



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 21st MAY 2019

PRESENT: Councillor R Kingstone (Chair), Councillors R Claymore, M Bailey, D Box, P Brindley, R Bilcliff, T Clements, D Cook, M Cook, C Cooke, S Doyle, A Farrell, J Faulkner, R Ford, M Greateorex, M J Greateorex, T Jay, K Norchi, M Oates, S Peaple, Dr S Peaple, R Pritchard, R Rogers, P Standen, M Summers and P Thurgood

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Anica Goodwin (Executive Director Organisation), Angela Wakefield (Solicitor to the Council) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) J Chesworth, S Goodall, J Oates and B Price

1 MAYOR'S CADET

Jacob Waugh was inaugurated as the Mayor's Cadet for 2019/20

2 TO ELECT A MAYOR

Councillor R Kingstone was elected as Mayor

(Moved by Councillor P Thurgood and seconded by Councillor T Clements)

Mayor Kingstone proposed a vote of Thanks to Councillor P Thurgood' and Anne Thurgood outgoing Mayor and Mayoress for their work over the past year.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

3 TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor R Claymore was elected as Deputy Mayor

(Moved by Councillor R Kingstone and seconded by Councillor S Peaple)

4 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor D Cook was elected Leader of the Council

(Moved by Councillor R Ford and seconded by Councillor T Jay)

5 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 12th March 2019 and 19th March 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peaple and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

7 TO RECEIVE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Mayor R Kingstone made the following announcement:-

“Thank you one and all for allowing me to be your mayor for the second time. And a big thank you to those members of the public who are present – we will have a little drink afterwards in the parlour. On a personal note I must admit that back in January I did not think I would be around today and if I were I would not be able to take on this honour you have bestowed upon me.

Over the last few months my return to near full health has only been possible due to the support of family and friends.

I must make special mention of Sam, Charlotte, William and the little fella, Martin. But of of course I cannot forget the huge debt I owe to the wife, Lisa who has agreed to take on the role of Mayoress again and continue to be the rock that I need to keep me on track.

Peter and Anne, you have been a wonderful gentle team who have gone out and represented our town with grace and dignity. You will be missed by many and have left a lasting legacy through the great work you have done with T4Tamworth.

Josh – as Mayor’s cadet you have served our town well. And you have been and indeed are a credit to the Sea cadets, your family and more importantly yourself. I hope you have enjoyed your year. What most of you may not know is that I have known Josh for several years and I have had the pleasure of teaching him at Rawlett. Young people are some of the most honest, rewarding and inspiring people to have the pleasure to work with and I am grateful everyday for my job as a teacher.

Jacob – you have a hard act to follow. But again I have had the pleasure of knowing you for many years as you too are a student at Rawlett. Knowing you as I do you are going to be brilliant and your mum and dad are rightly proud of you.

Rawlett is an amazing place to work. As a past Rawlett student and teacher at Rawlett I know this only too well. It always make be proud that our students go on to achieve so much. Just out of interest put your hand in the the air if you either go to, work at, have a relative at or are an ex-Rawlett pupil.

Ok. Let's get down to business. I can promise you tonight that despite the vote, I will be everyone's mayor regardless of who you are and what you think of me. I am here to serve you and to promote our fine town, it's people and it's businesses.

All 30 Tamworth councillors are good, decent people who have a common aim to ensure that Tamworth is the very best it can possible be for everyone. Councillors may disagree on how this should be achieved but not one of you here tonight is what we often hear from members of the public, that horrible phrase – self serving. It is such a shame that politicians at all levels have been tarred with the same brush.

Five years ago I stood here and I said that the main problem Tamworth suffers with was a lack of aspiration amongst our young people and troubled families. Today I still see that as our main problem.

I often talk about the time a few years back when, working with several councillors I dared to try to get education and aspiration through a scrutiny panel and because of an article that appeared in the Tamworth Herald about challenging our schools to do better I was called to task by the heads of our secondary schools. One of them dared to use the phrase "What do you expect? They come from Tamworth." Hard to believe isn't it? Yet this type of lack of faith in Tamworth and its people was and still is shown by many who are supposed to defend and nurture. Thankfully none of those head teachers are still in post and things are getting better.

So over the next 12 months I am going to try to help Tamworth and it's people be even better than they are today. Many of you know I am a Freemason. Freemasons have many aims. One of which is quite clear – to make good men better. With this in mind I am going to make it my objective to try to motivate the people of Tamworth to make themselves and their town better through the use of this chain and this gown.

To begin with I've come up with three core aims for everyone of us:

1. Be proud of yourself and your achievements
2. Be proud of your community and neighbours
3. Be proud of your town

So I've decided now is the time to bring back the Be Tamworth badges that I awarded last time. This is where individuals can nominate their fellow citizens who have made a positive impact on their community. This could be individuals who organise social events for lonely residents, people who check on the elderly, residents who cut neighbours grass when they cut theirs, community groups – the list is endless.

The idea being that once awarded with their lapel badge they can go out and spread the word about how great Tamworth is. People will look at the badge and ask about it. It will be a conversation starter to enable people to say how proud they are.

To tie in with being proud I will set about making sure that every school in the town is presented with a flag pole and two flags – the cross of St George and the Union Flag. For too long both of these flags have been associated with negativity and we need to encourage our young people to be proud of who they are and the county they live in without fear. The hard right need to know that they do not hold the monopoly on being proud and our flags . Each flag pole kit costs around £35 and I will be asking local businesses to come forward to sponsor a kit. This will have the additional benefit of twining businesses with schools – another link with raising aspiration and bringing people together.

There will be a “Not a Selfie” competition. Social media is a great tool for communicating but for many it presents a false image and a very self centred inward looking view. How tiring it is to trawl through facebook, twitter and instagram seeing people obsessed with themselves shouting at out look at me! We need to work to stop people being inward looking and to take time to look around at the wonderful things there are to see. It is really concerning to see so many people doing the Emperor penguin walk. So I am opening up the Mayoral Facebook page, twitter account and instagram account and want people to post their images of what they see in and around Tamworth. They can be of anything. Some of the wonderful buildings we have, people at play, people at work anything – the more imaginative the better. Use the hashtag NOTASELFIE, SEEWATISEE AND AMAZINGTAMWORTH. Every month I'll award a prize to the best ones.

Yet again I'll be hosting networking nights right here in the Town Hall. The idea is that as well as being able to thank many of the wonderful and diverse community, arts, heritage and many many other different types of groups for their contribution to life in Tamworth but they can, over a glass or two of wine and a bite to eat, get to know other groups and work together on joint projects.

Talking of this amazing building it is so under used and yet is incredibly important – so as much as I can I'll be throwing the doors open and anyone who wants can come by for a cup of tea and a slice of cake. We need to celebrate our buildings and our people and I hope to do just that. The first of the open days is this Saturday between 11am and 2pm with many more to follow.

Ladies and gentlemen we need to be proud of ourselves and our town.

People are often accused of not putting their money where their mouth is. So here tonight I have five envelopes. Each of which contains a letter and a £10 note. These will be heading off to five local primary schools in the post tomorrow morning. I am challenging five primary schools every month to take this £10 and to use it to make money. The money can be used for cake mixture for a cake sale. To organise an event, to buy raffle tickets – it can be used for anything. The money raised will then be donated to a community group local to that school. I'll be expecting my £10 back so I can pass it on to another school. But the surprise here is that the community group will not know about the fundraising. It must be

kept a secret. Once the funds have been raised then I will take a group of students from the school on a surprise visit to the group to present the money. People helping people and also encouraging our young people to care even more about their local community.

We have a brilliant town filled with amazing sights, sounds, history, business and most important of all remarkable people. Many just need to believe in themselves and how truly amazing they are. I see it as my role as your mayor to help Tamworth be brilliant. I hope you all here tonight and everyone in Tamworth will join me in this aim."

Councillor D Cook made the following announcement:-

"The reason for my announcement is to put in to Councillors minds my intention through the correct channels to nominate David Gilbert for Freeman of the Borough I hope to get a seconder through the correct channels.

For those of you who might not know who David Gilbert is, he is a resident of Tamworth who ten years ago was sleeping on a friends sofa believing his career was over through a change of thinking and attitude he reached the semi finals of the World snooker Championship this year and he is now ranked top ten in the World.

If that's not achievement I don't know what is.

So It will be my intention over the next few weeks to officially put that through the correct channels Mr Mayor. Thank you"

8 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor P Standen will ask the Portfolio Holder for Culture and Operational Services, Councillor John Chesworth, the following question:-

"In last December's Council I asked the portfolio Holder for Culture and Operational Services a question regarding what plans the Council had to clean and maintain the Kettle Brook within Wilnecote. In response to this question the Cabinet Member kindly supplied me with a copy of the 2012 survey he mentioned in his verbal reply. However on reviewing the survey I was surprised to find that it did not cover the section of the Kettle brook within Wilnecote, and as yet I have yet to receive the promised feedback to my question specifically regarding the Wilnecote section of the Kettle brook. Can the Cabinet member please provide an answer to the question - What plans are being made to clean and maintain the Kettle Brook within Wilnecote?"

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply in place of Councillor J Chesworth:-

"Thank you Mr Mayor. In the absence of Councillor Chesworth, who is with her Majesty today at the Palace, he has asked me to assure Councillor Standen that he is happy to discuss the matter with him to reach a satisfactory conclusion for local residents"

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr. Simon Peaple will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:-

“What progress has been made in identifying the beneficial interest of the former Youth Club / Trust in the ownership of the site currently occupied by the old court buildings and Tamworth Community Radio?”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor.

In answer to the question – No progress at present, but this is not to say we are ignoring it. The work being undertaken presently is understanding what a masterplan for the site may look like and using the data obtained during the work our consultants have been doing to understand what the site will support in terms of need and use.

Specific detail around lease interests will occur more in the marketing/delivery phase”

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO. 3

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr. Simon Peaple will ask the Leader of the Council, Councillor D Cook, the following question:

“What approaches have been made to Staffordshire LEP regarding future relations with them?”

Councillor D Cook gave the following reply:-

“Thank you again Mr Mayor.

Councillor Peaple is of course aware that we are full members of the Staffordshire LEP, and while we have always looked towards Birmingham with our functioning economic geography, we maintain good relationships with the SSLEP.

It is worth recalling that while our focus is the GBSLEP, Tamworth as a place is in the SSLEP due to the County Council's membership of the SSLEP. Thus as a town Tamworth is in the SSLEP whether this Council is or not. Thus, I agreed to join the SSLEP in 2013.

We have also recently been asked to submit more detailed business case/expression of interest for one of our projects (town walls) for further consideration by the SSLEP board

Further at last week's Chief Executives meeting there was a presentation to update how the Staffordshire Local Industrial Strategy work will be conducted, which is due to be presented to Government early next year – we will be a consultee as will every other Staffordshire authority.

I have also had conversations with the Deputy Leader of the County Council around future involvement in Staffordshire wide economics.

While this Council is still firmly orientated to the GBS LEP, we certainly are taking advantage of every opportunity we are able to when it comes to additional funding.

The government review of LEP's in regards the West Midlands has been delayed after Tamworth's MP Chris Pincher went to bat for us with the minister and obtained more time for us to continue to make our case and think through governance options around cross LEP boundaries."

9 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Membership of Cabinet for 2019/20 was received and circulated as below;

Leader of the Council Cllr Daniel Cook	Assets and Finance Cllr Rob Pritchard (Deputy leader)	Heritage and Growth Cllr Jeremy Oates
Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio
Business Continuity	Asset / Facilities Management	WMCA Member
Member Development	Commercial Property Portfolio	Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's)
Corporate Assessments	DFG's	Economic & Business Development
Budgetary Planning	GF Repairs	Education / Educational Attainment
Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS)	Property Management Investment	Career Skills and Training
Organisational Capacity/ Development	Town Centre Car Parks	Town Centre Regeneration
PR / Comms / Corporate Consultation	Finance	Town Centre Master-planning
Marketing	Procurement	Tourism / Destination Tamworth
Customer Insight	Revenues & Benefits	Heritage Conservation
Corporate Risk Management	Treasury Management	Heritage Promotion
Emergency Planning	Town Centre Markets	T.I.C. - Tourism
TSP (Tamworth Statagic Partnership)	Payroll	
Partnership Development	Audit & Governance	
Performance	Constitution	
	Democratic Services	
	Land Charges	
	T.I.C. - Operations	
Regulatory and Community Safety Cllr Stephen Doyle	Culture and Operational Services Cllr John Chesworth	Housing Services and Communities Cllr Michelle Cook
Portfolio	Portfolio	Portfolio
Local Plan Development	Waste Management	HRA Business Planning
Development Control (Planning)	Joint Waste Board with LDC.	HRA Neighbourhood Renewal
Building Control (Planning)	Street Scene / Tamworth in Bloom	Unified Community Offer
Environmental Health (Licencing)	Cemeteries	Community Development
Licensing Policy	Arts / Culture	Landlord Services
Corporate ASB Strategy	Outdoor Events	HRA Repairs
Street Wardens	Community Leisure / Sport	Tenant Participation
Health & Safety	Nature Reserves	Housing Solutions
Enforcement	Parks and Play	Homelessness
Community Safety	I.C.T. Customer Services	HRA Caretaking & Cleaning
Safeguarding	Information Management	Private Sector Housing
Civil Parking Enforcement	Public Toilet Provision	Strategic Housing
Local Health Engagement	CCTV	Voluntary Sector
PCC Engagement		

10 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Membership of Committees for 2019/20 was agreed as follows:

Cabinet

Councillors

D Cook Leader of the Council

R Pritchard Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance and Deputy Leader of the Council

M Cook Portfolio Holder for Housing Services and Communities

S Doyle Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety

J Oates Portfolio Holder for Heritage and Growth.

J Chesworth Portfolio Holder for Culture and Operational Services

Appointments and Staffing Committee

Councillors

D Cook

R Pritchard

M Cook

S Doyle

Dr S Peaple

Audit and Governance Committee

Councillors

M Bailey

M Greatorex

M Oates

M Summers

P Thurgood

J Faulkner

C Cooke

Planning Committee

Councillors

J Chesworth

J Oates

M Bailey

R Ford

S Goodall

M J Greatorex

M Greatorex

P Thurgood
T Jay
M Oates
S Peaple
P Standen
C Cooke

Licensing Committee

Councillors

P Brindley
R Claymore
T Clements

MJ Greatorex
M Greatorex
T Jay
R Kingstone
B Price
R Rogers
M Summers
K Norchi
S Peaple
R Bilcliff

Nominations Committee

Councillors

T Clements
A Farrell
R Kingstone
B Price
R Rogers
K Norchi
C Cooke

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee

Councillors

M Bailey
P Brindley
T Clements
A Farrell
S Goodall
M Greatorex
P Thurgood
Dr S Peaple
R Bilcliff

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Councillors

R Claymore
R Ford
S Goodall
T Jay
B Price
M Summers
Dr S Peaple
P Standen
R Bilcliff

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillors

P Brindley
R Claymore
R Ford
MJ Greateorex
M Oates
R Rogers
J Faulkner
K Norchi
D Box

Chief Officer Conduct Committee

Councillors

R Ford
T Jay
M Oates
M Summers
S Peaple

Statutory Officer Conduct Committee

Councillors

A Farrell
S Goodall
R Kingstone
J Faulkner
D Box

In addition Councillor D Cook advised Council of the 3 Champions

Councillor B Price as Town Centre Champion
Councillor T Clements to continue as Dementia Champion
Councillor P Brindley as Heritage Champion

11 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appointments and Staffing Committee

Councillor D Cook was nominated by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor S Doyle

Councillor D Cook was appointed Chair of Appointments and Staffing

Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor M Summers was nominated by Councillor M Oates and seconded by Councillor P Thurgood

Councillor M Summers was appointed Chair of Audit and Governance.

Licensing Committee

Councillor B Price was nominated by Councillor M Oates and seconded by Councillor P Brindley

Councillor B Price was appointed Chair of Licensing.

Planning Committee

Councillor P Thurgood was nominated by Councillor R Ford and seconded by Councillor S Doyle

Councillor P Thurgood was appointed Chair of Planning

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Councillor T Jay was nominated by Councillor T Clements and seconded by Councillor M Summers.

Councillor T Jay was appointed Chair of Corporate Scrutiny.

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor R Ford was nominated by Councillor M Oates and seconded by Councillor A Farrell.

Councillor R Ford was appointed Chair of Health and Wellbeing

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee

Councillor S Goodall was nominated by Councillor M Greatorox and seconded by Councillor T Jay

Councillor S Goodall was appointed Chair of Infrastructure, Safety and Growth

Nominations Committee

Councillor T Clements was nominated by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor M Cook

Councillor T Clements was appointed Chair of Nominations.

12 THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS) (MEETINGS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) REGULATIONS 2012

The Leader of the Council informed Members that The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012 specifies and requires inter alia under Regulation 19 that the Executive Leader must submit a report on a regular basis to Council containing details of particulars of each urgent Executive decision and a summary of the matters in respect of which the decision was made.

RESOLVED: That Members
Endorsed the Annual Executive Arrangements Report

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

13 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION & SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Portfolio Holder for Assets and Finance & Monitoring Officer ensures lawfulness and operational functionality of the Governance process of the Council, as required by the endorsement and approval of the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation as required by Local Government legislation

RESOLVED That Council

Approved and adopted the Constitution and Scheme of Delegation as presented in Appendix 1.

(Moved by Councillor R Pritchard and seconded by Councillor P Standen)

14 REGULATION OF MEMBERS CONDUCT

The Chief Executive advised Members on the number of complaints received for the period 01 May 2018 until 30 April 2019 in relation to alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct arising from implementation of Part 1 Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 which introduced provisions to assist with the regulation of standards of conduct for elected and co-opted Councillors

RESOLVED: That Members
Endorsed the findings of the contents of the report.

*(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by
Councillor R Pritchard)*

15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - 2019 / 2020

The Calendar of Meetings for 2019/20 was received and circulated at the meeting

RESOLVED: That Members

Accepted the Calendar of Meetings for 2019/20 with the agreement to move the Joint Health and Wellbeing & IS&G Committee Meeting on the 11th June 2019.

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

The Mayor