

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES

Tuesday, 10th May, 2022

At the meeting of the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council held in the Civic Suite, Gibson Building, Kings Hill, West Malling on Tuesday, 10th May, 2022

Present: His Worship the Mayor (Councillor R V Roud), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs S Bell), Cllr Mrs J A Anderson, 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 A Cope, Cllr R W Dalton, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr M O Davis, Cllr Mrs T Dean, Cllr N Foyle, Cllr D Harman, Cllr P M Hickmott, Cllr M A J Hood, Cllr F A Hoskins, Cllr S A Hudson, Cllr D Keers, Cllr A Kennedy, 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 W E Palmer, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr H S Rogers, Cllr J L Sergison, Cllr T B Shaw, Cllr K B Tanner, Cllr Mrs M Tatton, Cllr Miss G E Thomas, Cllr D Thornewell and Cllr F G Tombolis

(Note: Councillors Base, Bates, Boxall, Kemp, Sergison and Taylor participated via MS Teams and were unable to vote on any matters).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N J Heslop, D W King, N G Stapleton and C J Williams.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

C 22/39 ELECTION OF MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor D Lettington, seconded by Councillor M Boughton and

RESOLVED: That Councillor S Bell be elected Mayor for the municipal year 2022/23.

The Mayor, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, assumed the Chair and thanked Members for her election.

C 22/40 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Members expressed appreciation to the retiring Mayor for dedicated and loyal service to the Borough and its residents and commended his enthusiasm and active promotion of Tonbridge and Malling.

In response to the thanks expressed, Councillor Roud recorded appreciation to Councillor Bell for her support as Deputy Mayor, to the Mayoress who had acted as his consort over his period of service, the many organisations that had contributed to his events, the Chaplain and everyone who had shown such generosity and support. Finally, he was pleased to report that nearly £5,000 had been raised in support of the Mayor's Charity, the Kent, Surry and Sussex Air Ambulance.

It was proposed by Councillor Oakley, seconded by Councillor Boughton and

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

C 22/41 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor J Botten, seconded by Councillor M Boughton and

RESOLVED: That Councillor J Lark be appointed Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2022/23.

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

C 22/42 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Council held on 27 April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C 22/43 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new Mayor thanked Members for her election and expressed appreciation for the many good wishes received. It was announced that the Mayor's Charity would be the Tonbridge Dementia Friendly Community, who were a community group of local residents, business representatives and volunteers focusing on work in the Tonbridge and Malling area to improve the lives locally for residents living with dementia.

It was also announced that the Reverend Danielle Pearson-Smith, Rector of All Saints with Christ Church in Snodland would be the Mayors Chaplain.

C 22/44 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, scrutiny select committees and advisory panels.

RESOLVED: That the composition of all committees, scrutiny select committees and advisory panels be approved in accordance with the tablet 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 22/45 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET

The Leader presented details of the composition of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the Cabinet would comprise 7 Members (in addition to the Leader) with the responsibilities as set out at Annex 1 and duplicated below:

Councillor M Boughton	-	Leader
Councillor R Betts	-	Environment and Climate Change
Councillor V Branson	-	Economic Regeneration
Councillor M Coffin	-	Finance, Innovation and Property; and Deputy Leader
Councillor D Davis	-	Strategic Planning and Infrastructure
Councillor D Keers	-	Community Services
Councillor P Montague	-	Technical and Waste Services
Councillor K Tanner	-	Housing

C 22/46 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED: That appointments to the Committees of the Council for 2022/23 be approved as set out at Annex 2.

C 22/47 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY SELECT COMMITTEES, PANELS AND OTHER MEMBER GROUPS

RESOLVED: That appointments to the Scrutiny Select Committees, Advisory Panels and other member groups of the Council for 2022/23 be approved as set out at Annex 3.

C 22/48 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED: That appointments of Chair and Vice-Chair of each Committee, Scrutiny Select Committee, Panel and Group for 2022/23 be approved as set out at Annex 4; subject to:

- (1) Councillor A Clark (Green) being appointed as second Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

C 22/49 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED: That appointments to serve on outside bodies for 2022/23 be approved as set out at Annex 5.

C 22/50 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

RESOLVED: That appointments to serve as substitute members for 2022/23 be approved as set out at Annex 6.

C 22/51 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 22/52 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

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

RESOLVED: That the programme of meetings for 2022/23 (as set out at Annex 1 to the report) be approved, subject to the request from the newly appointed Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to move the meeting currently scheduled for 30 June 2022.

[Subsequent to the meeting and in consultation with the Chair, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was moved to 7 July 2022].

C 22/53 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

The report of the Monitoring Officer sought approval for the appointment of an independent person in accordance with the requirement of the Localism Act 2011. The Council had a statutory obligation to appoint at least one independent person. Failure to do so would mean that the Council would be unable to discharge the functions set out in the report. In particular, the Standards Hearing Panel would be unable to make a finding as to whether a member has failed to comply with the Code of Conduct.

RESOLVED: That Mr David Mercier be appointed as an Independent Person under s28 of the Localism Act 2011 for a 5 year term expiring on 30 June 2027.

C 22/54 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 8.15 pm