

## **ANNUAL COUNCIL**

**16th May 2023**

**Present:**        **The Mayor, Councillor Adrian Gregson, in the Chair**

**Councillors Agar, Ali, Allcott, Altaf, Amos, Bisset, Cleary, Cockeram, Cookson, Cooper, Cross, Denham, Desayrah, Ditta, Geraghty, Hodgson, Jagger, Lamb, Laurenson, Lawrance, Lewing, Murray, Norfolk, Pingree, Piotrowski, Riaz, Roberts, Round, Sadiq, Smith, Stanley, Stephen and Udall**

The Mayor's Orator, Ian Craigan, was unable to attend and had sent his apologies. He had prepared an address to the Council which was given by video before commencement of the formal business of the Council.

### **1 TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR SIMON CRONIN**

The Council paid tribute to Councillor Simon Cronin, who had died following a short illness in early May, soon after being re-elected to his seat in Nunnery Ward. He had held the seat for 16 years, having been first elected in 2007. The Mayor led the tributes, following which Group Leaders and other Members also spoke. The Council then stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Cronin.

### **2 ELECTION OF MAYOR**

Nominations were sought for the position of Mayor. It was proposed by Councillor Piotrowski and seconded by Councillor Bisset that Councillor Stephen be nominated for the position. Both Councillor Piotrowski and Councillor Bisset spoke in support of the nomination.

The Mayor asked for further nominations. No further nominations were proposed.

On being put to the vote it was agreed and

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Stephen be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.**

## **COUNCILLOR STEPHEN IN THE CHAIR**

### **3 MAYOR'S CONSORT/MAYORESS AND PRESENTATION OF BADGE**

The Mayor informed the Council that his Mayoress would be his wife, Katey Stephen. The Mayor presented her with the Mayoress's Chain.

### **4 VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR**

Councillor Cookson proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Gregson, and paid tribute to his work during his year in office on behalf of the Council.

**5 PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S BADGE**

The Mayor presented Councillor Gregson with the Past Mayor's badge.

**6 RESPONSE FROM RETIRING MAYOR**

Councillor Gregson thanked the Council and summarised the highlights of his year in office. He also thanked the many people who had supported him during his year in office, in particular his partner, Rachel Hall, for her support as Mayoress.

**7 PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYORESS'S BADGE**

Councillor Gregson presented Rachel Hall with the past Mayoress's badge.

**8 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS****Welcome to New Councillors**

The Mayor welcomed newly-elected Councillors Cooper, Cross, Jagger, Murray, Pingree, Round, Sadiq and Smith to their first meeting of the Council. He also welcomed those Councillors who had been re-elected at the May 2023 elections.

**Mayor's Orator**

The Mayor announced that he would continue the office of Orator, and that Rhianna Levi, the Worcestershire Poet Laureate, will undertake this role.

**Mayor's Charities**

The Mayor announced Age UK as his charity for the year and summarised their work and services.

**Mayoral Theme**

The Mayor announced that his theme for the year would be creating a community that values and includes its older citizens.

**Dates of Key Civic Events**

The Mayor stated that dates for his Inaugural Banquet and Civic Service will be announced in due course.

**Refreshments**

The Mayor invited everyone to join him for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour at the end of the meeting.

**9 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

The Council proceeded to consider the appointment of the Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

It was proposed by Councillor Lawrance and seconded by Councillor Denham that Councillor Allcott be nominated for the position of Deputy Mayor. Both Councillor Lawrance and Councillor Denham spoke in support of the nomination.

There were no further nominations. On being put to the vote it was agreed and

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Allcott be elected as Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24.**

**10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**11 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.**

**12 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER(S) OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor stated that this item would be deferred to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council scheduled to take place immediately following this meeting, after consideration of the Notice of Motion on the agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting.

**13 POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Mayor stated that consideration of this item would be deferred to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council scheduled to take place immediately following this meeting, after consideration of the Notice of Motion on the agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting.

**14 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS**

The Mayor stated that consideration of this item would be deferred to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council scheduled to take place immediately following this meeting, after consideration of the Notice of Motion on the agenda for the Extraordinary Meeting.

**15 REPORT OF RETURNING OFFICER**

The Council received the report of the Returning Officer that summarised the results of the City Council Election held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

**RESOLVED: That the Council note the results of the City Council Election held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

**16 REPORT ON COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES**

In accordance with the Local Authority (Members' Allowances) Regulations, the Council received a report on allowances paid to Members in the financial year 2022/23.

**RESOLVED: That the Council note the allowances paid to Members in the financial year 2022/23.**

**17 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council received a schedule of dates for meetings of the Council until July 2024.

**RESOLVED: That the Council agree to note the dates for meetings of the Council until the end of July 2024.**

**Duration of the meeting:** 7.00p.m. – 7.55p.m.

Chair at the meeting on  
11<sup>th</sup> July 2023