

MINUTES
of
The Annual Meeting
of **New Romney Town Council**
held on
Wednesday 17th May 2023 commencing at 6.45pm

PRESENT: **The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney,**
Councillor P D Thomas

Town Ward Councillors:

Rev Cn S McLachlan, J Rivers, P Carey, J Davies,
J Houston, L Phillips, D W Wimble, S Hodges

Coast Ward Councillors:

J M Hiscock, R D Tillson, P J Coe, K Terry

In Attendance:

Town Clerk	-	Mrs C Newcombe
Town Sergeant	-	Mrs C T Morris
Mayor's Sergeant	-	Mr S Woolgar
Mayor's Chaplain		
Members of Public and Civic Guests	-	Approx 35

IN THE CHAIR: **Councillor P D Thomas**
Councillor J R Rivers

WELCOME AND PRAYERS

The outgoing Chairman welcomed those present and gave a brief summary of the Council's past year. The outgoing Mayor's Chaplain then led the meeting in prayer.

@6.53PM the formal business of the meeting then commenced.

001/2023-24 **ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN & TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor/Chairman called for nominations for Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for 2023-24 and it was:

(i)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor McLachlan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Tillson

That Councillor Wimble be elected to the office of Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

(ii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Coe

That Councillor Rivers be elected to the office of Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Having first ascertained that there were no further nominations, and with the Proposer and Seconder of each nominee having reserved their right to speak, each then spoke in favour of their nomination. Those persons nominated then also spoke in favour of their election to the position of Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council. A vote ensued, the result of which was as follows:

FOR COUNCILLOR WIMBLE	6
FOR COUNCILLOR RIVERS	7
ABSTAIN	0

It was, therefore:

RESOLVED – that Councillor J R Rivers be and is hereby elected to the position of Chairman of New Romney Town Council and Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Rivers read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, declaring his agreement to observe the Council's Code of Conduct and to fulfil his role to the best of his ability.

Councillor Rivers next took the Oath of Allegiance and Official Oath.

Councillor Rivers then thanked Councillors for his election to office, addressed those present and confirmed that his wife, Mrs Anita Rivers, will be his Mayoress for the ensuing year.

@7.19PM the official business of the meeting was paused in order that the robes and chains of office could be transferred to the newly-elected Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council.

@7.26PM Councillor Rivers took the Chair and the official business of the meeting was resumed.

002/2023-24 **ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRMAN & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR**

The newly elected Mayor/Chairman called for nominations for Vice-Chairman and Deputy Mayor and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas**SECONDED BY:** Councillor Tillson

That Councillor Coe be elected Vice-Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Having first ascertained that there were no further nominations, and with the Proposer of the afore-mentioned nomination having reserved their right to speak, the Proposer then spoke in favour of their nomination. The nominee then also spoke in favour of their election to the position of Deputy Town Mayor and Vice Chairman of the Council. A vote ensued, the result of which was as follows:

FOR	11
AGAINST	1
ABSTAIN	1

It was, therefore:

RESOLVED – that Councillor P J Coe be and is hereby elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of New Romney Town Council and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Coe read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, declaring his agreement to observe the Council's Code of Conduct and to fulfil his role to the best of his ability.

Councillor Coe next took the Oath of Allegiance and Official Oath.

Councillor Coe then thanked Councillors for his election to office and briefly addressed those present.

003/2023-24 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

004/2023-24 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

The Clerk advised that no new Dispensations to Participate had been granted.

005/2023-24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

006/2023-24 **CONFIRMATION OF SERGEANTS-AT-MACE**

It was confirmed that both the Town Mayor's Sergeant and the Town Sergeant were willing to continue in post for the ensuing year.

007/2023-24 **CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

Having first been invited by Councillor Rivers to, once again, take on the role as Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Chris Hodgkins confirmed his willingness to accept the role as Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year.

008/2023-24 **CONFIRMATION OF TOWN COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES**

The draft composition of Standing Committees, a copy of which had been previously circulated, was received and noted.

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Coe
SECONDED BY: Councillor McLachlan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Planning and Environment Committee for 2032-24, the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2023-24 and the Health & Wellbeing Committee for 2023-24, all as presented and including any identified formal Reserve Members, be hereby confirmed and approved.

Personnel Committee

It was reported and duly noted that, in accordance with Terms of Reference for the Personnel Committee, which provides that the maximum membership shall be restricted to 5 Members – of which one must be the Chairman of the Council and one must be the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the composition of this Committee would be approved at the ensuing Full Council meeting on 14th June 2023, once the elected Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee was known.

009/2023-24 **CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS TO NEW ROMNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers
SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

That four applications for co-option onto Romney Town Council be considered.

A paper ballot was undertaken, the results of which were that the three candidates with the highest number of votes whilst also each achieving a simple majority vote from the Council were: Mr A Meredith (11), Ms S O'Hare (13) and Mr L Glover (8).

It was, therefore:

RESOLVED – that Mr A Meredith, Ms S O'Hare and Mr L Glover be hereby co-opted onto New Romney Town Council with immediate effect.

Those co-optees present at the meeting then read aloud and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Council's Proper Officer. Councillor O'Hare and Councillor Meredith then joined the Council for the remainder of the meeting.

010/2023-24 **FORMAL DECLARATION OF GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

The Town Clerk confirmed that at least two-thirds of the Council had been duly elected and that the Town Clerk was fully CILCA qualified, including having completed a unit relating to the General Power of Competence and that New Romney Town Council does, therefore, meet the criteria to hold the General Power of Competence.

It was, therefore:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers
SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that it be hereby declared that New Romney Town Council meets the criteria to hold the 'General Power of Competence' for the period until the next relevant Annual Meeting of the Town Council (ie the Annual Meeting of the Town Council which takes place in the year of ordinary elections of parish councillors) – at which time, eligibility to hold GPC shall be reviewed.

011/2023-24 **APPOINTMENT OF ADDITIONAL BANK MANDATE SIGNATORIES**

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hodges

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor Terry, Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan and Councillor Tillson be hereby appointed to act as additional Town Council bank mandate signatories.

012/2023-24 **FINANCIAL CHECKS 2023-24**

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Terry
SECONDED BY: Councillor Carey

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor Davies and Councillor Hodges be hereby appointed to undertake monthly financial and procedural checks for the 2023-24 civic year.

013/2023-24 **KALC COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Town Mayor read out the citation on the KALC Community Award certificate, which was to be presented to Mr J Wilson, but who had been unable to attend the meeting.

014/2023-24 **CONFIRMATION OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Mayor confirmed that the next ordinary meeting of the Town Council would take place in the Assembly Rooms at 6.45pm on Wednesday 14th June 2023.

015/2023-24 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Councillors, civic guests and members of public for their attendance and the meeting then concluded **@ 7.56PM.**

NB: All documents referred to herein are freely available for perusal on the Town Council website: www.newromney-tc.gov.uk or at the Town Hall for perusal on request, except for those documents of a sensitive / legal nature discussed in private session, including documents relating to staff matters which remain Private and Confidential in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

Minutes prepared by the Town Clerk