

ANNUAL COUNCIL
Thursday, 20 May 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Ali, Allen, Bartch, Bell, Boddy, Dr. Chou, Clarke, Cossins, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Heslop, Holroyd, C L B Hughes, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Keir, Laing, Layton, Lee, Lucas, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, M Nicholson, K Nicholson, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Mrs H Scott, Snedker, Sowerby, Tait, Tostevin, Wallis, Willis and Wright.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Lister and Paley.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

2 THE MAYOR OR MANAGING DIRECTOR TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY.

Deaths of Honorary Alderman and former-Councillor Tony Richmond and former-Councillor Fred Lawton - The Mayor reported on the Deaths of Honorary Alderman and former-Councillor Tony Richmond, who had passed away on 12 May 2021, and former-Councillor Fred Lawton, who had passed away on 19 May 2021, and referred to their time and roles on the Council.

As a mark of respect, Members stood and observed a short silence in memory of both former-Councillors.

Welcome to Councillor Sowerby and Councillor Willis - The Mayor extended a warm welcome to Councillor Sowerby and Councillor Willis, who were attending their first meeting of the Council since their election on 6 May 2021.

The Mayor informed Members that the two new Councillors had drawn lots immediately prior to the meeting, and that Councillor Sowerby had drawn Position 49 in the Order of Seniority, and that Councillor Willis had drawn Position 50.

Retirement of Paul Wildsmith, Managing Director – The Mayor advised Members that the Managing Director would be retiring on 31 May 2021, and was attending his last meeting of the Council after over 21 years of service to the Council.

RESOLVED – That the formal thanks of this Council are due, and hereby tendered, to the Managing Director, Mr. Paul Wildsmith, for his outstanding service to the Council during his time in post.

3 TO ELECT A MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/2022.

Consideration was given to the election of a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Cyndi Hughes be elected Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

Following her election, the Mayor made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and:-

- (i) Was invested with the Chain of Office;
- (ii) Tendered her thanks to the Members of the Council for having elected her;
- (iii) Announced her decision to support St. Teresa's Hospice and Darlington Mind; and
- (iv) Announced that her Escort for the Mayoral Year would be her husband, Mr. Stephen Hughes.

4 RETIRING MAYOR - VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was proposed to the retiring Mayor and Escort.

RESOLVED – That the cordial thanks of the Council are due, and hereby tendered, to Councillor Chris McEwan and Amanda McEwan, for the exemplary manner in which they have discharged the duties of the high office of Mayor and Mayoress of this Borough during the past Municipal Year.

5 TO APPOINT A DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/2022.

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

RESOLVED - That Councillor Curry be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

6 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2021/2022

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the membership of the various Committees for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – (a) That the appointment of Members to the various Committees, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be approved.

(b) That the appointment of Cabinet Members by the Leader and their respective Portfolios, as detailed in the Appendix to the submitted report, be noted.

(c) That any consequential changes be made to the Council's Constitution.

REASON - To comply with the nominations received.

7 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2021/2022

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to representation on other bodies for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the nominations to the other bodies, as detailed in paragraph 6 of the submitted report, be approved.

REASON - To comply with the nominations received from the Political Groups.

8 TO APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2021/2022 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Submitted – A programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the 2021/2022 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the programme of ordinary meetings be approved.