



FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes Council

Time and date

7.00 pm on Thursday 12th May, 2022

Place

Council Chamber - Farnham Town Hall

Councillors

Councillor Alan Earwaker (Mayor)
Councillor Michaela Wicks (Deputy Mayor)
Councillor David Beaman
Councillor Carole Cockburn
Councillor Pat Evans
Councillor John "Scotty" Fraser
Councillor George Hesse
Councillor Andy MacLeod
Councillor Michaela Martin
Councillor Mark Merryweather
Councillor Kika Mirylees
Councillor John Neale
Councillor John Ward

Apologies for absence

David Attfield, Roger Blishen, Sally Dickson, Paula Dunsmore and Brian Edmonds

Officers Present:

Iain Lynch (Town Clerk), Iain McCready (Business and Facilities Manager), Jenny de Quervain (Planning and Civic Administrator).

There were 25 members of the public and 2 members of the press in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were led by Revd Lesley Crawley of the parish of Badshot Lea and Hale.

C01/22 Election of the Town Mayor 2022/23

Cllr Merryweather nominated, with Cllr Ward seconding, Cllr Earwaker as Mayor of Farnham for 2022-23.

In making his nomination, Cllr Merryweather said it was an honour and privilege to speak for Cllr Alan Earwaker to continue for a further term as Mayor of Farnham.

In 2021, Cllr Earwaker had said he was looking forward to seeing as much as he could of the fantastic work our community does, and as the town's first citizen he has represented Farnham as the events calendar resumed taken time to remember and thank the community

volunteers who provided help at various stages of the covid outbreak right through to rolling out the local vaccine programme. During the year he had also helped raise the profile of his two local charities as well as supporting events and activities arranged by many others.

Cllr Merryweather said that while the challenges may be changing, whether it was the evolution of the Farnham Infrastructure Programme or Brightwells, or new challenges like cost inflation on top of Covid, it was a great comfort to know that Cllr Earwaker would continue as Farnham's impartial chair with the calm authority that he embodied.

Cllr Ward said he took great pleasure in seconding the nomination. As the current Mayor, Cllr. Earwaker had done an amazing job. He had thrown himself into the role wholeheartedly, and it was very difficult to go out anywhere in Farnham without meeting him either on his way to, at, or returning from a civic duty.

He controlled Council meetings well and his cheerfulness, immense enthusiasm and hard work were an example to all. He was also a man of high moral standards and a very fit person to be the "*Conscience of the Council*".

There being no other nominations **it was RESOLVED *nem con* that Cllr Earwaker be Mayor for 2022-23.**

C02/22 **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor**

In accepting the nomination and having made the declaration of acceptance of office, the Mayor said it was an immense honour and privilege to be chosen as Mayor of Farnham for a second year. His theme would continue to be "working together with the community, reviving Farnham" as would his chosen charities Farnham Assist, a Christian charity that supports older people within the Farnham community that are living alone, and the Waverley Abbey Trust, whose vision in running Waverley Abbey House is to continue to expand as a centre of educational excellence through world-class teaching, mentoring and a range of university-accredited courses on campus and on-line and to increase public access to the site.

The Mayor committed to working alongside the whole Council, and doing whatever he could to help support Farnham's residents and businesses working together to revive a thriving community in this wonderful award winning town. He was again looking forward to seeing as much as he could of the fantastic work done by the community to make Farnham the special place it is.

The Mayor then presented the badge of office of Mayoress to Mrs Claire Earwaker Dos Reis.

C03/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Attfield, Blishen, Dickson, Dunsmore, and Edmonds.

C04/22 **Minutes**

With one amendment, correcting the omission of Cllr Neale as a Member of the Conservation Areas Task Group, the Minutes were agreed for signing.

C05/22 **Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

C06/22 **Election of Deputy Town Mayor 2022/2023**

Cllr Michaela Wicks was proposed as Deputy Mayor for 2022/23 by Cllr Michaela Martin, seconded by Cllr Kika Miryleees.

In proposal speech Cllr Martin said she was delighted to propose Cllr Wicks whose enthusiasm, commitment and style, added to her massive personality, made her the ideal candidate for the role.

There being no other nominations, the Mayor declared Cllr Wicks elected as Deputy mayor for 2022/23.

C07/22 **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr Wicks made her declaration of acceptance of office and said she would be pleased to support the Mayor in the year ahead.

C08/22 **Appointment of Leader or Spokesperson of the Council**

Cllr Ward proposed, seconded by Cllr Mirylees, that for 2022-23 only, joint Leaders be elected and nominated Cllr Pat Evans and Cllr David Beaman.

Cllr Ward advised that the coming year would be a very busy one for FTC but also a critical time for the Farnham Infrastructure Programme (FIP). As a Council, Farnham was continuing to increase the number of events for residents and, although the difficulties of the Lockdown were over, the Council was doing what it could to help out refugees fleeing from the horrors of the brutal invasion of Ukraine. At the same time the short & medium-term plans to alleviate Farnham's town centre traffic problems were reaching a decisive phase. It was therefore necessary to have a strongly focussed Board member who would put forward this Council's views with vigour and intelligence.

Cllr Ward said he had felt for some time that both running the Town's day-to-day affairs and trying to represent the Council on the FIP Board was a very taxing job that should no longer burden one person. Pat Evans and David Beaman had a wealth of experience and Cllr Evans would make an excellent chair of Strategy & Finance while Cllr Beaman would properly represent the Council's views on the FIP.

It was RESOLVED *nem con* that for 2022/23 only, Cllr Pat Evans and Cllr David Beaman be elected as Joint Leaders and that Cllr Pat Evans be Chairman of the Strategy & Finance Working Group.

C09/22 **Appointment of Town Council's representative on the Farnham Infrastructure Board.**

Following the appointment of Joint Leaders, the Mayor formally proposed that Cllr David Beaman be the Council's representative on the Farnham Infrastructure Programme Board. This was seconded by Cllr Ward and **agreed *nem con***. There were no other nominations.

C10/22 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Thursday June 23rd at 7pm.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.27 pm

Chairman

Date