staff and the Town Councillors.

Plaques were presented to Richard Gell and Val Newbery with thanks for their contribution and service as Town Councillors. David Drage, who was unable to attend, will also be presented with a plaque.

19/110. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor A M T Reading

19/111. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR** (Proposer: The Mayor (Councillor C O'Rourke), Seconder: Councillor D C Lawson MBE)

RESOLVED:

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

- 19/112. **VOTE OF THANKS** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson, Seconder: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)

RESOLVED:

That the Council on behalf of the people of Higham Ferrers thank Jason for all his work throughout the year.

Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson was pleased to be able to say that throughout out his year as Mayor Jason had upheld and maintained civic traditions very effectively. He had chaired Council meetings well and in a fair manner. Congratulations were made for his fundraising efforts for his chosen charity the Air Ambulance and thanks were passed for his open and honest approach as both Town Councillor and Mayor.

Councillor J Smithers responded and said his year as Mayor had flown by. He thanked all fellow Mayors for their support and referred to shared laughs and jokes and the many buffets. He had met some wonderful and inspirational people during the year. He gave thanks to his fellow Councillors and all the staff at the Town Hall. He was grateful to his partner Denise for her support. The Mayor's Funday had been a great success with many enjoying the various stalls on offer and the rounders match. Val Newbery was thanked for her role in persuading Jason to consider becoming a Town Councillor. Jason concluded by wishing Councillor C P O'Rourke the very best for his Mayoral year.

- 19/113. **ELECTION OF LEADER** (Proposer: Councillor D C Lawson MBE, Seconder: Councillor Mrs S A Mantle)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs Pam WHITING be elected as Leader of the Town Council.

- 19/114. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting, Seconder: Councillor J Smithers)

RESOLVED:

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

- 19/115. **MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Mayor reported that he had appointed Reverend Michelle Dalliston to be the Mayor's Chaplain during his period of office.

- 19/116. **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 C O'Rourke)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor J Smithers

**ENVIRONMENT AND
RECREATION COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr C O'Rourke)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor Mrs A Sauntson
Councillor Mrs A Gardner

Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor A M T Reading

Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor Mrs S Mantle
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor P Tomas

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr C O'Rourke)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P Whiting)
Councillor N Brown
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor D Hamblin
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor P Tomas
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor B Prigmore

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Mayor (Cllr C O'Rourke)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor Mrs A M Sauntson
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor N Brown
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Substitutes
Councillor Mrs S A Mantle
Councillor J Smithers

**GRIEVANCE AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr C O'Rourke)
Councillor Mrs A Sauntson
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor Mrs C Reavey
Councillor P Tomas

APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor Mrs S A Mantle
Councillor D C Lawson MBE
Councillor J Smithers

- 19/117. **DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs C Reavey, Seconder: Councillor Mrs A Gardner)

RESOLVED:

That the days and times for the Committees and the Town Council Meetings for 2019/20, including Statutory Meetings, be fixed in accordance with the list now circulated.

- 19/118. **JOHN WHITE HOMES (WAR MEMORIAL) TRUST** (Proposer: Councillor P Tomas, Seconder: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)

RESOLVED:

That the Mayor (Councillor C O'Rourke) and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey) 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.

- 19/119. **REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs A Gardner, Seconder: Councillor N Brown)

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 C O'Rourke)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey)

Councillor Mrs H L Jackson

It was further **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor H L Jackson and Cllr Mrs S Mantle be appointed to the Joint Action Group.

It was further **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor R J Gell be appointed as Parish Tree Warden and Mrs Marion Darnell as Parish Paths Co-ordinator.

19/120. **CHICHELE EDUCATION FOUNDATION** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs S Mantle, Seconder: Councillor D Hamblin)

RESOLVED:

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

Mayor

Date