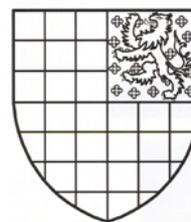


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

Of the **41st ANNUAL MEETING of Lewes Town Council**,
held on **Thursday 21st May 2015**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes** at **7:00pm**.

PRESENT Councillors F Addecott; A Ashby; A Barker; Dr A Bolt; R Burrows; S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier; D Cooper; I Makepeace; Dr G Mayhew; M Milner; R Murray; S Murray; O’Keeffe; E Watts.

Also present: Dr M Turner (*Mayor 2014/15*) although not re-elected as a Member of the Council.

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk*); Mrs F Garth (*Civic Officer & Asst Town Clerk*); L Symons (*Macebearer*); Canon R Moatt (*Council Chaplain*).

There were 89 guests and civic dignitaries assembled.

The meeting opened with Cllr Dr Turner in the Chair as outgoing Mayor, although not returned as a Member of the Council in recent elections (*in accordance with s15 Local Government Act 1972*), and was preceded by a short address by Canon Moatt on the principles of public service.

FC2015/01 ELECTION OF MAYOR: Cllr Susan Murray was elected as Mayor for the 2015/16 municipal year.

FC2015/02 MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: Cllr Murray made her declaration of acceptance of the office of Mayor before Council and assembled guests, and signed a deed to that effect.

Cllr Murray took the chair for the remainder of the meeting

Cllr Murray addressed the assembly, thanking her colleagues for the honour of the Mayoralty. She described her outlook for the Mayoral year, and announced that the organizations she had chosen to support would be the Lewes Children’s Book Group and Transition Town Lewes. She introduced her Consort, her husband Cllr Roger Murray, who would support her during the forthcoming year. She also introduced Mr John Agard, a playwright; poet; and children’s writer, and recipient (in 2012) of the Queen’s Gold Medal for poetry, who had kindly agreed to act as Mayor’s Poet during her year in the role. Mr Agard then entertained the assembly with two of his works; receiving a round of applause.

FC2015/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been received from Cllrs W Elliott and J Lamb, who were on holiday, and Cllr A Rowell who was unwell.

FC2015/04 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR: Cllr I Makepeace was elected as Deputy Mayor for the 2015/16 municipal year.

FC2015/05 DEPUTY MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE: Cllr Makepeace made her declaration of acceptance of the office of Deputy Mayor before Council and assembled guests, and signed a deed to that effect. She offered a short speech of thanks for the honour, and introduced her partner, Mr John Somerville, who would support in the role of Deputy Mayor’s Consort.

FC2015/06 VOTE OF THANKS: Cllr Chartier proposed the motion (NM001/15) :

“That this Council records its thanks to Dr Micheal Turner, and appreciation for his service to the council and community of Lewes in the office of Mayor during the past

Continues...

year.”

He went on to describe Dr Turner’s term as Mayor, and highlighted functions and events he had attended and his work throughout the year to raise money for his chosen charities – always closely supported by his Mayoress; Mrs Anne Turner.

It was **resolved FC2015/06.1** accordingly.

Dr Turner replied at length, describing his own view of the past year and adding thanks to all those individuals who had helped throughout his service as Mayor.

FC2015/07 PRESENTATIONS: Dr and Mrs Turner were presented with gifts in recognition of their service in the past year. Dr Turner then presented a gift to Canon Moatt, for his invaluable work as Chaplain and his pastoral care within the organization. He called forward representatives of his chosen charities: Lewes & Seaford Citizens’ Advice Bureaux, and Parkinson’s UK, to receive cheques for the money raised on their behalf during his year as Mayor.

Cllr Murray then declared that the traditional, ceremonial, element of the meeting was concluded; and the meeting moved on to deal with items of ordinary business.

FC2015/08 MINUTES: the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2015 were received and signed as an accurate record.

FC2015/09 ATTENDANCE RECORD OF COUNCILLORS:
The attendance record of councillors for the previous municipal year was noted. (*copy in minute book*)

FC2015/10 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES of COUNCILLORS 2015/16:
A motion (NM002/15) was proposed, and it was **resolved that:**
FC2015/10.1 The individual responsibilities of Members for the ensuing municipal year shall be as shown in the list (*copy in minute book*) attached to the agenda for the meeting of Council on 21st May 2015.

FC2015/11 APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:
A motion (NM003/15) was proposed, and it was **resolved that:**
FC2015/11.1 The Council’s representatives on outside bodies, for the ensuing municipal year, shall be as shown in the list (*copy in minute book*) attached to the agenda for the meeting of Council on 21st May 2015.

FC2015/12 BANK SIGNATURE AUTHORITY:
A motion (NM004/15) was proposed, and it was **resolved that:**
FC2015/12.1 The Council approves the authorization of Councillors as signatories to the Council’s bank account: as shown in the list (*copy in minute book*) attached to the agenda for the meeting of Council on 21st May 2015.

FC2015/13 COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS:
A motion (NM005/15) was proposed, and it was **resolved that:**
FC2015/13.1 The Town Clerk be asked to ensure the Council’s continued membership of approved national and local organizations representing Parish and Town Councils.

FC2015/14 QUALIFICATION for GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE:
A motion (NM006/15) was proposed, supported by a briefing note (*copy in minute book*), and it was **resolved that:**
FC2015/14.1 Lewes Town Council declares that it meets the conditions, prescribed in Article 2 paragraph 2 of The Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 (SI2012/965), and hereby resolves to adopt the

General Power of Competence as provided in the Localism Act 2011 ss1-8. This declaration has effect until the Council's Annual Meeting 2019.

FC2015/15

STATUTORY DISPENSATION *iro* DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS:

A motion (NM007/15) was proposed, and it was **resolved that:**

FC2015/15.1 Lewes Town Council Members are considered to have Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which would be affected by the setting of the Council Tax Precept – specifically: beneficial interests in land within the area of the Council. Having regard to the provisions contained in s33 of the Localism Act 2011 and all relevant circumstances the Council hereby resolves to grant all Members a dispensation from the restrictions imposed by s 31 (4) of that Act on participation and voting on this matter, as without such dispensation the transaction of Council business would be impeded; the matter is in the interests of persons living in the Council's area, and the interest is common to a significant proportion of the general public within the Council's area. This dispensation has effect until the Council's Annual Meeting 2019.

FC2015/16

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP BALLOT

A briefing paper was considered, regarding appointment of parish members to seats on the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). This matter was handled by the Sussex & Surrey Associations of Local Councils (SSALC) on behalf of the government's Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the deadline for nomination of candidates was 15th June 2015. It was considered likely that the two available seats for East Sussex parishes would be contested, as the inaugural election in 2010 had been closely-fought between candidates from several of the parishes within the Park. Under the prevailing rules of appointment some Members were not eligible for nomination as they also served on Lewes District Council, which has rights of appointment to the SDNPA. These were: Cllrs Catlin; Chartier; Cooper; Murray (S); O'Keeffe; and Rowell. After consideration it was **resolved that:**

FC2015/16.1 Cllr Annabella Ashby be nominated as a candidate for election to a seat on the South Downs National Park Authority, representing East Sussex parishes.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting and invited all present to join her in attending the Civic Reception in the Assembly Room.

The meeting ended at 7:55pm

Signed:

Date: