

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN
COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 17TH MAY 2021 AT 7.30PM
IN THE BEDE HOUSE

PRESENT:

	The Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey)	
	The Deputy Mayor (Councillor A Gardner)	
Councillor Mrs P H Whiting		Councillor B Spencer
Councillor H L Jackson		Councillor N Brown
Councillor C P O 'Rourke		Councillor Mrs J Bone
Councillor A M T Reading		Councillor G Salmon
Councillor V K Paul		Councillor P McMann
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)		Ms A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)
David Wicks (Mayors' Sergeant)		Mrs E Arrow (Comms and Admin Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Members of the Public

A minutes silence was held at the start of the meeting in memory of Anna Sauntson, followed with prayers led by Reverend Michelle Dalliston.

21/81. **ELECTION OF MAYOR** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting, Seconder: Councillor AMT Reading)

RESOLVED:

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

Councillor Reavey said that being elected is a great privilege. It is also an honour and responsibility and I thank my fellow councillors for trusting me with this role. I am committed to serving the people of Higham Ferrers to the best of my ability, with pride and integrity, while acknowledging that I represent the collective viewpoint of all elected councillors. My husband, Tony, will be my consort. He will be supporting me and accompanying me to events, of course that is as soon as the restrictions of the pandemic are lifted. After the restrictions I hope I will be able to hold some events to raise money for my charities. I would initially like to nominate Higham Ferrers Community as my charity but would also like to include a national charity if I'm able to extend my fundraising in the future. I will keep you informed of my plans and hope for your support. Under normal circumstances at this point I would have been presenting the retiring councillors Derek Lawson and Sheila Mantle with the plaques that we award to councillors who have served two terms of office. Both have exceeded this requirement by far. I will present them in the near future but would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all that they have done for Higham Ferrers.

21/82. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Tomas, Cllr B Prigmore.

It was noted that Richard Gell had not signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and would not be taking up his seat which would be declared vacant. All other Councillors had signed.

21/83. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR** (Proposer: The Mayor (Mrs C Reavey) Seconder: Councillor C P O'Rourke)

RESOLVED:

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

- 21/84. **VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING MAYOR** (Proposer: Councillor Mrs A Gardner, Seconder: Councillor Mrs P H Whiting)

RESOLVED:

That the Council on behalf of the people of Higham Ferrers thank Cllr Reavey for her services as Mayor during the year.

Councillor Gardner said it was an absolute honour to thank the Mayor, Councillor Reavey, most sincerely, for carrying out her role as Mayor in what has been an unprecedented year. Even though she could not hold any formal civic functions Councillor Reavey supported and welcomed back our High Street businesses and worked secretly behind the scenes to help create the amazing Christmas yarn bombing of Higham Ferrers. We all hope that this coming year brings a sense of normality for us and we offer our support to our Mayor this coming year.

- 21/85. **ELECTION OF LEADER** (Proposer: Councillor H L Jackson, Seconder: Councillor V K Paul)

RESOLVED:

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

- 21/86. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY LEADER** (Proposer Councillor Mrs P H Whiting, Seconder: Councillor N Brown)

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Anthony M T READING be elected as Deputy Leader of the Town Council.

- 21/87. **APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

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

- 21/88. **COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED:

That 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 C Reavey)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor P Tomas
Councillor C P O'Rourke
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor A M T Reading
Substitutes

**ENVIRONMENT AND
RECREATION
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs C Reavey)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor H L Jackson
New Councillor
Councillor P McCann
Councillor Mrs J Bone
Councillor B Spencer
Substitutes

Councillor VJ Paul
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor G Salmon

Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor A M T Reading
New Councillor

**PLANNING AND
DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE**

The Mayor (Cllr Mrs C Reavey)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor N Brown
Councillor G Salmon
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor V K Paul
New Councillor
Substitutes
Councillor B Spencer
Councillor H L Jackson
Councillor P McCann

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mayor (Cllr Mrs C Reavey)
The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor V K Paul
Councillor B Prigmore
Councillor Mrs J Bone
Councillor A M T Reading
Substitutes
Councillor N Brown
Councillor C P O'Rourke
New Councillor

**GRIEVANCE AND
DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

Mayor (Cllr Mrs C Reavey)
Councillor Mrs A Gardner
Councillor A M T Reading
Councillor V K Paul
Councillor G Salmon

APPEALS COMMITTEE

The Leader (Cllr Mrs P H Whiting)
Councillor C P O'Rourke
Councillor Mrs J Bone
New Councillor
Councillor B Prigmore

21/89. **DATES OF MEETINGS 2021/22**

RESOLVED:

That the days and times for the Committees and the Town Council Meetings for 2021/22, including Statutory Meetings, be fixed in accordance with the list now circulated.

21/90. **JOHN WHITE HOMES (WAR MEMORIAL) TRUST**

RESOLVED:

That the Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey) and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A Gardner) be appointed as the 'Corporation Trustees' to the John White Homes (War Memorial) Trust for the period to the next Annual Meeting of the Town Council.

21/91. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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 Mrs C Reavey)
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A Gardner)
Councillor H L Jackson

21/91.1 It was further **RESOLVED:**

That Councillor H L Jackson and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A Gardner)

be appointed to the **Joint Action Group**.

21/91.2. It was further **RESOLVED:**
That the Mayor (Councillor Mrs C Reavey) and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs A Gardner) be appointed to the **Northamptonshire Association of Local Councils**

21/91.3. It was further **RESOLVED:**
That Councillor B Spencer be appointed to the **Higham Ferrers Angling Association**

21/91.4. It was further **RESOLVED:**
That R J Gell be appointed as **Parish Tree Warden** and Mrs Marion Darnell as **Parish Paths Warden**

21/92. **CHICHELE EDUCATION FOUNDATION**
RESOLVED:
That Councillor H L Jackson and Councillor V K Paul be nominated as Trustees to the Chichele Education Foundation.

21/93. **TEMPORARY CHANGE TO STATUS OF COMMITTEES**
RESOLVED:
That with effect from 17th May:

- That Committees apart from Personnel Committee would meet remotely as advisory groups to support and advise the Clerk.
- That the Clerk is to take decisions under her extended delegated powers already agreed by Council in March 2021, taking into account the views of the advisory committees.

Mayor

Date