

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 4th May, 2021

At the Statutory Annual meeting of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council held online via MS Teams on Tuesday, 4th May, 2021

Present: Her Worship the Mayor (Councillor Mrs J A Anderson), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor R V Roud), Cllr Mrs P A Bates, Cllr Mrs S Bell, Cllr R P Betts, Cllr T Bishop, Cllr J L Botten, Cllr M D Boughton, Cllr V M C Branson, Cllr G C Bridge, Cllr C Brown, Cllr R I B Cannon, Cllr A E Clark, Cllr M A Coffin, Cllr D J Cooper, Cllr M O Davis, Cllr Mrs T Dean, Cllr N Foyle, Cllr N J Heslop, Cllr P M Hickmott, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr A P J Keeley, Cllr D Keers, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp, Cllr A Kennedy, Cllr D W King, Cllr K King, Cllr Mrs C B Langridge, Cllr J R S Lark, Cllr D Lettington, Cllr Mrs R F Lettington, Cllr B J Luker, Cllr P J Montague, Cllr Mrs A S Oakley, Cllr L J O'Toole, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr J L Sergison, Cllr N G Stapleton, Cllr K B Tanner, Cllr Mrs M Tatton, Cllr Miss G E Thomas, Cllr D Thornevell, Cllr F G Tombolis and Cllr C J Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M C Base, R W Dalton, D A S Davis, S M Hammond, S A Hudson, W E Palmer, T B Shaw and M Taylor.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

C 21/35 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor A Oakley, seconded by Councillor N Heslop and

RESOLVED: That Councillor R Roud be elected Mayor for the municipal year 2021/22

The Mayor, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office assumed the Chair and thanked Members for his election. It was confirmed that the acceptance of office would be formally signed at the earliest opportunity and when circumstances allowed. In addition, it was confirmed that the Civic Office would make arrangements for the collection and distribution of the Mayoral regalia upon further relaxation of the coronavirus restrictions.

C 21/36 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Members expressed appreciation to the retiring Mayor for her dedicated, loyal and enthusiastic service to the Borough and its residents and commended her flexibility in adapting to the challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic during the last year.

In response to the thanks expressed, Councillor Anderson recorded appreciation to Councillor Roud for his support as Deputy Mayor and to those who had acted as her consort over her 2 year period of service. Finally, she was pleased to report that £6,875 had been raised in support of the Mayor's Charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).

It was proposed by Councillor H Rogers, seconded by Councillor N Heslop and

RESOLVED: That the Borough Council's sincere appreciation be recorded for the excellent manner in which the retiring Mayor, Councillor Mrs J Anderson, had performed her duties both in the Council Chamber and throughout the Borough during the preceding year.

C 21/37 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor D Lettington, seconded by Councillor N Heslop and

RESOLVED: That Councillor S Bell be appointed Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2021/22.

The Deputy Mayor made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Members for her appointment.

C 21/38 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 13 April 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C 21/39 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Mayor thanked the Council for his election and expressed appreciation for the many good wishes received. He announced that the Mayor's Charity would be the Kent Air Ambulance which provided emergency medical care for the people living, working and travelling in the area. The Reverend James Brown would be his Chaplain.

His first official event would be supporting the conclusion of the RBLIs 'Tommy's Race to Victory' relay which was due to finish at Preston Hall, Aylesford on Saturday 8 May in time for their VE day celebrations.

C 21/40 POLITICAL BALANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive set out details of political balance arrangements required to be applied to the Borough Council's committees, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels.

RESOLVED: That the composition of all committee, sub-committees, advisory boards and panels be approved in accordance with the table set out at paragraph 1.1.5 of the report and the Monitoring Officer make any consequential amendments to the Borough Council's Constitution in respect of political balance.

C 21/41 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

The Leader presented details of the composition of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the Cabinet will comprise six Members (in addition to the Leader) with the responsibilities as set out at Annex 1 and duplicated below:

Councillor N Heslop – Leader
Councillor R Betts – Street Scene and Environment Services
Councillor V Branson – Economic Regeneration
Councillor M Coffin – Finance, Innovation and Property; and Deputy Leader
Councillor D Lettington – Strategic Planning and Infrastructure
Councillor P Montague – Housing
Councillor M Rhodes – Community Services

C 21/42 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That appointments to the Committees of the Council for 2021/22 be approved as set out at Annex 2.

C 21/43 APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY BOARDS AND PANEL AND OTHER MEMBER GROUPS

RESOLVED: That appointments to the Advisory Boards, Panels and other Member Groups of the Council for 2021/22 be approved as set out at Annex 3.

C 21/44 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

RESOLVED: That appointments of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of each Committee, Board, Panel and Group for 2021/22 be approved as set out at Annex 4.

C 21/45 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That appointments to serve on outside bodies for 2021/22 be approved as set out at Annex 5.

C 21/46 SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

Members were invited to confirm the Scheme of Delegation in compliance with the Constitution.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) those parts of the scheme of delegation set out in Part 3 of the Constitution which are for the Council to approve (Responsibility for Council Functions) be confirmed;
- (b) the Leader's recommendations concerning the arrangements for decision-making by individual executive Members set out in Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for Executive Functions and Portfolios of Cabinet Members) be adopted;
- (c) the current scheme of delegation to officers in respect of executive functions set out in Part 3 of the Constitution (Functions and Powers Delegated to Officers) be re-adopted.

C 21/47 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2021/22

The programme of Council, Cabinet, Committee and Advisory Board and Panel meetings for 2021/22 and 2022/23 was presented for approval.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the programme of meetings for 2021/22 (as set out in Annex 1 to the report) be formally endorsed; and
- (2) the provisional programme of meetings for 2022/23 (as set out in Annex 2 to the report) be approved.

C 21/48 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS PUBLIC SPEAKING AT PLANNING COMMITTEES (SOCIAL DISTANCED)

The report of the Director of Central Services and Deputy Chief Executive advised that as part of proposals for the safe return of face to face meetings after 7 May 2021, and to comply with coronavirus regulations in place at the time, a number of temporary changes to the Protocol on Public Speaking at Area Planning Committees were recommended. These were set out at Annex 1 to the report.

RESOLVED: That the temporary arrangements to the Protocol on Public Speaking at Planning Committees be approved.

C 21/49 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED: That authority be given for the Common Seal of the Council to be affixed to any instrument to give effect to a decision of the Council incorporated into these Minutes and proceedings.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm