

## TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, duly convened and held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 25 May 2022

### PRESENT:

**The Mayor Chris Woodward (Chair)**

**Councillors Allen, Atkins, Atwood, Bailey, Barrass, Barrington-King, Bland (Vice-Chair), Brice, Britcher-Allan, Chapelard, Dawlings, Ellis, Everitt, Fairweather, Fitzsimmons, Funnell, Hall, Dr Hall, Hayward, Hickey, Hill, Holden, Johnson, Knight, Le Page, Lewis, Lidstone, March, McMillan, Moon, Neville, Ms Palmer, Patterson, Poile, Pope, Pound, Rands, Roberts, Rogers, Rutland, Sankey, Wakeman, Warne and White**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** William Benson (Chief Executive), Mark O'Callaghan (Scrutiny and Engagement Officer), Renee Dillon (Democratic and Executive Support Manager) and Claudette Valmond (Head of Legal Partnership and Interim Monitoring Officer)

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

FC1/22        Apologies were received from Councillors Goodship, Morton, Willis and Wormington.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

FC2/22        No declarations of pecuniary or other significant interest were made.

### ELECTION OF THE MAYOR

FC3/22        Councillor Dawlings moved, and Councillor Pound seconded, that Councillor Godfrey Bland be elected Mayor.

The Mayor took a vote on the motion by affirmation.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Bland be elected Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing municipal year ending on the date of the Annual Meeting 2023.

Councillor Bland made the declaration of acceptance of office.

Following the declaration, the meeting adjourned whilst the Mayor was robed and received the chain of office.

On the resumption of the meeting, Councillor Bland returned thanks for his election and announced:

- He would be supported by Mayoress Caroline Sampson.
- Reverend David Commander would be the Mayors Chaplain of Benenden and Sandhurst.
- The theme of the Mayoralty, would be Small Business.
- Hospice in the Weald would be appointed as the Mayor's Charity.

The Mayoress, Caroline Sampson received her badge of office.

## **PRESENTATION OF BADGE TO THE IMMEDIATE PAST MAYOR**

FC4/22 Badges were presented to the immediate past Mayor, Chris Woodward and the past Mayor's Escort, Jenny Woodward in recognition of their service. In addition, a photo album was presented to them both containing memories of their year in office.

Chris Woodward returned thanks and announced that £5,195.64 had been raised for his charity Mental Health Resources (West Kent) and a cheque was presented to Jenny Williams from the Charity.

## **APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

FC5/22 Councillor Chapelard moved, and Councillor Hill seconded, that Councillor Patterson be appointed Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor took a vote on the motion by affirmation.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Patterson be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the ensuing municipal year ending on the date of the Annual Meeting 2023.

Councillor Patterson made the declaration of acceptance of office.

Following the declaration, the meeting adjourned whilst the Deputy Mayor was robed and received the chain of office.

On the resumption of the meeting, Councillor Patterson returned thanks.

The Deputy Mayoress, Sandra Patterson received her badge of office.

## **RETURN OF PERSONS ELECTED TO THE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

FC6/22 The Chief Executive, as Returning Officer for the elections held on 5 May 2022, submitted the return of persons elected to the Borough Council as set out in the agenda report.

## **ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

FC7/22 Councillor Hickey moved, and Councillor Warne seconded, that Councillor Chapelard be elected Leader.

The Mayor took a recorded vote on the motion

Members who voted for the motion: Councillors Atkins, Bailey, Barrass, Brice, Britcher-Allan, Chapelard, Ellis, Everitt, Fitzsimmons, Funnell, C. Hall, Hayward, Hickey, Hill, Johnson, Knight, Le Page, Lewis, Lidstone, McMillan, Moon, Neville, Patterson, Poile, Pope, Pound, Rogers, Rutland, Sankey, Wakeman and Warne. (31)

Members who voted against the motion: None.

Members who abstained from voting: Councillors Allen, Atwood, Barrington-King, Bland, Dawlings, Fairweather, Dr L. Hall, Holden, March, Ms Palmer, Rands, Roberts and White. (13)

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Chapelard be elected Leader of the Council for the period ending on the date of the Annual Meeting 2026 in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Councillor Chapelard returned thanks and announced:

- Thanks Councillor Dawlings for advice and support moving into new role.
- Announced the ‘Borough Partnership’ made up Councillors from the following parties Lib Dems, Labour, Tunbridge Wells Alliance, and Independent Councillor of Paddock Wood East focusing in the following 5 areas
  - Safeguarding Finances
  - Vibrant and Safer Towns and Villages
  - Carbon Reduction
  - Affordable Housing
  - Digital Access

Councillor Chapelard announced the following Cabinet:

- Councillor Warne - Rural Communities and Deputy Leader
- Councillor Rutland – Tunbridge Wells Town and Local Areas
- Councillor Everitt - Environment, Sustainability and Carbon Reduction
- Councillor Pound – Housing and Planning
- Councillor Fitzsimmons – Leisure, Wellbeing and Culture
- Councillor Hayward – Governance and Transparency
- Councillor Hickey – Finance and Performance

Councillor Chapelard also announced the following roles to help deliver on his 5 focus areas:

- Councillor Lidstone – Walking and Cycling Champion
- Councillor Sankey – Local Business Champion
- Councillor Britcher-Allan – Charities and Voluntary Sector Champion
- Councillor Ellis – Town market Champion

## **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2022/23**

FC8/22 Councillor Chapelard moved, and Councillor Hayward seconded, the recommendations set out in papers tabled at the meeting and to be published as a supplement to the agenda.

The Mayor took a vote on the motion by affirmation.

### **RESOLVED –**

1. That the allocation of seats to Committees (political balance) as set out at appendix A to the report be approved; and
2. That the appointments to the Committees as set out at appendix B to the report be approved.

## **URGENT BUSINESS**

FC9/22 There was no urgent business.

**COMMON SEAL OF THE COUNCIL**

FC10/22 Councillor Bland moved, and Councillor Patterson seconded, the recommendation set out in the notice on the agenda.

The Mayor took a vote on the motion by affirmation.

**RESOLVED** – That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to any contract, minute, notice or other document arising out of the minutes or pursuant to any delegation, authority or power conferred by the Council.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

FC11/22 The next scheduled meeting was 6 July 2022.

**NOTES:**

The meeting concluded at 11.05 am.