

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
HELD AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017
IN THE TOWN HALL, WOODSTOCK.**

PRESENT:

Cllr. E Poskitt (Mayor 2016/17)

Cllr. T Redpath(Mayor 2017/18)

Cllr. J Cooper

Cllr. U Parkinson (from item WTC 17/3)

Cllr S Rasch

Cllr. E Stokes

Cllr. F Collingwood (Deputy Mayor 2016/17)

Cllr. A Grant (Deputy Mayor 2017/18)

Cllr. P Jay

Cllr. S Parnes

Cllr P Redpath

Cllr. B Yoxall

Also present were County Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Honorary Townsmen Dr Robert Edwards and Mr John Banbury and around ten residents

Before the meeting the retiring Mayor Cllr Poskitt thanked her fellow Cllrs for their dedication, hard work, tolerance and support over the previous year. She also thanked residents for their support and for their work and commitment to the town.

ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

WTC 17/1. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Mayor, Cllr Poskitt, proposed Cllr Mrs T Redpath as Mayor 2017/18 and Cllr Jay seconded this proposal. There being no other nomination, Cllr T Redpath's election was confirmed by acclamation and she signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took over the chair of the meeting.

WTC 17/2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF OFFICE.

The Mayor, Cllr P Redpath, proposed Cllr Grant as the Deputy Mayor. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Poskitt. There being no other nomination Cllr Grant was duly elected Deputy Mayor by acclamation and she signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor then requested Council to allow her to bring forward Item 9, Co-option for vacancy on the Town Council, from the May Town Council meeting. There being no disagreement Item 9 was the considered.

WTC 17/3. CO-OPTION FOR VACANCY ON THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Mayor pointed out that although three applications had been received only one of these applying was able to attend this meeting. She felt it was unfair that only one candidate would be able to give a verbal presentation of her/himself. Council agreed the vote would be taken on the written expressions of interest only. In the first round of balloting Mrs Ulli Parkinson achieved an absolute majority and was therefore elected as Councillor. She signed the declaration of acceptance of office and took her place at the Council table.

WTC 17/4. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS FOR SPECIFIC ROLES

The following were elected without opposition:

Council Member for Finance : Cllr Collingwood

Council Member for Property : Cllr Grant

WTC 17/5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON OUTSIDE BODIES

It was agreed that Cllrs would serve on outside bodies as shown in the appendix to these minutes.

WTC 17/6. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest relating to the matters on the Annual Town Meeting agenda.

WTC 17/7. APPOINTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES

It was agreed to continue the appointment of the following for the present but over the next few months Council would reconsider these appointments beginning with the first three on the list. In addition there was need to find a new internal Auditor as Mrs Ingram had given notice that she would be retiring from her work with WTC in the Autumn.

Solicitors: Henmans

Property agents : Carter Jonas

Insurers: Zurich

Internal Auditor: Mrs Trish Ingram

Employment and HR Advisors: Ellis Whittam

Planning Advisor : Kemp & Kemp

Banks: Unity Bank and Barclays Bank

WTC17/8. CONFIRMATION OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was agreed that Council were happy to confirm the use of these for the present but, in view of the present and future status of committees (if any) there would need to be a revision of the Standing Orders very shortly.

WTC17/9. ASSET REGISTER AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR 2016/17

Council accepted these noting that the items had recently been reviewed and updated

WTC17/10. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

This was agreed with the proviso that changes may be required over the year if there were new committee structures. The date of the Mayor's Carols was dependent on the availability of the Rector.

Cllr Yoxall raised the possibility of having a community celebration along with many other communities in the country to remember Jo Cox (the MP murdered in June 2016) and perhaps having a Civic Service on June 18th related to that. It was pointed out that the Church was about to be closed for six months for renovations and finding an alternative,

sufficiently large, attractive venue could be difficult. The proximity of the Carnival to any formal activities remembering Jo Cox would probably detract from enthusiasm to be involved in such activities.

Cllr Yoxall proposed and Cllr Stokes seconded a recommendation that Cllr Yoxall explore the possibilities for a Civic Service.

In favour 6. Against 1

The motion was carried.

RESOLVED

that the Mayor and Town Clerk explore the possibilities for a Civic Service.

Cllr Collingwood, Council Member for Finance, pointed out that the dates for the Budget meeting in November (November 28th) would not be suitable for him as he would be abroad. After discussion a possibility seemed to be that the WTC meeting could be on November 7th and the budget meeting on November 14th. The Town Clerk would look at these dates again and revise the calendar.

The meeting finished at 20.40hrs.