



EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Earley Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Berkshire on Wednesday, 15th May 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chairman – The Mayor, Councillor B Wedge

Councillors A Bassett, G Bhangra, N Brock, D Chopping, J Clark, D Hare, R Houlbrooke, D Ireland, C Jones, G Littler, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews, A Mickleburgh, A Neal, A Newton, R Sangster, M Shaw, C Smith, P Stothart, K Yabsley.

In Attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk) and J Shaw (Deputy Town Clerk), L Chambers and N Jorgensen.

The first fifteen minutes of the meeting were set aside for members of the public to pose questions to the Council. There were no questions and the meeting started forthwith.

1. TOWN MAYOR

The outgoing Town Mayor, Councillor B Wedge, addressed the Council and said that he had very much enjoyed his term of office as Town Mayor. He had attended numerous interesting and enjoyable events during the year and had felt that it was an honour to represent the residents of Earley.

The outgoing Town Mayor then called for nominations for the office of Town Mayor for 2019/20.

There was one nomination. After being duly proposed and seconded it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor David Hare be elected to the office of Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor David Hare signed his Acceptance of Office, received of the Mayoral Chain of Office and took the Chair.

2. DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

The newly elected Town Mayor asked for nominations for the position of Deputy Town Mayor for 2019/20. There being two nominations proposed and seconded, a vote was held and it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor Anne Bassett be elected Deputy Town Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Anne Bassett received the Deputy Town Mayor's Chain of Office.

3. DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that they are required to sign their Acceptance of Office before they can take up their seat as a Town Councillor. Signatures were obtained from Councillors Bhangra, Yabsley and Houlbrooke. The Town Clerk reported that the only signature outstanding was that of Rosemary Cook who was not able to be at this evening's meeting. It was

RESOLVED that a dispensation be granted and that Rosemary Cook be given an extension until 14th June 2019 to sign her Acceptance of Office.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Cook, M Eastwell, J Eastwell and I Khayinza.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. POLITICAL GROUP LEADERS

The following appointments were noted:

1. the appointment of Councillor C Jones as Leader of the Liberal Democrat group. The appointment of Councillor A Long as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat group
2. the appointment of Councillor D Chopping as Leader of the Conservative group. The appointment of Councillor G Bhangra as Deputy Leader of the Conservative group
3. the appointment of Councillor S Matthews as Leader of the Labour group. The appointment of Councillor M Shaw as Deputy Leader of the Labour group

7. STANDING COMMITTEES

It was noted that the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor shall be members of every Committee.

7.1 Amenities & Leisure Committee

RESOLVED

1. That there be 10 seats on the Amenities & Leisure Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year
2. To appoint Councillors A Bassett, G Bhangra, N Brock, M Eastwell, D Hare, D Ireland, A Long, S Matthews, A Newton and K Yabsley for the 2019/20 municipal year.

7.2 Planning Committee

RESOLVED

1. That there be 11 seats the Planning Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year

2. To appoint Councillors A Bassett, R Cook, D Hare, D Ireland, G Littler, A Mickleburgh, A Neal, R Sangster, C Smith and M Shaw (with one vacancy) for the 2019/20 municipal year.

7.3 Policy & Resources Committee

RESOLVED

1. That there be 10 seats on the Policy & Resources Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year
2. To appoint Councillors A Bassett, D Chopping, J Clark, J Eastwell, D Hare, R Houlbrooke, C Jones, S Matthews, A Mickleburgh and P Stothart for the 2019/20 municipal year.

8. **CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

8.1 Amenities & Leisure Committee

On the proposition of Councillor A Bassett, seconded by Councillor T Maher it was

RESOLVED that Councillor A Newton be appointed Chairman of the Amenities & Leisure Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

8.2 Planning Committee

On the proposition of Councillor C Jones, seconded by Councillor A Mickleburgh it was

RESOLVED that Councillor G Littler be appointed Chairman of the Planning Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

8.3 Policy & Resources Committee

On the proposition of Councillor R Houlbrooke, seconded by Councillor A Mickleburgh it was

RESOLVED that Councillor C Jones be appointed Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

9. **SUB-COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

It was noted that Members are appointed to Sub-Committees and Working Groups at the first meeting of the Standing Committee to which the Sub-Committee or Working Group report.

9.1 Staffing Sub-Committee

To assist with efficient administration of the Town Council it was

RESOLVED to appoint Councillors D Chopping, J Clark, J Eastwell, C Jones, S Matthews and A Newton to the Staffing Sub-Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.

10. REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

The following Council representatives were appointed to outside bodies:

ARC (Youth counselling) (1)

Councillor D Hare

Campaign for a Cleaner & Greener Environment (1)

Councillor A Bassett

CResCent Community Association (1)

Councillor N Brock

Earley Community Bus Management Committee (1)

Councillor I Khayinza

Earley Volunteer Driver Bureau (1)

Councillor M Eastwell

Highwood Management Conference (2)

Councillor G Littler and Councillor A Neal

Kenton Road Day Centre Management Committee (1)

Councillor I Khayinza

Loddon Valley Leisure Centre Management Committee (1)

Councillor D Ireland

Mid and West Berkshire Local Access Forum (1)

Councillor R Sangster

Neighbourhood Action Group (1)

Councillor J Eastwell and Councillor A Mickleburgh (ETC to check with NAG that it will permit two members)

Reading Public Transport Forum (1)

Councillor A Long

The Queen Victoria Institute Fund (1)

Councillor I Khayinza

Readibus Management Committee (1)

Councillor P Stothart

Sonning & District Educational and Welfare Trusts (1)

Councillor J Eastwell

Trustees of Earley Charities (2) (4 year appointment until May 2022)

Mr R Ames and Councillor T Maher (Councillor M Eastwell has resigned as a trustee)

Waterside Management Committee (1)

J Lissaman (to be confirmed)

Wokingham Arts Forum (More Arts – The Cultural Partnership) (1)

Vacancy

Wokingham Borough/Parish Liaison Forum (2)
Councillor G Littler and Councillor A Neal

Wokingham Borough Sports Council (1)
Councillor C Smith

Wokingham Job Support Centre (1)
Councillor A Mickleburgh

11. DEEDS

It was noted, that in accordance with Standing Order 12(i), the various deeds relating to the Council's interests in land were held by the Town Clerk and would be available for inspection by Members, by appointment.

12. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Town Clerk suggested an amendment to Minute 105 to read 'the length of the *Community & Youth* Sub-Committee'. The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 3rd April 2019, as amended, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1 Planning Committee

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9th April 2019 (Minutes 116 - 129) be received.

14. BANK ACCOUNTS

Councillors were asked to consider the signatories for 2019/20. It was

RESOLVED that Councillors C Jones, D Hare, J Eastwell, R Houlbrooke, A Mickleburgh, G Littler and A Bassett be signatories for the Town Council's main Barclays Bank Account, the Barclays Imprest Account, the Barclays Deposit Account, the National Savings account and the Public Sector Deposit Fund. It was also

RESOLVED that Councillor D Chopping remain as a signatory on the Council's accounts until the new mandate(s) are in place, at which time he be removed from the list of approved signatories.

15. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Members noted that the Town Council now met the eligibility criteria for adopting the General Power of Competence, in that at least two thirds of its seats were held by elected Councillors and the Town Council had a qualified Clerk. It was

RESOLVED that the General Power of Competence be adopted.

16. COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCES

16.1 Record of Members' Attendance

Councillors noted details of Councillors' attendance during 2018/19 at meetings of the Council and its Committees.

17. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

Councillors noted details of the Orders for Payment since the last meeting of the Town Council (Vouchers 2013 – 2117) and Imprest Account (Vouchers 322 - 332).

18. PUBLICATIONS

It was noted that the following publications had been received and were available for perusal in the Council Offices:

National Association of Memorial Masons:	Newsletter April 2019
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19. PRESS RELEASES

Consideration was given to whether any of the foregoing items should be the subject of a press release and it was

It was requested that the election of the new Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor, the Chairs of the Committees, the adoption of the General Power of Competence and information on the Electors Meeting receive special press attention.

20. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.17pm.

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Town Mayor