

Council

Monday, 21 May 2018

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Jennifer Wheeler (Mayor), and Councillors Joe Baker, Tom Baker-Price, Joanne Beecham, Roger Bennett, Juliet Brunner, David Bush, Michael Chalk, Debbie Chance, Greg Chance, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, John Fisher, Andrew Fry, Julian Grubb, Bill Hartnett, Pattie Hill, Wanda King, Anthony Lovell, Gemma Monaco, Gareth Prosser, Antonia Pulsford, Michael Rouse, Mark Shurmer, Yvonne Smith, Craig Warhurst and Pat Witherspoon

Officers:

Kevin Dicks, Claire Felton and Sue Hanley

Democratic Services Officer:

Jess Bayley

1. WELCOME

The Mayor, Councillor Jenny Wheeler, welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Salman Akbar and Anita Clayton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MAYOR'S OPENING REMARKS

Councillor Wheeler advised that she had really enjoyed serving as Mayor during 2017/18 and she thanked Members for providing her with an opportunity to take on this role. One of Councillor Wheeler's first engagements as Mayor had been to attend a solidarity event at the mosque which had been organised in response to the terrorist incident that occurred at an Ariane Grande concert in Manchester. This event had illustrated the important role of the Mayor in drawing communities together in difficult circumstances.

.....
Chair

The Mayor circulated a list of the engagements that she had attended since the last meeting of Council in writing (Appendix 1). There had been a number of highlights during Councillor Wheeler's Mayoral year, which had included the many events that she had attended. Councillor Wheeler had been positively surprised by the range of sporting clubs and cultural activities taking place in the local community and had welcomed the opportunity to meet with people from diverse backgrounds. The Mayor had also enjoyed visiting the Alexandra Hospital on Christmas Day and had been impressed by the hard work of all the staff.

Councillor Wheeler thanked a number of people for their support during the year. Particular thanks were extended to former Councillor, Nina Wood-Ford, who had served as Deputy Mayor during the year. Thanks were also paid to Susan Lisle, the Mayor's Secretary, for her hard work as well as to Jess Bayley, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Redditch).

During 2017/18 the Mayor had supported St Basils and Young Minds, both of which had been selected due to their hard work supporting young people who were experiencing mental health difficulties. This had supported the Mayor's theme that year of raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing for young people. The Mayor paid tribute to everybody who had volunteered and helped to raise money for charity during the year. A total of £5,000 had been raised for the Mayor's charities and this would be divided equally between the Mayor's charities. Thanks were also extended to the Sea Cadets (Redditch and Bromsgrove branch), particularly their lead officer, James Saunders, who had helped the Mayor with various activities during the year.

5. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR 2018/19

Councillor Juliet Brunner was elected Mayor of the Borough for the forthcoming year, following which she made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was then invested with the Chain of Office by the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Jenny Wheeler. Councillor Brunner thanked the outgoing Mayor and, on behalf of the Council, expressed gratitude for the work she had carried out as an ambassador for the town.

RESOLVED that

- 1) Councillor Juliet Brunner be elected Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council; and**
- 2) the Council formally express, and record, its gratitude to Councillor Jenny Wheeler for her excellent service to the town over the last 12 months as Mayor.**

6. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2018/19

Councillor Roger Bennett was elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch for the forthcoming year, following which he made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was then invested with the Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office by the Mayor, Councillor Juliet Brunner.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Roger Bennett be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Redditch to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Mayor's Announcements

Councillor Brunner thanked Members for providing her with an opportunity to serve as Mayor of the Borough of Redditch.

Members were informed that the Mayor's chaplain would be Canon Garth Nathaniel from St Peter's church in Ipsley, Redditch. The Mayor would have a team of consorts; her husband, Mr Mark Brunner, her daughter, Ms Arlene Victoria Brunner, and her friends, former Councillor, Gaye Hopkins, and Ms Angela Heighway. Councillor Brunner dedicated her mayoral year to her father who had inspired her and who had lived by the principles of public leadership. Thanks were also extended to Councillor Brunner's family for their support.

Councillor Brunner advised that the theme of her Mayoral year would be to restore a strong sense of civic pride in the local community. She noted that it was an honour to serve as Mayor of the Borough of Redditch 100 years after women had been given the power to vote. In honour of the centenary celebrations the Mayor would be hosting an equality tea party and parade event in Redditch and would be inviting representatives of the Mercian Regiment to parade through the town as part of this process.

Council was informed that Councillor Brunner would be supporting three charities during her mayoral year. These were the Sandycroft Wellbeing Centre, Bowel Cancer UK and the Royal British Legion. The Mayor also welcomed the support of the 216 Squadron of the Royal Air Force Cadets.

b) Leader's Announcements

In light of the recent election results and the loss of his Group's majority, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bill Hartnett, announced his immediate resignation from this position. He thanked his colleagues and Officers for their support during the previous four year period and congratulated Councillor Brunner on being appointed Mayor.

c) Chief Executive's Announcements

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had no announcements to make.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED that

the minutes of the meeting of Council held on Monday 19th March 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

9. RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT

The Council received the Returning Officer's report in respect of the Borough Council elections held on 3rd May 2018.

RESOLVED that

the Returning Officer's report be noted.

10. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The Council appointed Councillor Matthew Dormer to the position of Leader for the coming four year period.

Councillor Dormer announced that he had received a letter from Rachel Maclean, MP for Redditch. This letter congratulated Councillor Brunner on her appointment as Mayor of the Borough of Redditch.

RESOLVED that

Councillor Matthew Dormer be, and hereby is, appointed Leader of the Council for the ensuing four years.

11. LEADER'S APPOINTMENTS

The Leader tabled his appointments to the Executive Committee as detailed in Appendix 2 to these minutes.

RESOLVED that

the appointment by the Leader of the Deputy Leader, of Members to the Executive Committee and to the individual Portfolios as detailed in Appendix 2 attached to these Minutes be noted.

12. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, PANELS ETC. AND THEIR CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

The Council considered the report setting out the proposed political balance of the Council's Committees and lists of nominations to Committees, Sub-Committees and other bodies.

A proposal was made for the decision in respect of appointments to the Budget Scrutiny Working Group, Care Leavers Scrutiny Task Group and the Performance Scrutiny Working Group to be postponed and instead made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its first meeting. This proposal received general support.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the political balance of the Committees of the Council be agreed as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report;**
- 2) the arrangement where the seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 3) the arrangement where the seats on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Panel are not allocated in accordance with the political balance requirements be continued;**
- 4) appointments by political group leaders to the places on each Committee as attached at Appendix 3 to these minutes. be noted;**
- 5) the Council appoints Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Committees and other bodies as set out in Appendix 3 to these minutes;**
- 6) appointments to the Scrutiny Working Groups and Care Leavers Task Group be agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and**
- 7) the terms of reference for the Committees be confirmed.**

13. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members considered a report setting out proposed appointments to various outside bodies.

During consideration of this item Officers confirmed that two Members sat on the Tardebigge Relieve in Need and Sickness Charities on behalf of the Council. However, Members in these positions were appointed for a four-year term and only one of these positions was due for reappointment at this meeting.

RESOLVED that

appointments to the places on each of the Outside Bodies, as detailed in Appendix 4 attached to these Minutes, be agreed.

14. SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

RESOLVED that

the current version of the Officer Scheme of Delegations, as set out in the report to Council, be agreed.

15. URGENT BUSINESS - RECORD OF DECISIONS

There were no urgent decisions to note.

16. URGENT BUSINESS - GENERAL (IF ANY)

There were no separate items of urgent business to consider at this meeting.

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.50 pm