

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 MAY 2020, HELD ONLINE.

PRESENT: Cllrs M Mohd Rofidi (Chair), M Dyson, J Shaw-Wright, S Shaw-Wright, C Laskey, K Franks, S Andrew, G Harding, M Fagan, L Mohd Rofidi, I Lawton, Jack Proud, F Matthews, K Arthur and M Davis

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1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Consideration was given to the election of the Mayor and Chair of Selby Town Council for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

Councillor Michael Dyson was nominated and seconded.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Michael Dyson be appointed Mayor and Chair of Selby Town Council for the 2020/21 Municipal year.

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Mayor signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. RETIRING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Reflecting on my year as Mayor, which now amounts to more than half my time on council, I consider it a good experience personally and hope that it has been served to the satisfaction of council and the residents of Selby.

This last year has been more fragmented than we would have expected with national and international events having an inevitable effect on the frequency of councils and its operation. First of all I would like to thank, in particular, Cllr Michael Dyson who covered my duties of Mayor during the General Election campaign over November and December. Also to the Clerk, Gill Bell, and to Carolyn Richardson for adapting to that situation. Of course, more recently we have faced the challenge of the global pandemic of Covid-19. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of our staff for the work they do and the manner in which they have managed this extraordinary and difficult situation.

For the Council there has been some transition with a new permanent Town Clerk, a new Finance Office and media and administration assistant in the office. I would like to thank them for taking up their positions and the work they have done, and to all the staff for their work over the year.

In terms of the make-up of the council there has been a new intake as of last May and I congratulate those councillors on their first year. I hope they found rewards from their positions and work undertaken. Fresh outlooks, backgrounds, expertise and experience complements those longer on council and more experienced in council matters and I'm sure the new councillors and the already established councillors have learnt and benefitted from each other.

It has always been a particular concern of mine that people with different work and life backgrounds, with different characters and personalities have the opportunity of input into their society. Not only does it benefit them, but the society as a whole. I have the same view of councils. We need to ensure underrepresented people are heard and ensure they are not beaten down by dominant voices and those with circumstance or establishment on their side. It is the duty of all councillors to ensure we treat all others with respect and courtesy. This is something we must continually strive for and it is imperative that we build a respectful culture that allows an environment to flourish where all feel comfortable in their participation.

Over the last year the Council has maintained its presence through staging events in the community and holding markets, and has invested in assets to help enhance its ability to continue with this work. The Town Hall also gained coverage in recognition of its use as a theatrical venue as one marker of a successful year for the town.

From a personal point of view I have found my year as Mayor enlightening and interesting. It has been very enjoyable and informative attending local organisations' meetings and events on invitation, to gain an insight into what is happening in the community, the experiences of fellow residents, and the effort being made to improve and enhance life in the town. The people involved in these organisations truly make Selby what it is. In a year when the Selby Abbey 950th anniversary has prompted a large number of events, I can say without a doubt I have found this aspect to my term the most enjoyable and would like to thank all those who have sent invitations and for sharing their work and time with me.

My first invitation accepted was to visit our twinned town of Carentan in Normandy with Selby's twinning group. It coincided with the anniversary period of D-Day and so felt incredibly significant and poignant to me. Seeing the bonds of friendships maintained in both this and the visit of our friends from Filderstadt later in the year left a deep impression on me. I would like to thank those who allowed me to share in their memorable visit to Carentan, and to both twinning groups for their fabulous work.

While there have been many organisations and groups I have had the pleasure to meet as Mayor, there are a few that I've had repeated or sustained interaction with over the year that I wish to mention. I would like to thank and congratulate the whole team at Selby Abbey for their work on the 950th anniversary celebrations and wish them the best for the coming year. I would also like to thank Phil Sayles and his team at Selby College for allowing me to regard the work and achievements of their students and staff at different points of the year and to share in their recognition of such achievements. Spirit of Christmas, SYPCO and Talk Tonight have also engaged with me on multiple occasions and I thank them for the difference they make to residents of Selby.

In terms of those around me in council, I would like to acknowledge last year's Mayor, Eva Lambert for her advice and support, and to reiterate my thanks to Gill, Carolyn and all the staff. In a council that could be perceived as political in the make-up of councillors I would like to extend my thanks to those who often sit to my left for their respectful and friendly behaviour towards me, and to other councillors

who have shown support over the year, including Cllr Lisa Rofidi who accompanied me as consort on many events I attended and supported me over the year.

Again, I would like to thank Cllr Michael Dyson for his support as Deputy Mayor. Not only does he have great knowledge of Selby and a determination to achieve the best for Selby but I have also come to know him to be a very nice gentleman too. I am in no doubt he will make a wonderful Mayor over the next year and I wish him all the very best.

While it is usual for the retiring Mayor to reflect that we face challenges ahead I think it's fair to say that particularly applies at this moment. I don't think it would be considered contentious to assert that community groups and spirit will be as important as ever in the coming months and years, as will consideration and respect of others. I thank all those in Selby engaged in helping others through paid or volunteered work or through acts of kindness or standing up to injustice every day and wish them the best, and my solidarity, for the challenges that await.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Cahill, W Nichols.

5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

6. NOMINATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Council considered nominations and election of a Town Councillor as Deputy Mayor of Selby Town Council for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That Cllr W Nichols be proposed as Deputy Mayor of Selby Town Council for the 2020/21 Municipal Year. This was seconded and approved.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIATION PERIOD

There were no members of the public present.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to appointing Members to serve on the Council's Committees for 2020/21.

RESOLVED: That the following members be appointed to serve on the Town Council Committees for the 2020/21 Municipal year.

Committee	Members
Land and Property Committee	Mayor and Deputy Mayor Ex-Officio; (M Dyson and W Nichols), G Harding, S Shaw-Wright, Mrs M Fagan, Mrs M Davis, K Franks, I Lawton and F Matthews

Finance and Staffing Committee	Mayor and Deputy Mayor Ex-Officio; (M Dyson and W Nichols), F Matthews, M Davis, C Laskey, L Rofidi, S Cahill and S Shaw-Wright
Disciplinary Hearing Panel Members	The Chair of the Finance and Staffing Committee and Chair of Council to nominate members for the Hearing Panel and Appeals Panel
Town Hall Management Committee	F Matthews, S Cahill, G Harding and Mrs J Shaw-Wright
Markets Working Group	Ms M Davis, C Laskey, M Fagan, J Shaw-Wright and K Franks
Digital Working Group	Ms M Davis, M Rofidi, Mrs M Fagan and C Laskey,

9. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Consideration was given to nominations for representatives on Outside Bodies for 2020/21.

Body	No of Cllrs	Representative
Selby Community Trust	5	Cllrs Ms S Andrew, Ms M Davis, F Matthews, Mrs J Shaw-Wright and S Cahill
Selby United Charities	5	Cllrs Ms M Davis, Mrs M Fagan, F Matthews, Mrs J Shaw-Wright & L Rofidi
Rail Users Group	1	Cllr G Harding
Age UK	1	Cllr Mrs E Lambert
Selby District AVS	1	Cllr K Franks
Yorkshire Local Councils Assoc.	2	Cllr Ms M Davis and the Clerk
Groundwork Selby	1	Cllr S Shaw-Wright
STEP	1	Cllr Ms M Davis
CEF	3	Cllrs Ms M Davis, F Matthews and C Laskey
BIG LOCAL	1	Cllr M Davis

RESOLVED: That the abovementioned Councillors be nominated as Town Council representatives for 2020/21.

10. SIGNATORIES FOR CHEQUES

Consideration was given to cheque signatories for the Town Council's accounts.

RESOLVED: That the signatories for the Town Council's account be as follows;

Cllrs Ms M Davis, Mrs J Shaw-Wright, K Franks, E Lambert and M Dyson.

11. YEAR END ACCOUNTS AND CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

- 11.1 Council noted that The Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 relating to local council audit timeframes were published on 7 April and came into force on 30 April 2020. These extend the statutory audit deadlines for 2019/20. In brief the timeframes are now:

This year, the period of public rights will need to have started by the first working day of September; and

The deadline for the publishing of audited accounts is moved to 30 November (from 30 September)

The year-end accounts are yet to be finalised and audited by the Internal Auditor. These will be brought to a meeting no later than 27 July 2020

- 11.2 Council noted that Littlejohn LLP were previously appointed the External Auditor for 2020/21.

12. ADOPTION OF THE COUNCILS STANDING ORDERS, FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION

- 12.1 Council considered adoption of the Standing Orders of the Town Council and the Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference for committees. It was discussed amending the Standing Orders to include a reference to holding virtual meetings. It was agreed that this item be added to the Agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders of the Town Council, Scheme of Delegation and Terms of Reference for Committees and Working Groups be adopted, and that a reference to holding meetings virtually be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

- 12.2 Consideration was given to the adoption of the Financial Regulations of the Council.

It was noted as the new Finance Officer was now in post, the Financial Regulations needed to reflect this. The Clerk agreed to prepare a Draft of the new Regulations for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Financial Regulations of the Town Council be adopted and reviewed and, that the Clerk prepare a new draft of Financial Regulations to include the Finance Officer as RFO, for the next Council Meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1 June 2020
Monday 29 June 2020
Monday 13 July 2020
Monday 27 July 2020

Land & Property Committee
Council
Finance & Staffing Committee
Council