

ANNUAL COUNCIL
Thursday, 25 June 2020

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

APOLOGIES – Councillor Newall.

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.

There were no announcements made.

3 TO ELECT A MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020 / 2021.

Consideration was given to the election of a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

RESOLVED – That Councillor McEwan be elected Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

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

- (i) Was invested with the Chain of Office;
- (ii) Tendered his thanks to the Members of the Council for having elected him;
- (iii) Announced his decision to support the charities relating to youth unemployment, Dementia Friendly Communities, grass roots health and well-being schemes, and the Lullaby Trust (formerly the Foundation for the Study of Infant Death); and
- (iv) Announced that his Mayoress for the Mayoral Year would be his wife, Mrs. Amanda McEwan.

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 Nick Wallis and Sandy Thorne-Wallis, 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 2020 / 2021.

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

RESOLVED - That Councillor C. L. B. Hughes be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2020/21.

6 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2020 / 2021.

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the membership of the various Committees for the 2020/21 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 2020 / 2021.

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to representation on other bodies for the 2020/21 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 2020 / 2021 MUNICIPAL YEAR.

Submitted – A programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the programme of ordinary meetings be approved.

9 CORONAVIRUS - REVISED DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS

The Managing Director submitted a report (previously circulated) which outlined a number of changes and adjustments required to enable meetings to be held, and to some of the conventions applied at meetings. The submitted report presented information to Members on the suggested approach to meetings during the current pandemic, and the Meetings (Coronavirus) Protocol was set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

RESOLVED – (a) That the approach suggested for meetings held during the coronavirus pandemic be noted.

(b) That the Meetings (Coronavirus) Protocol be adopted with immediate effect.

(c) That the Monitoring Officer be delegated to add the Meetings (Coronavirus) Protocol as an addendum to the Constitution and to make any consequential changes to the Constitution that are necessary.

REASONS – (a) To enable meetings of Councillors to go ahead with appropriate adjustments to take account of the coronavirus pandemic.

(b) To give some flexibility moving forward with format for meetings, dependent on national and local conditions concerning the pandemic and the risks posed.

(c) To provide some clarity about the way in which meetings will be held during the pandemic and that this is reflected in the Constitution.