

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Incorporating Mayormaking

Monday, 8th May 2017

Present: Cllr D. Tarbun (Chairman), Cllr P. Allen, Cllr C. Blake, Cllr P. Conquest, Cllr B. Cutts, Cllr R. Dallyn, Cllr J. Godwin, Cllr J. Hart, Cllr M. Johns, Cllr C. Lofts, Cllr J. Lynch, Cllr S. McMurray, Cllr L. Samiotis, Cllr K. Shackell, Cllr J. Wilby

1a) Election of Town Mayor

Proposal

Cllr Lynch proposed that Cllr Sharon McMurray be elected as Town Mayor for the ensuing year; seconded by Cllr Dallyn; all in favour

1b) Election of Deputy Mayor

Proposal

Cllr Johns proposed that Cllr Peter Conquest be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year; seconded by Cllr Godwin; all in favour

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr J. Burrows

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

Cllr Tarbun began his Review of his Term of Office by saying that, one year ago, he was in the Town Hall with his wife, 3-year-old and 5-week-old daughters thinking it was the worst possible time for him to become Mayor of Towcester. He has now had a year of fantastic experiences, challenges and fundraising which he has had the honour of sharing with his family and the people of Towcester.

He has been advised that he is the youngest Mayor that South Northamptonshire has ever seen. He sees this as a challenge for others to beat and would love more people of his age, and younger, to become more involved with their local authorities.

Cllr Tarbun gave a brief overview of some of the many events he had attended during his Term of Office, such as the Dogs for Good open day, celebrating two local school's birthdays, 100th birthday celebrations at Towcester's care homes and being a VIP guest at the Towcester Scouts 'Celebrity Come Dine with Me' evening. He said that his proudest invitation was to officially open The Sawpits Centre in the past week; adding that it was fantastic to see an idea grow into the end product, which he knows it will become a valuable resource for the Town.

He highlighted his fundraising efforts throughout the year and thanked the Midsummer Music Committee for helping to raise £2,000.00 for two of his chosen charities; bringing the total sum raised to almost £6,000.00.

Cllr Tarbun thanked his wife, Catharine, for keeping him organised and motivated, and finding time around her parental duties and other commitments to help and support him. He said, without Catharine, there would have been no fundraising events and the Towcester Cookbook would not have been the success it was, before presenting her with a bouquet of flowers. He thanked his daughters, Emily and Clara, for their impeccable behaviour at the many events they had attended with him. He also thanked all of the businesses and individuals who sponsored or donated prizes to his fundraising events; Lincoln Noel for providing the entertainment at his Mayor's Ball; the Midsummer Music Committee and all of the acts, venues and volunteers involved; Colemans Stationers, Towcester Tea Rooms, Towcester Library and Radmore Farm Shop for stocking the Towcester Cookbook and to all who submitted recipes; Charlie Stanger for organising the Mayor's Charity Golf Day and Linda and Richard Wilcox and John Braybrook for masterminding the two fundraising quizzes. His final thanks went to his family, friends and community members for their support throughout the year; his fellow councillors for their support and patience



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and the Clerk and her Assistant for their hard work and for always having time to help a Mayor in need, presenting each of them with a bouquet of flowers.

He concluded by wishing Cllr McMurray a successful year, saying that he hopes she enjoys it as much as he did, and that he would do his utmost to support her fundraising efforts.

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

Cllr Tarbun presented Mr Oliver Hunter of Towcester Scouts with a cheque to the value of £1,500.00.

He presented a cheque to the value of £1,100.00 to both Miss Ellen Finn of MacMillan Nurses and Mr John Evans of Dogs for Good.

Cllr Lofts rose to say that Cllr Tarbun's maturity made him a true ambassador for the town, despite his personal commitments throughout the past year, adding that his age brings many busy and demanding life events. He also thanked Catharine and daughters, Emily and Clara, for lending the town their Husband and Daddy and proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Cllr David Tarbun for the able and efficient manner in which he has performed the duties of Town Mayor for the past year.

Cllr Tarbun transferred the chain of Office to the newly elected Town Mayor.

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

"I, Sharon McMurray, having been elected to this 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 deliver her Mayoral address. She thanked her fellow Councillors for electing her as Mayor and said she considers it an honour to represent Towcester, the town she has called home for the past 14 years, in this capacity. She and her Consort, Tony, are looking forward to attending the many events in and around the town in the coming year. She congratulated and thanked Cllr Tarbun on his successful year as Mayor and confirmed that her chosen charities will be The Towcester Mencap Gateway Club, Towcester Neighbourhood Watch and The Alzheimer's Society. Cllr McMurray said she is planning a number of fundraising events, which will be advertised in the Town Crier and via social media. She is also looking forward to sharing the celebrations for the 1100th Anniversary of the founding of 'modern' Towcester with Cllr Martin Johns and the Towcester & District Local History Society.

She concluded by thanking the Town Clerk and her Assistant for organising the Mayor Making event and Cllr Jacqueline Hart for preparing the flower arrangements for the tables.

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

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

Cllr Lynch thanked the Town Hall and Towcester Community Centre Caretakers and Cleaners, Miss Suzanne Kempton, Mr John Wootton and Mrs Anita Wootton for their hard work over the past year and also the Town Council's Litter Picker, Mr Peter Smith.

He thanked all of the volunteer deliverers of the Town Crier magazine and Towcester Neighbourhood Watch for managing the Council's vehicle activated speed sign and co-ordinating the 'Speedwatch' scheme.

Cllr Lynch concluded by thanking the Town Clerk, Elizabeth, and her Assistant, Melissa, for all of their hard work and support.

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

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 Hart proposed that the dates and times of the meetings for the ensuing year be fixed in accordance with the schedule circulated;

seconded by Cllr Shackell; all in favour

6. 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 Blake proposed that the Standing Committees be elected in accordance with the list circulated;

seconded by Cllr Allen; all in favour

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

Proposal

Cllr Samiotis proposed that the Town Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessments be adopted;

seconded by Cllr Wilby; all in favour

8. 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 her for a glass of wine and refreshments.

