

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held in the Council Chamber at 15 Station Road, Stone, on Tuesday 14 May 2024

PRESENT: Councillor J. Davies in the Chair for Minute Number C25/001
Councillor P. Leason in the Chair thereafter and
Councillors: A. Best, L. Davies, I. Fordham, J. Hood, B. Kenney, R. Kenney,
J. Metters, N. Powell and C. Thornicroft

Officers: L. Trigg, R. Edwards and T. Williams

ABSENT: Councillors: J. Battrick, A. Burgess, K. Dawson, T. Kelt, A. Mottershead J. Powell
and R. Townsend

Prayers

Before the meeting began Reverend Jim Cartlidge led prayers.

C25/001 To appoint the Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor J. Davies invited nominations for Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor I. Fordham nominated Councillor Philip Leason, who he informed the Council was well qualified for the role having served previously as Town Mayor and recently as Mayor of Stafford Borough. He said that Councillor Leason had carried out both roles with a smile, his customary dignity, and good humour. He added that Councillor Leason was also in possession of a remarkable knowledge of Stone, its history and its people, which will prove especially useful in the coming months.

Councillor R. Kenney seconded the nomination and with no further nominations all members agreed.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Philip Leason MBE JP as Stone Town Mayor for the year 2024-25.

After Councillor Leason had received his Chain of Office the Town Clerk invited him to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Leason announced that his wife, Mrs Edith Leason, would be his Consort.

Councillor Leason advised the Council that Reverend Jim Cartlidge of St Michael

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and St Wulfad's Church had been asked to take on the role of Mayor's Chaplain, which he had accepted.

Councillor Leason thanked the Council for allowing him the honour of his appointment as Town Mayor for the year 2024-25. He said that becoming Mayor in a town he had lived in all his life was particularly special.

Councillor Leason advised the Council that he had first been elected Town Mayor in 1987-88 having taken over from the late Mr Harry Brunt. In this year it had poured with rain on Civic Sunday and the culvert carrying Scotch Brook under Stafford Street had burst and flooded the lower parts of the town. He said the experience had led to some hesitation in asking him to take on the Town Mayor role in 2007-08 when he once again took over from the late Harry Brunt. This time there were no disasters, and a sunny Civic Sunday was enjoyed by all. He hoped this good experience would be repeated this year.

During his first term of office thirty-seven years ago, Councillor Leason was Town Mayor with Councillor Doug James the Mayor of Stafford, and he told Councillors that he looked forward to working with his son Frank this year.

Councillor Leason explained that it was only when taking on the role of Mayor that you fully recognise the extent of the community work that goes on in the town and the volunteers that give their time tirelessly. Both he and Edith looked forward to visiting the various groups and promoting Stone as the wonderful town that it is. He acknowledged what an exciting year it will be with the opening of the new theatre and heritage centre which have been keenly talked about for many years and were coming to fruition at last.

Councillor Leason informed the Council that his main Mayor's Charity for the year would be Stone Community First Responders, but he hoped to be able to make donations to other local charities as well.

The Town Mayor thanked the past Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Jim and Councillor Mrs Lin Davies for all they had done for the town in their year in office.

C25/002 To appoint the Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor Leason invited nominations for Deputy Town Mayor.

Councillor Jill Hood proposed Councillor Jason Metters as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year. She said that he was an excellent young man who worked with humility, common sense, and great intelligence. He has a very keen interest in environmental matters and as a young Deputy Mayor will connect well with youngsters in the town.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor J. Davies, and with no further nominations all members were in support of the motion.

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RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Jason Metters as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2024-25.

Councillor Metters received his Deputy Town Mayor's Chain of Office and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Councillor Metters informed the Council that his Consort would be Miss Sarah Goodall.

C25/003 To thank and record the Town Council's appreciation of the services of the retiring Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and their Consorts

The Town Mayor invited Councillor Rob Kenney to address the Council.

Councillor Kenney expressed on behalf of Town Councillors their thanks and appreciation for the hard work undertaken by the past Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor Jim and Councillor Mrs Lin Davies, the past Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Councillor Robert Townsend and Mrs Helen Townsend, during their mayoral term of office 2023-24.

C25/004 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors: K. Dawson, T. Kelt, J. Powell and R. Townsend.

C25/005 Declarations of Interest

None received.

C25/006 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

C25/007 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2 April 2024 (Minute Numbers C24/099 – C24/106), be approved as a correct record.

C25/008 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The draft minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 April 2024 (Minute Numbers GP24/187 – GP24/203), were noted.

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- b) The draft minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 April 2024 (Minute Numbers PC24/067 – PC24/072), were noted.

C25/009 Committee Terms of Reference

The Council considered the terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Committees.

The Town Clerk advised the Council that changes had been made to clarify quoracy rules and the position of ex-officio members should the Council choose not to appoint all Councillors to either committee.

RESOLVED: The terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Committees were approved.

C25/010 To determine membership and elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee for 2024-25

Membership of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee for the year 2024-25.

Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Rob Kenney be appointed as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2024-25.

Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Ian Fordham be appointed as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2024-25.

Membership of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2024-25.

Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tom Kelt be appointed as Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2024-25.

Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor Clive Thornicroft be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2024-25.

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C25/011 To defer other business under Standing Order 2, paragraph (j) to an appropriate meeting of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That all other business under this Standing Order be deferred to the General Purposes Committee

C25/012 To resolve, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting whilst the next items of business are discussed on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the debate.

RESOLVED: To exclude the Press and Public from the next item of business.

C25/013 Confidential Committee Minutes

- a) The draft Confidential Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 April 2024, (Minute Numbers GP24/187, GP24/202 and GP24/203), were noted.

TOWN MAYOR

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