

MINUTES
of
The Annual Meeting
of New Romney Town Council
held on
Monday 13th May 2024 commencing at 6.45pm

PRESENT: **The Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney,**
 Councillor J Rivers

Town Ward Councillors:

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

Coast Ward Councillors:

P D Thomas, J M Hiscock, P J Coe, K Terry, S O'Hare,
L Glover, A Meredith

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 40

IN THE CHAIR: **Councillor J Rivers**

WELCOME AND PRAYERS

The outgoing Chairman welcomed those present and the Mayor's Chaplain then led the meeting in prayer.

@6.46PM the formal business of the meeting then commenced.

001/2024-25 **ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRMAN & TOWN MAYOR**

The Mayor/Chairman called for nominations for Town Mayor and Chairman of the Council for 2024-25 and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

That Councillor Rivers be re-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 Secunder having reserved their right to speak, each then spoke in favour of their nomination. A vote ensued, and by way of a show of hands, it was:

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – 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.

002/2024-25 **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:

(i)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Hiscock

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hodges

That Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan be elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

(ii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

That Councillor Coe be elected to the office of 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 and Secunder of each nominee having reserved their right to speak, each then spoke in favour of their nomination. A vote ensued, the result of which was as follows:

FOR COUNCILLOR REV CN MCLACHLAN	5
FOR COUNCILLOR COE	9
ABSTAIN	0

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.

Councillor Rivers concluded the item of business with his own message of thanks and confirmed that Mrs Anita Rivers would, once again, be supporting him as Mayoress.

003/2024-25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence, as detailed below, were duly received and noted.

Councillor Phillips - due to work commitments

004/2024-25 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

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

005/2024-25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

006/2024-25 **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.

007/2024-25 **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.

008/2024-25 **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:

(i)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Planning and Environment Committee for 2024-25, as presented and including any identified formal Reserve Members, be hereby confirmed and approved.

(ii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Thomas

SECONDED BY: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for 2024-25, as presented and including any identified formal Reserve Members, be hereby confirmed and approved.

(iii)

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rivers

SECONDED BY: Councillor Coe

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that the composition of the Health and Wellbeing Committee for 2024-25, as presented and including any identified formal Reserve Members, be hereby confirmed and approved.

(iv)

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 10th June 2024, once the elected Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee was known.

009/2024-25 **FORMAL RE-CONFIRMATION OF BANK MANDATE SIGNATORIES**

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Carey

SECONDED BY: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that it be formally confirmed that Councillor Rivers, Councillor Coe, Councillor Thomas, Councillor Hiscock, Councillor Terry and Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan shall continue to act as Town Council bank mandate signatories for 2024-25.

010/2024-25 **FINANCIAL CHECKS 2024-25**

It was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Wimble

SECONDED BY: Councillor Terry

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor Meredith and Councillor Glover be hereby appointed to undertake monthly financial and procedural checks for the 2024-25 civic year.

011/2024-25 **KALC COMMUNITY AWARD**

The Town Mayor read out the citation on the KALC Community Award certificate, which was received by Past Mayor, Mr C Wire on behalf of his late wife and Past Mayoress, Mrs F Wire.

012/2024-25 **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 Council Chamber at the Town Hall at 6.45pm on Wednesday 10th June 2024.

013/2024-25 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chairman thanked the Councillors, civic guests and members of public for their attendance and the meeting then concluded **@ 7.05PM.**

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