

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL ON
THURSDAY 18TH MAY 2023**

Meeting Commenced: 5.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 5.55 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Sonia Russe (Town Mayor), Raymond Armstrong, Roger Bailey, Mike Bell, Joe Bambridge, Mark Canniford, Annabelle Chard, James Clayton, Jemma Coles, John Crockford-Hawley, Ciaran Cronnelly, Catherine Gibbons, Simon Harrison-Morse, Hugh Malyan, Robert Payne, Alan Peak, Justyna Pecak-Michalowicz, Marcia Pepperall, Lisa Pilgrim, John Standfield, Tim Taylor, Richard Tucker, Charles Williams and Martin Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE: Malcolm Nicholson (Town Clerk), Sarah Pearse (Deputy Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Samantha Bishop (Committee and Office Manager), Rebecca Saunders (Civic & Committee Officer), Becky Walsh (Communications Officer), Keith Harris (Macebearer), Rev. Peter Ashman (Mayor's Chaplain), Nathaniel Parker (Retiring Mayor's Cadet), Daniel Stuckey (Incoming Mayor's Cadet), Mr David Ray (Retiring Consort) and Mrs Katherine Cronnelly (Incoming Mayoress).

The Macebearer requested that all present stand for the Mayor and Mayoress of Weston-super-Mare.

1.	<p>Welcome by the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare, Councillor Sonia Russe</p> <p>The Town Mayor welcomed the High Sherriff of Somerset, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and councillors to the Mayor Making Ceremony and Annual Meeting of the Town Council.</p> <p>In recognition and thanks for their services throughout her terms of office, the Mayor presented her retiring Chaplain Rev. Peter Ashman with a painting of St John's Church and retiring Cadet with a plaque.</p> <p>The Mayor had felt it an honour and a privilege to serve Weston-super-Mare and had thoroughly enjoyed her year working with the community. She had attended over 150 engagements and raised over £4500 for her chosen charity North Somerset Parent Carers working together. She highlighted on particular events SEN water safety sessions and The Mayor's Cocktail party.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked everybody for their support throughout her Mayoral year and in particular her Consort.</p> <p>The Mayor invited questions and observations from parishioners present.</p> <p>Louise Somerville addressed the meeting in relation to the Council's forthcoming Weston Museum event Drag Queen Story Hour as a representative of the local group, Women's Voices Matter. Many of the group were parents, some of which have worked with children professionally, some of whom are lesbian or bisexual and are all progressive feminists who actively promote diversity within their families and wider communities.</p>
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	<p>Louise raised her group's concerns that the Drag Queen Story Hour, where men dressed as glamorous overtly sexualised women were invited into public buildings to read stories to children, was both inappropriate and sexist. This was a new and concerning phenomenon and was contrary to basic safeguarding principles and Government guidance.</p> <p>Emma Smith addressed the meeting with concurring concerns and questioned the council on its current Safeguarding Policy and enforcement.</p> <p>The Town Mayor thanked both parishioners for their address and advised that their comments would be directed to the relevant committee for consideration.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Election of the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare</p> <p>The Mayor invited Councillor Alan Peak and Councillor James Clayton to second the proposition that Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly be elected the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare for the year 2023/24.</p> <p>Councillors Alan Peak and James Clayton respectively proposed and seconded Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly's ascension to the office of Mayor and affirmed that they would, with pleasure, endorse the election of Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly as Mayor.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly be elected the Mayor of Weston-super-Mare for the year 2023/24.</p> <p>Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly assented to his election.</p> <p>At the request of the retiring Mayor the Macebearer announced that there would be a short adjournment of proceedings for robing and requested that all present, rise.</p> <p>Preceded by the Mace and Macebearer, the retiring Mayor (Councillor Sonia Rusee), and Consort (David Ray), the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly and Katherine Cronnelly) the Town Clerk (Malcolm Nicholson) and the retiring Mayor's Chaplain (Rev. Peter Ashman) adjourned from the meeting, returning to the Council Chamber when robing had been completed.</p> <p>The new Town Mayor, Councillor Ciaran Cronnelly, took his seat.</p> <p>The Mayor, at the request of the Town Clerk proceeded to read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor of Weston-super-Mare for the year 2022/23, signing the document and returning thanks for his election to office.</p> <p>The Mayor returned thanks for his election to office.</p> <p>The Mayor invited Councillors Roger Bailey to propose and Martin Williams to second a vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor and Consort.</p> <p>The Mayor then invited the retiring Mayor and Consort of Weston-super-Mare to come forward to accept a gift to mark the Town Council's appreciation of their services during their term of office 2023/24.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>To receive Apologies for Absence</p>

	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Marc Aplin, Gill Bute, John Carson, Peter Crew, Caroline Reynolds, Robert Skeen and Helen Thornton.</p> <p>It was then</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>RESOLVED: That any members who had not been able to sign their Declaration of Acceptance of Office yet be granted an extension until the next Council meeting on 24th July to complete their Declarations.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Election of the Deputy Mayor of Weston-super-Mare 2022/23</p> <p>The Mayor invited Councillor Robert Payne to propose and Councillor Mark Canniford to second the proposition that Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be elected the Deputy Mayor of Weston-super-Mare for the year 2023/24.</p> <p>Councillors Robert Payne and Mark Canniford respectively proposed and seconded Councillor John Crockford-Hawley's ascension to the office of Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED: That Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be elected the Deputy Mayor of Weston-super-Mare for the year 2023/24.</p> <p>At the request of the Mayor, the Macebearer announced that there would be a short adjournment of proceedings for robing and requested that all present rise.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor (Councillor John Crockford-Hawley), adjourned from the meeting and returned to the Council Chamber when robing was complete.</p> <p>The Deputy Mayor, at the request of the Town Clerk, proceeded to read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as the Deputy Mayor of Weston-super-Mare for the 2023/24, signing the document and returning thanks for his election to office.</p> <p>The Mayor announced the appointment of his Chaplain, Reverend Peter Ashman and presented him with a stole of office.</p> <p>The Mayor appointed cadet Daniel Stuckey of the Royal Marines as the Mayor's Cadet for 2023/24 and presented him with a badge depicting the Weston-super-Mare Coat of Arms.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>To approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 20th March 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p>

	<p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley</p> <p>A vote was taken and accordingly it was carried.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.</p>
7.	<p>Election of Leader and Deputy Leader of the Town Council</p> <p>The proposition to elect the Leader of the Town Council for 2023/2024 was put to council.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Tim Taylor SECONDED BY: Councillor Charles Williams</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Alan Peak be appointed Leader of the Town Council for 2023/24.</p> <p>The proposition to elect the Deputy Leader of the Town Council for 2023/24 was put to the council.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor James Clayton SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor John Crockford-Hawley be appointed Deputy Leader of the Town Council for 2023/24.</p>
8.	<p>To approve payment signatories for the Council with immediate effect</p> <p>Members are requested to approve the nominated positions for the current administration May 2023 – May 2027 and note positions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Mayor – Chairman of Council 2) Deputy Mayor 3) Leader of Council 4) Chairman of Policy & Finance Committee <p>following appointment at the meeting as authorised for this period allowing Bank mandates to be completed.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor Mark Canniford</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the nominated positions for the current administration May 2023 – May 2027. 2. Note the positions 1, 2, 3 & 4 as above, following appointment at the meeting, as authorised for the period allowing Bank mandates to be completed by them.

<p>9.</p>	<p>Appointment of Town Councillors to Committees, Sub Committees, Working Parties and External Organisations</p> <p>The draft Appointment of Town Councillors to Committees, Sub Committees, Working Parties and External Organisations for 2023/2024 had been previously circulated to members.</p> <p>An amendment was requested by Councillor John Crockford-Hawley to reduce the membership of the Planning Committee from 9 to 8 and the Weston In Bloom Working Party from 7 to 6.</p> <p>Councillor Charles Williams put himself forward for the vacancy on the Heritage Arts and Culture Committee and the Birnbeck Regeneration Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Roger Bailey put himself forward for the Allotment Champion.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley SECONDED BY: Councillor Alan Peak</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That with the above amendments and additions, the Appointment of Town Councillors to Committees, Sub Committees, Working Parties and External Organisations for 2023/2024 as circulated be approved.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Members are requested to approve the EMR & Capital Reserve requirements for 2023/ 2024 - as approved by Policy & Finance 17.04.23.</p> <p>The EMR & Capital Reserve requirements for the year 2023/24 had been previously circulated.</p> <p>PROPOSED BY: Councillor Alan Peak SECONDED BY: Councillor John Crockford-Hawley</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the recognised Final Earmarked Reserve requirements for the year 2022 / 2023 2. that balance changes at the year-end position had been updated and reflected in the above figures
	<p>There being no further business, the Town Mayor closed the meeting at 5.55 pm</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Town Mayor</p>