

COUNCIL

Thursday, 29 September 2022

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Ali, Allen, Bell, Boddy, Clarke, Crudass, Mrs Culley, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Harker, Haszeldine, Holroyd, C L B Hughes, Keir, Laing, Lee, Marshall, McCollom, McEwan, Mills, Newall, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Preston, Renton, A J Scott, Snedker, Tait, Tostevin, Wallis and Willis.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Baldwin, Bartch, Cossins, Crumbie, Heslop, L Hughes, Johnson, B Jones, Mrs D Jones, Layton, Lucas, Paley, Mrs H Scott, Sowerby and Wright.

ABSENT – Councillors Dr. Chou and Lister.

23 **MINUTES - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THIS COUNCIL HELD ON 14 JULY 2022 AND 15 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meetings of this Council held on 14 July 2022 and 15 September 2022.

NOTE: That it be noted that at the Special Meeting of the Council on 15 September 2022, Members stood and observed a minutes silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of this Council held on 14 July 2022 and 15 September 2022, be approved as correct records.

24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

25 **SEALING.**

Presented – The Register showing the documents which had been sealed since the last meeting of Council.

26 **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Death of George Ward – The Mayor reported on the death of George Ward, also known by the stage name Cherry Valentine, who had passed away on Sunday, 18 September 2022.

The Mayor stated that Mr. Ward had been born in Darlington, and had appeared in the second series of 'Ru Paul's Drag Race', before going on to star in the BBC documentary 'Cherry Valentine – Gypsy Queen and Proud' in January 2022.

As a mark of respect, Members stood and observed a short silence in memory of George Ward.

Northumbria in Bloom – The Mayor announced that Darlington has been awarded two 'Golds' in the annual Northumbria in Bloom competition, along with the best improved entry overall.

The Mayor informed Members that, in total, staff, Friends of South Park, Street Champions, Darlington Carers volunteers, residents and businesses had worked together to bring home two Golds, two Silver Gilt, two Best in Categories, and the Most Improved Overall Entry in the competition.

The Mayor congratulated all those involved.

27 QUESTIONS - TO ANSWER QUESTIONS (WHERE APPROPRIATE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN FROM):-

(1) THE PUBLIC;

There were four questions, with notice, from Members of the Public, who each received an answer thereon.

(2) MEMBERS TO CABINET/CHAIRS;

There were no questions from Members, where notice had been given, for the Mayor, Members of the Cabinet, or the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

28 COUNCIL REPORTS

(1) THE INDEPENDENT PERSON

The Assistant Director Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer submitted a report (previously circulated) to advise Members of the recently vacated Independent Person role, and to invite Members to approve the appointments as set out in the recommendations.

The submitted report stated that the former Independent Person had been appointed as a circuit judge and had advised that she would no longer be able to discharge the Independent Person role. The submitted report provided further details of the role and set out the recruitment process undertaken.

It was reported that the Council is required to have at least one Independent Person, however, for reasons outlined in the report, the recommendation was to make two appointments.

RESOLVED - (a) That the recruitment process undertaken to fill the vacated Independent Person role be noted;

(b) That the appointment of two Independent Persons on the terms of appointment as set out in the report be agreed;

(c) That the appointment of Beverley Boal and Julie Mathieson as Independent Persons from 30 September 2022, be approved;

(d) That the thanks of the Council be given to the former Independent Person, Joanne Kidd, for her service in the role and to congratulate her on her appointment as a circuit judge.

REASONS - (a) To make appointments to the role occasioned by former office holder vacating the role;

(b) To help in promoting the good conduct of Members in the Council and the Parish Councils;

(c) To comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

29 CABINET REPORTS.

The Cabinet Members each gave a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken under their relevant portfolio during the previous cycle of meetings. Cabinet Members answered questions on their portfolios.

30 SCRUTINY REPORTS - TO CONSIDER SCRUTINY OVERVIEW REPORTS:-

The Scrutiny Committee Chairs each submitted a report (previously circulated) on the main areas of work undertaken by their relevant Scrutiny Committee during the last cycle of Committee meetings, and responded to any questions thereon.

31 MEMBERSHIP CHANGES - TO CONSIDER ANY MEMBERSHIP CHANGES TO COMMITTEES, SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND OTHER BODIES.

There were no membership changes reported at the meeting.