

FELIXSTOWE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 7th May 2014 at Felixstowe Town Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors Jan Garfield (Mayor), Barber, Bird, Deacon, Jon Garfield, Morris, Newman, Savage, Sennington, Sharman, Slemmings, Smith and Williams.

Also present: Twenty-three members of the public.

I. Prayers

The meeting was preceded by prayers from Rev Robert Hinsley, St John the Baptist Church.

1. **TO ELECT A TOWN MAYOR**

Councillor Graham Newman was elected as Town Mayor and duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. **THE NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR SPEECH**

Councillor Newman thanked his fellow Councillors for their confidence in electing him as Town Mayor, and Councillor Jan Garfield for all the energy she had expended in undertaking her Mayoral duties over the past year. The Mayor made a presentation to Councillor Jan Garfield.

The Mayor announced that two new email accounts were to be set up – mayor@felixstowe.gov.uk so that members of the public could always contact the Mayor, and lofefelixstowe@felixstowe.gov.uk which was for members of the public to report matters in Felixstowe which required the Council's attention. The Mayor announced his charities would be Felixstowe Citizens' Advice Bureau, and Level 2, and that as part of his fun raising efforts for these charities he would be walking the Suffolk coastline from Catterwade to Lowestoft, a total of 100 miles, over the week of 13th – 19th August, and would be seeking sponsorship.

3. **TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR**

Following the receipt of two nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor Councillor Savage was elected by a majority.

4. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Stokell, Webb and Walker.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bird, Deacon, Jan Garfield, Morris, Savage, Sennington, Sharman, Slemmings, Smith and Williams declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Councillors Barber and Newman declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest as Members of Suffolk County Council.

6. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS WITH A PECUNIARY INTEREST

No requests for dispensation had been received.

7. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2nd APRIL 2014

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2nd April 2014 were confirmed as a true record by those present and the Chairman was authorised to sign them, subject to the addition of "Copies of the Planning Committee minutes were to be included as part of the future Full Council agendas" in minute 547..

8. PLANS COMMITTEE

The receipt of the minutes of the meetings of the Plans Committee held on 2nd and 30th April 2014 was noted.

The Mayor advised that he was going to deal with the remainder of the agenda as follows:-

- a) item 11 to be taken next
- b) item 9 to be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 21st May
- c) item 10 to be deferred to Full Council on 4th June
- d) items 12-24 to be deferred to a resumed meeting of Full Council on 21st May

9. TO REVIEW AND ADOPT APPROPRIATE STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Council agreed to amend Standing Orders by:-

- a) The insertion of 9(i) "That, in an ordinary year, nominations for the position of Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor must be given in writing to the Proper Officer no later than the date of the preceding Ordinary meeting of the Council, and reported at that meeting. In an election year nominations will be made at the AGM."
- b) The insertion of a new Section "Questions to the Mayor", with a paragraph "At a meeting of Full Council, questions may be put by Councillors to the

Mayor provided that seven days' notice has been given of the question. The Mayor may give a verbal or written response at the meeting; any such written response to form part of the minutes of the meeting."

- c) The insertion of a new Section "Presentations to Council" with these paragraphs "External organisations will be permitted, or invited, to make presentations to a meeting of the Council or a Committee, provided that presentations on current planning applications will not be permitted"; "The Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Town Mayor, will determine whether an organisation may make a presentation." and "Both Councillors and the public may be invited to question the presenter, subject to the existing rules on public participation". This Section to be reviewed at the May 2016 Annual General Meeting.
- d) The insertion of a new paragraph 4(f):-"That Membership of Committees broadly represents the political make-up of the Town Council."

The Council agreed to adopt Financial Regulations subject to the following amendments:-

- i) The substitution of "and any" for "and the" before "requisite" in paragraph 4.6
- ii) The removal of square brackets ([and]) in paragraphs 5.5(a) and 5.5(b) and 15(2)

10. CLOSURE

The meeting was closed at 8.45 p.m.

Date: _____

Town Mayor: _____