

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15 AUGUST 2018 AT 7.00PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD

PRESENT Councillor Miss B Griffin, Vice- Chairman
Councillor H Bisnauthsing
Councillor M Exton
Councillor B Sandall
Councillor B C Sumner
Councillor Mrs S J Sandall
Councillor J Dawson
Councillor T Story
Councillor Mrs B A Sumner
Councillor Ms M Couch
Councillor Mrs S Sismore
Councillor B Turner
Councillor Mrs G Johnson
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor A Croft
Councillor A Swan
Councillor S Carroll
Councillor D Dorson
Councillor Mrs M Pitt

ALSO PRESENT Town Clerk
Rev. Andy Fyall, Superintendent Minister, the Stamford Methodist Circuit
5 members of public
1 member of press

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.

249. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE(Agenda Point 1)

Councillor A Billington submitted her reasons for absence. The reasons were noted and accepted.

250. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (Agenda Point 2)

None declared.

251. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR MAX SAWYER AND TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY (Agenda Point 3)

The resignation of Councillor Max Sawyer was regretted and as a consequence it created a Town Council vacancy which has been advertised. The Town Clerk informed the Council that the notification closes on 21 August 2018. If no By-Election has been called then the Town Council will be able to consider filling the vacancy by Co-Option. The Town Clerk advised that if any candidates come forward for consideration it is up to the Town Council to agree on whether it wishes to accept or not the candidates.

252. TO CONSIDER THE SUPPORT FOR THE DEPUTY MAYOR DURING THIS MAYORAL TERM

It was noted that some of the items being discussed had been considered by the Scrutiny and Audit Committee at their meeting this morning. The notes of the meeting had been tabled

for Councillors to consider. Time was allowed for councillors to read and absorb the document.

Both Councillors Couch and Mrs B A Sumner took exception to the suggestion that they should be accompanied by a Past Mayor serving on the Council. They considered it should be their choice as to who should accompany them. The Town Clerk suggested that these were notes and the first step is to ask those Committee members whether the notes reflected the discussions of the meeting. Councillor Turner, Chairman of Scrutiny & Audit identified a couple of minor typographical errors. The members of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee confirmed the notes reflected the discussions and thoughts of the Committee. Councillor Swan stated that there was no slight meant and maybe an alteration would be acceptable. The sentiment was to offer support on civic protocol and etiquette when attending Civic invitations.

The Council members discussed the content of the notes and it was the consensus to replace one of the sentences in point 3a to read - *Both the latter may in turn be accompanied by a consort of their choice.*

PROPOSAL 1 – It was proposed by Councillor B Turner, seconded by Councillor A Swan to confirm the notes of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee subject to the adjustment above.

253. TO CONSIDER THE EXPENSES OF THE FORMER MAYOR AND AWARDING OF MAYORAL ALLOWANCE TO THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2018/19 MAYORAL TERM

The Chairman informed the meeting that as per the Scrutiny and Audit notes this item has also been discussed by the Finance Committee and supported the way the expenses of the resigning Mayor had been handled. The Town Clerk confirmed that a three months pro-rata allowance of £550 was allocated to Councillor Max Sawyer to cover his bona-fide expenses. In a similar manner the travel expenses were allocated on a pro-rata basis towards the engagements he attended which was £120.15. It was confirmed a refund of £1529.85 had been received. Following discussion, it was noted the Deputy Mayor could be allocated the balance of the Mayoral allowance of £1650.00 towards any engagements or fund-raising costs. The remainder of the travel expenses £379.85 would be managed in the same way. It was noted that the supporting group attending the engagements which the Deputy Mayor could not attend would be allocated travel expenses from the Mayoral Allowance and the Deputy Mayor travel allowance of £200. The Council noted that the Deputy Mayor would be submitting expenses on a quarterly basis.

254. TO CONSIDER THE SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATED MAYORAL CHARITIES DURING THIS MAYORAL TERM

There was question as to why the procedure of fund raising towards these three charities should change and members from the Events and Amenities Committees should be requested to act as the fund-raising group. The Deputy Mayor considered that this year is unique and although she would ask a group of individuals to support her in fund raising activities, perhaps it might be a good idea for councillors to get involved this year to support her as she was already committed to other activities. As to whether this system would apply during her potential Mayoral year, Councillor Griffin responded she hoped that the support would be available.

Councillor Bisnauthsing considered that the three charities - Three Counties Dog Rescue; Stamford Young People's Charity within which is the Florence Desforges fund and Marie Curie were the former Mayor's choice and not ratified by the Town Council. Following discussion, it was recognised that the Town Council accepted and ratified the nominated charities and therefore bound by their appointment this year.

255. TO CONSIDER THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURE IN LINE WITH STANDING ORDERS

The Council noted the outcome of the investigation of the Scrutiny and Audit Committee. It was considered that *the approval of the accuracy of the draft Committee notes by Committee members only, upon which there should be no discussion except in relation to their accuracy* had always been in place and implemented. But there was concern over whether any actions or matter arising from committee's notes would be available for consideration by the Council. The Chairman Councillor Miss Griffin confirmed that step two clearly would allow members of the Town Council to discuss any actions within committee minutes. The Town Clerk informed the meeting that should there be any actions or matters arising which resulted in a formal proposal being made then it should and would provide council members opportunity to debate prior to its ratification. In reference to committee notes it was confirmed that it was incumbent on the Chairman of each particular committee to ensure that their members had consensus that the notes reflected their discussion prior to it being presented to full Council. Therefore, discussion amongst committee members could take place outside of the Council meeting.

The Chairman Councillor Miss Griffin wished to introduce a system of streamlining the number of questions posed by Town Councillors to members representing Outside Bodies. She was concerned with the manner in which members address representatives attending Town Council meetings. Time would be allocated for representatives on the Outside Bodies to speak for 5mins during which members of the Town Council would script any questions they wished to ask on a form. All councillors would be allowed to ask one question which would allow debate at the meeting, any additional supplementary questions would be written down, collected and forwarded on to the appropriate representative. The response would be obtained by the Town Clerk and passed on to the councillor who posed the question. This hopefully would speed up procedures at the meeting. A similar system would apply to the public, who would similarly be requested to script their question and contact details. The member of public would ask their question and if possible have answers to provided either from a Town Councillor or have it directed to the representative from LCC or SKDC or to the Town Clerk who would forward a reply to the member of public on obtaining the relevant information. She also requested that Councillors put away all mobile phones and focus on the meeting, as they are a distraction. This led to discussion and strong views exchanged and any alteration will need to be approved by the Town Council. Several councillors considered this system would stifle debate. It was recognised that respect should be given to representatives attending Town Council, as they do it in their own time, to provide reports on general activities.

PROPOSAL 2 – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall and seconded by Councillor Ms M Couch and **RESOLVED** by majority vote to reject the system of restricting one question per councillor as it would stifle debate. All issues should be aired for discussion. 15 votes in Favour with 4 Abstentions.

Discussion further ensued regarding the Mayoral portrait. There was a strong view that the portrait outside the Mayor's Parlour be removed and replaced with a new Council photo to be taken at the next Town Council meeting.

PROPOSAL 3 – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor H Bisnauthsing and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the portrait of Max Sawyer is removed and replace with a new Council photo to be taken at the next Town Council meeting. There was 1 Abstention.

It was further debated that the board in the Court Room should be endorsed with the dates of the resignation and no Past Mayor's Medallion will be issued

PROPOSAL 4 – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor M Exton and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Mayor Board in the Court Room should record the date of the resignation.

PROPOSAL 5 – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall, seconded by Councillor B C Sumner and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that no Past Mayor's Medallion will be issued. There were 3 Abstentions.

PROPOSAL 6 – It was proposed by Councillor B Sandall seconded by Councillor D Taylor and unanimously **RESOLVED** acceptance of the Scrutiny and Audit notes subject to the agreed alterations

256. CONSIDERATION OF A PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF THE FORMER MAYOR

The Council agreed that the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk draft the press statement in line with the discussions of this evening for circulation before being released.

257. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERATION OF COMPLAINTS PANEL DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR MAX SAWYER

It was recognised that as the Deputy Chairman will now be Chairing all Town Council meetings, the Complaints Panel needed to have an additional member. Following discussion, it was suggested Councillor Ms M Couch put forward.

PROPOSAL 7 – It was proposed by Councillor J Dawson, seconded by Councillor H Bisnauthsing and **RESOLVED** by majority vote that Councillor Ms M Couch is added to the Complaints Panel. There was 1 Abstention.

The meeting closed at 7.55p.m.
Chairman