

ANNUAL COUNCIL
Thursday, 23 May 2024

PRESENT – The Mayor, Councillors Allen, Anderson, Baker, Bartch, Beckett, Coe, Crudass, Crumbie, Mrs Culley, Curry, Dillon, Donoghue, Dulston, Durham, Garner, Harker, Haszeldine, Henderson, Holroyd, Johnson, Kane, Keir, Laing, Lawley, Layton, Lee, Mahmud, Mammolotti, McCollom, McEwan, McGill, K Nicholson, M Nicholson, Pease, Porter, Ray, Roche, Mrs Scott, Snedker, Storr, Toms, Tostevin, Wallis and Walters.

APOLOGIES – Councillors Ali, Marshall, Dr. Riley and Robinson.

ABSENT – Councillor Renton.

1 DEATH OF LEAH HARRISON - WEDNESDAY, 22ND MAY 2024

The Mayor advised Members of the sudden and tragic death of Leah Harrison, a ten-year old pupil from Mount Pleasant Primary School. The Mayor reported that Leah was involved in tragic accident whilst on a school trip to Carlton-in-Cleveland near Osmotherley on Wednesday, 22nd May 2024.

Members were informed that Children’s Services were working with Leah’s family, loved ones and friends to offer any support they required at such a difficult time.

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

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

3 TO ELECT A MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25

Consideration was given to the election of a Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Robert Michael Donoghue be elected Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

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

- (i) Was invested with the Chain of Office;
- (ii) Announced his decision to support the Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC) and Recovery Connections (Darlington);
- (iii) Announced that his Chaplain would be Reverend Stephanie Price; and
- (iv) Announced that his Mayoress for the Mayoral Year would be his wife, Mrs. Margaret Donoghue.

4 RETIRING MAYOR - VOTE OF THANKS

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress.

RESOLVED – That the cordial thanks of the Council are due, and hereby tendered, to Councillor Jan Cossins and Ellie Cossins 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 2024/25

Consideration was given to the appointment of a Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Sonia Kane be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Darlington for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

6 THE MAYOR OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY.

There were no further announcements were reported at the meeting.

7 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES 2024/25

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the membership of the various Committees for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

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

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

REASON – To comply with the nominations received.

8 REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES 2024/25

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to representation on other bodies for the Municipal Year 2024/25.

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.

9 TO APPROVE A PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2024/25 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Submitted – A programme of Ordinary Meetings of the Council for the 2024/25 Municipal

Year.

RESOLVED – That the programme of Ordinary Meetings be approved.