

**MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17th JULY 2018 AT THE TOWN HALL AT 6PM.**

PRESENT:

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

18/148. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr R Gell and Cllr A M T Reading.

18/149. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

OTHER INTERESTS

Cllr Mrs P Whiting – Item 4 – District Councillor
Cllr Mrs A Sauntson – Item 4 – District Councillor
Cllr J Smithers – Item 4 – County Councillor

18/150. **PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

No public present.

18/151. **FUTURE NORTHANTS**

Cllr B Prigmore requested a recorded vote on each question.

Q1. To what extent do you agree that we need to make changes to respond to these challenges?

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Whiting, Drage, Tomas, Reavey, Gardner, Hamblin, Jackson, Sauntson, Smithers, O'Rourke.

Against – Cllrs Newbery, Prigmore, Mantle

That the response be 'Strongly Agree'

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that there is a need to reduce the number of councils in Northamptonshire?

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Tomas, Gardner, Hamblin, Jackson, Sauntson, Smithers, O'Rourke.

Against – Cllrs Newbery, Prigmore, Mantle, Whiting, Drage, Reavey.

That the response be 'Strongly Agree'

Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree that a number of unitary councils should be introduced in Northamptonshire?

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Whiting, Tomas, Reavey, Gardner, Hamblin, Jackson, Mantle Sauntson, Smithers, O'Rourke.

Against – Cllrs Newbery, Prigmore, Drage.
That the response be ‘Strongly Agree’

Q4. If you have any views on the proposal or any further comments, please tell us. If there is any alternative option which meets the government’s criteria that you think we should consider, please explain the alternative option and tell us why you think it would be better?

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Whiting, Newbery, Drage, Tomas, Reavey, Gardner, Jackson, Mantle Sauntson, Smithers, O’Rourke.

Against – Cllrs Hamblin, Prigmore.

That the following comment be made: -

The Council is angry that efficient District and Borough Councils are being penalised because of the inefficient use of money by Northamptonshire County Council. Two unitaries will ensure that Northamptonshire Council will disappear.

Q6 Please rate how important you think each of these factors is using a whole number between 0 and 10, where “10” means critically important and “0” means of no importance?

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Newbery, Drage, Tomas, Reavey, Hamblin, Prigmore, Gardner, Jackson, Mantle, Sauntson, Smithers, O’Rourke.

Against – Cllr Whiting.

That the score be 10 for ‘Accountability’.

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Whiting, Drage, Hamblin, Tomas, Reavey, Prigmore, Gardner, Jackson, Mantle, Sauntson, Smithers, O’Rourke.

Against – Cllr Newbery.

That the score be 10 for ‘Quality’.

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Tomas, Gardner, Hamblin, Prigmore, Jackson, Smithers, O’Rourke.

Against – Cllr Newbery, Drage, Reavey, Mantle, Sauntson, Whiting.

That the score be 10 for ‘Local Identity’.

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Drage, Tomas, Reavey, Gardner, Hamblin, Prigmore, Jackson, Smithers, O’Rourke.

Against –Newbery, Mantle, Sauntson, Whiting.

That the score be 10 for ‘Access’.

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Drage, Tomas, Reavey, Gardner, Hamblin, Prigmore, Jackson, Smithers, O’Rourke, Newbery, Mantle, Sauntson, Whiting.

That the score will be 10 for 'Value for Money'.

Q7. Are there any groups protected under the equality Act 2010 who you believe will be positively or negatively affected by our proposed changes? If so, what could we do to enhance positive or reduce impacts?

RESOLVED:

For: Cllrs Lawson, Drage, Tomas, Reavey, Gardner, Hamblin, Prigmore, Jackson, Smithers, O'Rourke, Newbery, Mantle, Sauntson, Whiting.

That the response be:-

No comment, other than that the views of individuals groups when responding will be taken seriously.

Mayor

Date