

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCILIncorporating MayormakingMonday 11th May 2015

Present: Cllr J. Lynch (Chairman), Cllr P. Allen, Cllr D. Bain, Cllr J. Burrows, Cllr P. Conquest, Cllr R. Dallyn, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr J. Hart, Cllr M. Johns, Cllr S. McMurray, Cllr L. Samiotis, Cllr R. Sant, Cllr D. Tarbun, Cllr J. Walsh, Cllr J. Wilby

1.a) Election of Town MayorProposal

Cllr Godwin proposed that Cllr D. Bain be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year; seconded by Cllr J. Wilby; all in favour

1.b) Election of Deputy MayorProposal

Cllr Allen proposed that Cllr D. Tarbun be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year; seconded by Cllr Samiotis; all in favour

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr C. Lofts

3.a) Town Mayor's Review of his Term of Office

Cllr Lynch gave a summary of the functions and events that he and the Mayoress, Margaret, had attended as representatives of the town and the Council. He said their visits to Towcester's schools were always an occasion for pride in our young people. As well as performing well in the various academic league tables, by which they are judged, the schools continue to impress in the fields of music and drama and in the various sporting arenas. He feels Towcester has a good future in the hands of our young people.

Cllr Lynch gave details of the main issues affecting the town. The Forum, South Northants Council's new offices and community building has recently opened in Moat Lane, which also includes Towcester Library and Towcester Registrar Office. He said that the opening of the Forum has highlighted one big problem. With no parking available at the Forum, the existing parking facilities in the town have suddenly become very stretched. Provision of new parking facilities serving the town centre needs to be addressed urgently as the health of the town centre is very dependent on how easy it is for visitors to access our shops, businesses and facilities, whether by public transport or by car.

Cllr Lynch referred to both of Towcester's major housing projects. He said that the Southern Extension has had outline planning granted, following agreement with all parties over the contributions to infrastructure and amenities. The 2,750 new homes will bring a relief road as well as the provision of new community facilities such as sports pitches, children's play areas and public open spaces. The relief road, connecting the A5 and A43, will divert heavy goods vehicles away from the town centre, and lessen the congestion and air pollution in and around the Market Square. It has recently been announced that there will be full government funding for the Abthorpe roundabout upgrade and part funding for the Relief Road, thus freeing up developer funds. Cllr Lynch considers it vital that South Northants Council actively collaborates with the developer and the Highways Agency to bring forward the Relief Road, well in advance of the developer's current commitment of approximately 2021.

The Wood Burcote Court Estate, which adjoins the Southern Extension development, has also received outline planning permission, following the signing off of the agreed developer contribution towards infrastructure. As well as the 210 new homes there will be a developer contribution towards education, public transport and highways and the provision of a new 30 acre town park for the people of Towcester.


18/05/2015

Cllr Lynch said he hopes all residents of the town are fully consulted over the realisation and future maintenance of this potentially valuable local asset.

Referring to the provision of leisure facilities, Cllr Lynch confirmed that Towcester now has a senior football team in who, in their first season since reforming, have already gained promotion to the top division of their league. He congratulated them on this and expressed his disappointment that they do not have a pitch to play on in Towcester and are forced to play their home matches away. He said the TC needs to use its influence to make sure that they have adequate facilities to play in Towcester as soon as possible.

Cllr Lynch gave details of his charities; Towcester Museum, The Primary Biliary Cirrhosis Foundation (PBC) and Headway Northampton. The last major event under in his term of office was the Mayor and Mayoress' 'Charity Black and White Banquet', which was well attended and raised a good sum. Cllr Lynch confirmed that over the year £4150 had been raised, most of which was presented to his charities in September. He thanked the supporters of his charities – Midsummer Music, Charlie Stanger for masterminding an excellent Golf Day, Barclay's Bank, The Towcester and District Arts Society, The Towcester Bell Ringers and Towcester Lions. Cllr Lynch concluded by wishing the new Mayor of Towcester, Cllr David Bain, an enjoyable and successful term of office and thanked the Town Clerk, Elizabeth, and her assistant, Melissa, for their invaluable support and guidance. He then thanked his wife, Margaret, for her support and patience, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

3.b) Presentation of Cheques to the Mayor's Charities

Cllr Lynch presented Mrs Mary Bates from The Primary Biliary Cirrhosis Foundation with a cheque for £675.00 There was no representative from Headway Northampton present at the meeting and the cheque for £675.00 will be forwarded to them.

Cllr Johns thanked the Town Mayor for his leadership during the past year and applauded his assertiveness, dedication and the instigation of the Town Council Business Plan. He proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Cllr Jim Lynch for the able and efficient manner in which he has performed the duties of Town Mayor for the past year.

Cllr Lynch transferred the Chain of Office to the Town Mayor.

The Town Clerk administered the Declaration of Acceptance of Office to Cllr David Bain in the following terms:-

"I, David Bain, having been elected to the office of Town Mayor for the town of Towcester, declare that I take that office upon myself, and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties of it according to the best of my judgement and ability. I undertake to observe the Town Council's adopted Code of Conduct"

The Town Mayor rose to thank his fellow Councillors for electing him as Mayor. He said he was proud to undertake the role and further the progress and implementation of the Town Council Business Plan. He thanked the Town Clerk and her Assistant for organising the evening, and thanked his wife, Lindsey, for her support before presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr David Tarbun, was invited to proceed to the platform to sign the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and receive his Chain of Office.

5. To Record a Vote of Thanks to Officers and Servants of the Council

Cllr Hart thanked Mr & Mrs Wootton and Mrs Davies for their work as Caretakers and Cleaners of the Town Hall and Towcester Youth & Community Centre; Mr & Mrs Davies, Mr Smith and Mr Daniells for their work litter picking all of the Council's open areas. She thanked J.R. Murray Construction Ltd who maintain the Brackley Road Cemetery and concluded by thanking the Town Clerk, Elizabeth, and her Assistant, Melissa, for their hard work and support.

6. To Fix the Dates and Times of Meetings for the Ensuing Year

(Handwritten signature)
13/05/2015

A schedule of the proposed meeting dates and times had been forwarded to all members of the Town Council prior to the meeting.

Proposal

Cllr Conquest proposed that the dates and times of the meetings for the ensuing year be fixed in accordance with the schedule circulated;
seconded by Cllr Allen; all in favour

7. To Elect the Standing Committees

A list of the proposed Standing Committees had been forwarded to all members of the Town Council prior to the meeting.

Proposal

Cllr Samiotis proposed that the Standing Committees be elected in accordance with the list circulated;
seconded by Cllr Allen; all in favour

8. Adoption of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Assessments

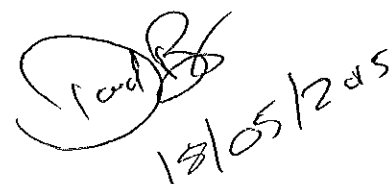
A copy of the Town Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Risk Assessments had been forwarded to all members of the Town Council prior to the meeting.

Proposal

Cllr J. Lynch proposed that the Town Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessments, as circulated, be adopted;
seconded by Cllr Conquest; all in favour

9. Closure of the Meeting

The Town Mayor announced that in the absence of any further business, the Annual Meeting of the Town Council was closed, and invited all those present to join him for refreshments.

A handwritten signature, possibly "Conquest", is written in black ink. Below the signature, the date "13/05/2015" is written in a similar style.