

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held remotely by video conference
at 7 pm on Thursday, 7th May 2020

Present: Cllr. Mary Hill, Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak, Cllr. Dafydd Jenkins, Cllr. Matthew Park, Cllr. Natalie Park, Cllr. Marcus Themans, Cllr. Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Cllr. Allan Walter, Cllr. Duncan White, Cllr. Milner Whiteman OBE.

Town Clerk: Trudi Barrett

In attendance: Rev'd Matthew Stafford, Shropshire Councillor David Turner and several members of the public

1. Election of Mayor

In pursuance of LGA 1972 s15(1)(2) it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Milner Whiteman and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Natalie Park that Cllr. Daniel Thomas be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

There being no other nominations it was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Daniel Thomas be elected as Town Mayor of Much Wenlock for the ensuing year.

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

The newly appointed Mayor, Cllr. Daniel Thomas, signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed by the Town Clerk.

The Mayor **PROPOSED** and Cllr. Milner Whiteman **SECONDED** that a 'Vote of Thanks' be accorded to the ex-Mayor, Cllr. Herbert Harper, which was unanimously **APPROVED**.

The Mayor gave his address of thanks for his election.

3. Election of Deputy Mayor

In pursuance of LGA 1972 s15(6) it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr. Duncan White and **SECONDED** by Cllr. Yvonne Holyoak that Cllr. Mary Hill be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

There being no other nominations it was unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr. Mary Hill be elected as Deputy Mayor of Much Wenlock for the ensuing year.

4. Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Cllr. Herbert Harper, who had been unable to join the meeting.

This apology was ACCEPTED and AGREED as APPROVED absence.

5. Appointment of Mayor's Chaplain

The Mayor appointed Rev'd Matthew Stafford to be his Chaplain and confirmed this in writing.

6. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the monitoring officer. **None.**

7. Dispensations

None requested.

8. Minutes

a. The minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th March 2020 were considered for approval. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2020 be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

b. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 4th February 2020 be ADOPTED as a true record.**

Councillor Holyoak left the meeting.

9. Town Clerk's Report

Members received a written report from the Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting. **NOTED.**

10. Appointment of Committee Members

- a. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** to appoint the following members to the Planning & Environment Committee, with delegated authority to respond to planning and environmental matters: Cllrs Mary Hill, Yvonne Holyoak, Dafydd Jenkins, Marcus Themans, Allan Walter, Milner Whiteman.
- b. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** to appoint all Councillors to the Finance, Asset Management and HR Committee, with delegated authority to deal with financial matters, the Council's resources and personnel matters.

11. Appointment of Discipline & Grievance Panel

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** to appoint Councillors Herbert Harper, Mary Hill and Marcus Themans to the Discipline & Grievance Panel.

12. Schedule of future meetings

Councillors considered meeting dates for the Council year 2020/21. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of meetings for the Council year 2020/21.

13. Suspension of Vacation of Office by Failure to Attend Meetings

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that during the current Covid-19 epidemic Much Wenlock Town Council suspend the vacation of office by failure to attend meetings due to the logistical challenges of holding a meeting remotely and that Councillors would not be held responsible for being unable to attend meetings due to not being able to access meetings remotely (LGA1972. 85 (1)).

14. Deferral of Business

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED** that all other business usually considered at the Annual Town Council meeting be deferred to a later date.

15. Date of next meeting

- a. Members **NOTED** that while local councils were permitted to hold meetings remotely, they were not obliged to do so, and that so long as the current government restrictions on social gatherings were in force, scheduled meetings might not go ahead.
- b. Members **NOTED** that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on **4th June 2020**.

The meeting closed at 19:45

Signed.....
Town Mayor

Date.....