



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes Council

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### Time and date

7.00 pm on Thursday 20th May, 2021

### Place

Farnham Reserve Centre, Guildford Road, Farnham

### Councillors

Councillor Pat Evans (Mayor) Agenda Items 1 and 2  
Councillor Alan Earwaker (Mayor) From Agenda Item 3  
Councillor Michaela Wicks (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillor David Beaman  
Councillor Roger Blishen  
Councillor Sally Dickson  
Councillor Paula Dunsmore  
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

Cllrs David Attfield, Carole Cockburn and Brian Edmonds

### Officers Present:

Iain Lynch, Town Clerk

There were 12 members of the public and 1 member of the press in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were led by Revd Sandy Clarke of St Thomas-on-the-Bourne.

### C1/20 **Election of the Town Mayor 2021/22**

Cllr Merryweather proposed, and Cllr MacLeod seconded that Cllr Earwaker be nominated as Mayor of Farnham for 2021/22.

Cllr Merryweather thanked the retiring Mayor and Officers for facilitating an in person Annual Meeting. As the Council enters the new Council year, meeting in person embodies the challenges that have been overcome and would continue to face as the consequence of Covid.

Cllr Merryweather spoke in support of his nomination. Cllr Earwaker had been described by fellow Cllrs as quiet and a private individual, who was engaged on social media and Facebook. As a Councillor, Cllr Earwaker speaks more in spirit as a community worker, with an independent voice that carries a sense of calm and conviction. He had been a huge asset to the Town Council as Deputy Mayor and Lead Member of The Tourism and Events Working Group. As Farnham emerges into a post Covid year, as a newly identified Craft Town, with critical projects like Brightwells and the Farnham Infrastructure Programme advancing, the Town Council was not short of some very important decisions that still needed to be made. Cllr Merryweather considered that Cllr Earwaker would make an excellent first Citizen to guide Council through what would be another significant year. Cllr MacLeod also spoke to second the nomination reinforcing the valuable contribution Cllr Earwaker would make as Mayor.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Earwaker was duly elected as Mayor of Farnham for 2021/22.

## **C2/20 Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor**

Having been invested with the Chain and Badge of Office, Cllr Earwaker made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Earwaker said it was an immense honour and privilege to be chosen to take on the role Mayor of Farnham for the forthcoming year. He looked forward to serving the community of Farnham. The theme of the year would be 'working together with the community, reviving Farnham.

The Mayor's chosen charities would be firstly Farnham Assist, a Christian charity that provides social activities for older people. Farnham Assist had planned many fund-raising activities post lock-down, to which all Councillors would be welcome to attend.

The Mayor's second charity would be Waverley Abbey Trust supporting over 250 students, that graduate as counsellors, mentors, and coaches with a strong emphasis on mental health. Waverley Abbey Trust would be also working with English Heritage to expand access to the site and restore the Waverley Abbey House to its former Georgian glory.

The Mayor looked forward to seeing the work of Farnham's communities during his year of office and would do whatever he could to support residents and businesses and all of Farnham, as it transitions out of lockdown, and works together to revive the thriving community.

The Mayor presented the Mayoress, Mrs Claire Earwaker nee Reis with her Badge of Office.

## **C3/20 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Attfield, Cockburn and Edmonds.

C4/20 **Minutes**

Updated Annexes to the minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Farnham Town Council meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C5/20 **Disclosures of Interest**

There were no disclosures of interests declared.

C6/20 **Election of Deputy Town Mayor 2021/22**

Cllr Martin proposed, and Cllr Mirylees seconded that Cllr Wicks be nominated as Deputy Mayor of Farnham for 2021/22.

Cllr Martin spoke in support of her nomination. Cllr Wicks would bring compassion to the role especially for the more vulnerable members of Farnham's community. Cllr Wicks had a number of years experience in her work communicating with people that would enable her to support The Mayor during the year. Cllr Wicks would bring her own style and glamour to the role of Deputy Mayor.

There being no other nominations Cllr Wicks was duly elected *nem con* as Deputy Mayor for 2021/22.

C7/20 **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr Wicks made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and said she looked forward to supporting the Mayor in the year ahead.

C8/20 **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Town Mayor**

Cllr Ward proposed and Cllr Scotty Fraser seconded a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor.

Cllr Ward said he had proposed Cllr Evans as Mayor, at what seems a long time ago. Cllr Evans was experienced in local government having served many years as a Town Clerk and was also a Rotarian where she became one of the very first lady District Commissioners in what had been traditionally an all-male preserve.

After the 2019 elections several newly elected Cllrs took office. Many of the newly elected councillors were double hatted with important commitments at Waverley and so, Council looked to Cllr Evans to become the first Citizen of Farnham. She did this with grace and tenacity. Little did Council know that her pioneering spirit would be sorely needed in the months to come. Having represented the Town in her normal year of office at numerous functions and diligently chairing Council, Cllr Evans willingly volunteered, when the pandemic struck, to stay on as Mayor for a second year to steady the ship through the turbulent times, which she did with amazing grace. She found a new outlet for her energies and quickly acquired new skills to chair zoom meetings and support the numerous volunteers which stepped forward to assist those most affected by this pandemic.

Cllr Ward, on behalf of the whole Council, thanked Cllr Evans and her Consort David for their service to Farnham and wished them many happy and relaxing years ahead.

Cllr Fraser also thanked the retiring Mayor specifically commending her genial but firm chairing of Council and her work supporting charities and community groups in her term of office.

In response Past Mayor, Cllr Evans, thanked Cllr Ward and Cllr Fraser.

The focus of her work had been to work with the community for the community. The Farnham community had demonstrated the value of volunteers and working together. Wonderful people doing wonderful things. She thanked them all and the councillors that had represented them. Cllr Evans gave a special mention to her two chosen charities, Space to Grow and The Hale Community Centre: Both had supported those in need of mental or practical help and had helped launch Space to Breathe, supporting mothers and children during periods of lockdown.

Cllr Evans congratulated the newly elected Mayor, Cllr Earwaker. She thanked the Town Clerk and staff, particularly Iain McCreedy and Jenny De Quervain for their support during the year. Lastly, she thanked her Consort and husband, David Evans. She explained, as it was Dementia Action Week, that her husband suffered with Alzheimer's, and yet had enjoyed thoroughly his time as Mayor Consort. Cllr Evans finished by thanking all on behalf of herself and her Consort.

**C9/20 Presentation of Past Town Mayor's Badge and Past Consort's Badge**

The Mayor presented Cllr Evans with a Past Mayor's Badge and a bouquet of flowers. The Mayor thanked the Past Mayor's consort Mr David Evans and presented him with his Past Consort's badge..

**C10/20 Appointment of Leader or Spokesperson of the Council**

Cllr Blishen proposed and Cllr Hesse seconded that Cllr Neale be elected as The Leader for 2021/22. There being no other nominations it was RESOLVED nem con that Cllr Neale be duly elected as The Leader for 2021/22.

**C11/20 Appointment of Town Council's representative on the Farnham Infrastructure Board**

Cllr Neale as the Leader was duly elected as the Town Council's representative on the Farnham Infrastructure Board for 2021/22.

**C12/20 Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed to be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Chairman

Date