

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN



Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin held on Thursday, 24 May 2018 at 6.00pm at The Place, Oakengates, Telford

Present:

Councillors J C Ashford, S L Barnes, S Bentley, K T Blundell, M Boylan, A J Burford, S P Burrell, L D Carter, G K Cook, S Davies, N A Dugmore, A J Eade, A R H England, N A M England, R C Evans, I T W Fletcher, V A Fletcher, J A Francis, C A Furnival, E J Greenaway, M B Hosken, J Jones, R T Kiernan, A Lawrence, J Loveridge, N C Lowery, C N Mason, A D McClements, R Mehta, J C Minor, L A Murray, T J Nelson, R A Overton, J Pinter, G C W Reynolds, S A W Reynolds, S J Reynolds (Mayor), H Rhodes, K S Sahota, P J Scott, J M Seymour, R J Sloan, C F Smith (Speaker), M J Smith, B D Tillotson, K T Tomlinson, W L Tomlinson, C R Turley, P R Watling and D G Wright

1. Welcome from Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor S J Reynolds, welcomed civic dignitaries, Members and invited guests to the Annual Meeting of the Borough of Telford & Wrekin. In particular he noted the presence of the Lord Lieutenant Sir Algernon Heber-Percy, Lord & Lady Grocott, Lt Col Nick Jenkins representing The Rifles, the Consul General of India Dr Aman Puri and Community Faith Leaders.

2. Declaration

Councillor R J Sloan read the following declaration:

“Colleagues, aware of our responsibilities to promote democracy and the well-being of all local people, on behalf of the Council, I make this re-commitment to our office as elected representatives.

Elected to serve the public good, we recognise that public office is a privilege granted by the people and not a right.

We, elected representatives of the people of Telford & Wrekin, declare that we will, to the best of our ability, uphold the Council’s constitution and serve the community above any private or personal interest.”

Members signified their affirmation of the Declaration.

3. Prayers

The Reverend Keith Osmund Smith, Ecumenical Coordinating Chaplain, Telford Christians Together, said prayers.

4. Election of Mayor

It was moved by Councillor A D McClements, seconded by Councillor P R Watling, that Councillor R Mehta be elected as Mayor of the Council. Following a vote it was:

RESOLVED – that Councillor R Mehta be elected as Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2018/19.

The Mayor, Councillor R Mehta, expressed thanks to the retiring Mayor for his support during his year in office as Deputy Mayor and, highlighting the ongoing support of his family and friends, he warmly anticipated the year ahead.

6. Election of Speaker

It was moved by Councillor L Murray, seconded by Councillor R J Sloan, that Councillor M J Smith be elected as Speaker of the Council. A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED – that Councillor M J Smith be elected as Speaker of the Council for the municipal year 2018/19.

The Speaker made a short address to the Chamber.

7. Election of Deputy Speaker

It was moved by Councillor A J Burford, seconded by Councillor C R Turley, that Councillor R J Sloan be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council. A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED – that Councillor R J Sloan be elected as Deputy Speaker of the Council for the municipal year 2018/19.

8. Election of Deputy Mayor

It was moved by Councillor H Rhodes, seconded by Councillor L D Carter, that Councillor S J Reynolds be appointed as Deputy Mayor. A vote was taken and it was:

RESOLVED – that Councillor S J Reynolds be elected as Deputy Mayor of the Council for the municipal year 2018/19.

9. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

A vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor S J Reynolds, was proposed by Councillor A R H England and seconded by Councillor R A Overton.

RESOLVED – that the Council recorded its thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor S J Reynolds for his service over the 2017/18 term of office.

10. Reply to Vote of Thanks

In response, the retiring Mayor thanked Members for their kind words and stated that he had been honoured and privileged to represent the borough during his year in office. It had been a whirlwind of many very varied events and he expressed thanks to the numerous community and voluntary groups he had met for their inspirational efforts. He particularly expressed thanks to Councillor Raj Mehta for his support as Deputy Mayor and to Paige Mitchell, PA to the Mayor, for ensuring the smooth running of the office, and to Jayne Clarke and Stacey Worthington of the Democratic & Scrutiny Services Team. The retiring Mayor thanked the Mayoress and his children for their unwavering support, and to all those individuals and groups who had supported his charity events. He also expressed personal heartfelt gratitude to the Severn Hospice, his chosen charity, and presented a cheque in the sum of £7091 to the Chief Executive Designate, Heather Paine. He also presented a thank you gifts to the Mayoress, Paige Mitchell (PA to the Mayor), Stacey Worthington and Jayne Clarke.

11. Apologies for Absence

Councillors E J Carter, E A Clare, K R Guy, and A A Meredith.

12. Declarations of Interest

None.

13. Minutes

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 1 March 2018 and 10 April 2018, and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 10 April 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

14. Announcements

The Leader welcomed Members and guests to the meeting in Telford's 50th Anniversary year, and noted how enthusiastically the local community had sought to become involved in the celebrations. He also noted that the town had been rocked by the harrowing details of child sexual exploitation which had been in the headlines and welcomed the independent inquiry which would be locally commissioned over the coming months. The Leader noted that levels of young people not in education, employment or training in the borough had been reduced since 2013 from 12% to 6% and welcomed newly announced funding to reduce rough sleeping in the borough. He went on to note investment in the borough's road networks and associated assets, including future proofing schemes for street lights and footpaths. The Leader welcomed the Council's tough stance on enforcement against environmental crime, which had seen 200 fixed penalty notices issued in just ten months, up 20 fold on the previous period, and the numbers of illegal travelling encampments had reduced from 521 in 2013 to 27 in 2017. The Leader noted the Council's approach to business had put Telford at the forefront of innovation, with Magna, Polytech, Craemer and Rosewood all investing in the town and funding of £3.7m was being delivered by West Midlands Combined Authority. He noted the imminent consultation on the reconfiguration of hospital services and reiterated his promise to continue to fight to retain the Women's and Children's Unit and Accident and Emergency Unit in Telford.

Councillor A J Eade expressed opinions on the administration's PRH4Me campaign, relationships with the local NHS leadership and the CSE inquiry process which he considered to be flawed.

Councillor W L Tomlinson urged local MPs to lobby to keep the Women's and Children's Unit and Accident and Emergency Unit in Telford and expressed the view that the locally commissioned CSE Inquiry should be victim led.

The Leader responded that he hoped that there would be cross party support for the Council's campaign to retain the Women's and Children's Unit and Accident and Emergency Unit in Telford and reiterated his view that the locally commissioned independent inquiry should not have its inquiry chair appointed by and terms of reference set by politicians.

15. Appointment of Cabinet

Councillor S Davies notified the meeting of Cabinet appointments.

RESOLVED – that the Membership of the Cabinet, as notified by Councillor S Davies, be appointed for the municipal year 2018/19 as set out in the Leader's report.

16. Delegation Scheme

Councillor R C Evans, the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Tourism & Partnerships proposed that Council approve the Council's delegation scheme as detailed in the Constitution.

RESOLVED – that the discharge of Council functions by Committees as set out in the Council's Constitution dated 19 January 2017 be approved under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972

17. Appointment of Committees, Commissions, Boards, etc

Proposals for the appointment of Committees, Commissions and Boards, etc in accordance with the political balance of the Council had been submitted.

RESOLVED – that the internal bodies for the municipal year 2018/19 (including the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen) be appointed as set out in the report.

18. Programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council

The programme of dates for ordinary meetings of the Council for 2018/19 would be as set out in the report.

The meeting ended at 7.30pm

Mayor:

Date: