

HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on the 17th May 2018

Present: Councillors Free (Town Mayor), Angland, Cook, Byrne, Haylock, Matthews, Monks and Shearly-Sanders

In attendance: 10 members of the public

1. TOWN MAYOR

On the proposition of the Town Mayor, Councillor Free and seconded variously it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Matthews be and is hereby elected, Town Mayor to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

At this point the Meeting was adjourned for a short period to enable the new Mayor to be robed and photographed.

At the resumption, the newly installed Mayor, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Book and, on behalf of the Council, thanked Councillor Free for her work and efforts during her term of office and presented her with a past-mayors jewel.

2. DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

On the proposition of the Town Mayor and seconded variously, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Monks be, and is hereby elected, Deputy Town Mayor to serve until the next Annual Meeting of the Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Book.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Fraser and Sheldrick due to work commitments; Haines for personal reasons and Wiltshire who is on holiday. These apologies were accepted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cook declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No: 7 – Representatives as she is Chair of the Hadleigh Grand Feoffment Charity and the Alabaster Charity. For this item she will leave the room.

Councillor Matthews declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No. 7 – Representatives as he is Chair of the Franey Rand & Pest House Charities.

5. REPORT OF OUTGOING TOWN MAYOR

Councillor Free advised that she would not be reading out her full last report as this had been done at the Annual Town Meeting.

First of all Councillor Free thanked all the staff for their fantastic work in the office and especially my Secretary, Elaine Root, for all the support, advise and help she has given me during my term in office.

Secondly I would like to say a big thank you to my Deputy Mayor, Peter Matthews, for his support he has given me over the past few weeks which is more than my other Mayor Elect did who gave me no support at all.

I wish Councillor Matthews all the best in the coming year and I will continue to support the Council and people of Hadleigh the best I can.

I felt really privileged to become Mayor of Hadleigh and felt proud to represent our town as I am just a Norfolk gal and only lived here for a short time.

The social side of being Mayor has been great. I have met a lot of lovely people and made friends in our Chain Gang as we Mayors are known. The other side of being Mayor has been hard work, sleepless nights, illness, hospitalised and stressed, not to say appalled by people's behaviour in meetings and on social media which can only be one side as we are Councillors are bound by the Code of Conduct.

6. COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Following receipt of Councillors preferences, it was **RESOLVED** that membership of the Committees for the coming year be as set out below:

PLANNING

Angland	Byrne
Cook	Free
Haines	Haylock
Matthews	Monks
Sheldrick	Wiltshire

Due to the reduced number of Councillors it was agreed that until the vacancies were filled Sports & Open Spaces and Environment & General Purposes Committees would run with the Mayor, Deputy and Five Councillors.

SPORTS AND OPEN SPACES – (8 members)

Matthews (Town Mayor)	Monks (Deputy Mayor)
Angland	Byrne
Cook	Haines
Wiltshire	

ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES – (8 members)

Matthews (Town Mayor)	Monks (Deputy Mayor)
Angland	Cook
Free	Haylock
Sheldrick	

FINANCE AND PERSONNEL – (7 members)

Matthews	(Town Mayor)
Monks	(Deputy Mayor)
Free	(Retiring Town Mayor)

Plus one representative each nominated by the Planning Committee, Sports and Open Spaces Committee, the Environment & General Purposes Committee and Hadleigh Market Feoffment Charity.

7. REPRESENTATIVES

The following appointments for the year were agreed:

S.A.L.C. Representative	Byrne
Tree Warden	Fraser
Hadleigh Twinning Representative	Haines
Wattisham Liaison Officer	Byrne & Fraser
Footpath Wardens	Mr M Keeling & Mr H Aldrick
Hadleigh Steering Group	Byrne
Woollen Towns Association	Haylock
Hadleigh Elderly People's Welfare Committee	Free
Franey Rand & Pest House Charities	Monks
Hadleigh Grand Feoffment Charity	Free
Alabaster Charity	Byrne

Hadleigh Chamber of Commerce – Councillor Shearly-Sanders reported that there had been no meetings held this year so it was agreed to wait until contact was made by the Chamber then a representative would be agreed.

8. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 19th April 2018, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, were taken as read and confirmed and signed. The Minutes of the Extra Meeting of the Council held on the 3rd May 2018, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, were noted.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

At this point the meeting was adjourned to allow a members of the public to speak on errors in the Town Council's accounts; telephone mast at the Millfield; Hadleigh Society report on the old Hadleigh Building Supplies land on Benton Street and the Communities and Local Government Select Committee

9. POLICE

A written report had been provided by the Police advising how they were dealing with increased anti-social behaviour in the town.

10. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported that he was in receipt of Councillor Young and Ruddy's resignations from the Council.

The Mayor had also been given a statement from the staff which was read by the Clerk:

As members of staff we have been reading in the press and on social media all about the current situation at Hadleigh Town Council. We would like to know where exactly this leaves all of us. Are Mr Wilson, Mr Shearly-Sanders, Ms Young and some members of the public aware that they could potentially be affecting our livelihoods? From what we know in the office, our personal opinion is that some of what is reported in the press and on social media is one-sided and not always factually correct and the public are therefore not fully aware of what the situation is and what we do. We feel this continues to cause a lot of uncertainty all around. We have always carried out our work to the best of our abilities and have always given 100% but feel if we are not able to do this due to outside influences then this may start to have an adverse effect. We feel therefore that we are entitled to know where we stand and how this will affect our jobs as we are not volunteers and these are our only paid jobs and do not run alongside any other work.

It was agreed that this would be discussed by the Finance & Personnel Committee.

11. **STANDING ORDER NO. 40**

There were no questions raised.

12. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was **RESOLVED** that accounts amounting to £28,151.98 including HMRC, Utilities, SCC Pension Fund and staff salaries, details of which are listed in the Schedule contained in the Minute Book, be approved for payment.

Councillor Shearly-Sanders raised concerns over Hadleigh Town Council making a payment to the Hadleigh Market Feoffment Charity and abstained from voting.

13. **REPORTS**

It was agreed that existing arrangements for County and District Councillors to provide written reports at Council Meetings would continue as it was felt that this was very useful. The Clerk was asked to contact the County Council and District Council Councillors to request that their reports are received earlier.

14. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 3rd May 2018, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, were noted.

15. **SPORTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

The Report of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 10th May 2018, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, was received and accepted.

The Clerk advised that since the meeting was held information had been received from the Rugby Club regarding the electricity supply.

16. **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

The Clerk reported that around 80 people attended this year's Annual Town Meeting along with Councillors. The Mayor presented Mrs Pam Jacobs with the Town Mayor's Award. Written reports had been received from seven local organisations.

17. **TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**

This item had been requested following a question raised by a member of the public asking if the public adjournment could be moved to the end of the meeting. The Clerk reported that advice had been received which recommended the removal of the public adjournment and replacing the item with an agenda item to receive questions from the members of the public.

It was agreed that the Clerk would put an item in the June edition of the Community News advising members of the public that for a trial period the public adjournment would be removed from the Town Council agenda and replaced with an item on the agenda for received questions or items of interest to be reported.

18. GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION

Councillor Cook had provided a written report (a copy of which is included in the Minute Book) on the work she had carried out regarding the implementation of this regulation.

Councillor Cook had drawn up a comprehensive action plan and would be working with the staff in order that Hadleigh Town Council would be compliant with the regulation.

19. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Shearly-Sanders spoke on his thoughts of what was required to move the Neighbourhood Plan forward. He was concerned that information from the website had been removed. He was advised that this is still available but unpublished until management of the site is agreed.

Councillor Angland advised that this was a planning matter and the report she had received from the planning consultancy would be provided at the next planning meeting.

The Mayor hoped that it would not be long now before the Plan was being worked on again.

20. TOWN MATTERS

Councillor Haylock reported that Babergh District Council was intending to close the Tourist Information Centres at Lavenham, Long Melford and Sudbury. Councillor Haylock felt that this was not forwarding thinking and may have an adverse effect on the High Street. The Clerk was asked to write to the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce to find out what their organisation was doing about this due to the effect it could have on local businesses in the area.

Councillor Byrne advised that the Friday Market in Hadleigh is now becoming so successful that if more land was available more stall holders wanted to attend.

21. **CIRCULARS AND REPORTS**

The following were received:-

- Hadleigh Community News (May 2018)
- In Touch Magazine (May 2018)
- The Clerk Magazine (May 2018)
- Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine (May 2018, Issue 117)
- Local Councils Update (May 2018)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm

CONFIRMED

TOWN MAYOR