



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 20th MAY 2021

PRESENT: Councillor R Claymore (Mayor), Councillors M Oates, M Bailey, D Box, J Chesworth, T Clements, D Cook, M Cook, A Cooper, S Doyle, A Farrell, R Ford, S Goodall, M J Greatorex, J Harper, T Jay, J Jones, D Maycock, K Norchi, J Oates, S Peuple, Dr S Peuple, B Price, R Pritchard, S Pritchard, R Rogers, M Summers, P Thurgood and J Wade

The following officers were present: Andrew Barratt (Chief Executive), Lorraine Fowkes (Monitoring Officer), Tracey Pointon (Legal Admin & Democratic Services Manager) and Jodie Small (Legal, Democratic and Corporate Support Assistant)

Apologies received from: Councillor(s) P Brindley

1 TO ELECT A MAYOR

Councillor M Oates was elected as Mayor

(Moved by Councillor R Claymore and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

A Vote of thanks was proposed to thank outgoing Mayor R Claymore and her consort Mrs Woods.

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

The Outgoing Mayor, Councillor R Claymore spoke the following words

“May I extend a warm welcome to everyone here, gathered for this ancient ceremony of Mayor making, and indeed the first physical face to face Council meeting during my civic year. I’m sure you have all got used to seeing me on screen but this is the live version now

As Mayor of Tamworth I would just like to say that this year has probably been the most unusual year for any Mayor to serve but what I can say is that it has been a complete honour and a privilege to be Mayor of Tamworth during this difficult period in all our lives. It is a year that none of us will ever forget.

On that note, I would like send my thoughts and condolences to the families and friends who have sadly lost loved ones during the past year be it to Covid or for any other reason I would like to convey my sadness over the amount of people who have lost their lives to Covid 19 and for the people who are still suffering with long Covid.

Whilst I haven't been able to attend as many functions as I would have liked each and every one of them I did attend was memorable and again it has been an honour for me to do so.

During the year I have met some fantastic people who have volunteered tirelessly to work to help others less fortunate than themselves. I have been inspired by all the generous people in Tamworth who give up their time week in week out helping others.

To name a few, The Round Table who were collecting food and toiletries at the start of the lockdown and now are helping at the Vaccination centres and doing a fantastic job., Starfish Project and Heart of Tamworth supporting homeless people through this time, the Tamworth Sewing group who were making, scrubs, face masks, hats for NHS workers, carers and Key workers at the peak there was over 500 volunteers who collectively made up 25,000 items, an amount I was absolutely staggered with. Also the Tamworth CIC who have played such a big part in supporting Tamworth residents and running the Tamworth Hub, Paula and all the volunteers at the Tamworth wellbeing Cancer Centre for trying to keep supporting people throughout the pandemic. The list is endless and I could spend the rest of the meeting talking about all the people that have stepped up to support others. You are all amazing.

Finally, it was also particularly sad for me to announce the passing of his HRH the Duke of Edinburgh earlier this year.

There are so many people that I may not have met if things had been different. I was amazed by the amount of individual people that took it upon themselves to do something for others.

I asked for nominations of people that had volunteered during the first lock down. I was inundated with nominations including the four ladies who ran a Lockdown supper club providing meals, newspapers, shopping and befriending and shielding elderly people and the lady who knitted a mega scarf which raised funds for Acorns hospice and not forgetting 4 year old Eli who took it upon himself to litter pick in the area he lives in. There are many more inspiring people I could mention and I am glad I did get the pleasure to meet some of them.

In the past Mayors have had opportunities to raise money for their chosen charities. Unfortunately, this year I have been unable to hold any Such functions for my chosen charity St Giles, a charity close to my heart, but I would like to say massive thank you for everyone that has supported this in particular I would like to thank 2 local businesses, Mrs Little Cupcake, and the Wardrobe Boutique who ran 2 very successful fund raisers during the year on my behalf. With your indulgence Mr Mayor can I add that my just giving page is still up and running for anyone who still wishes to make a donation.

As Mayor I would never be able to do this role alone. Firstly, I would like to thank my consort my sister Mrs Maureen Wood who has given us so much of her personal time to support me in this role and has been my right hand woman throughout also a big thank you to all my family for supporting me over the year Secondly, there is no doubt to any of us that our Tamworth Borough Staff have worked tirelessly to adjust and cope with these very different circumstances Next I would also like to thank my fellow members who have supported me where they have been able – I have been very grateful for their help

Finally, I want to thank those members of staff in the back office, Democratic services , people who help to support the Mayor, from organising and responding to invites to helping with the chains, to driving me around (although there hasn't been much of that if I'm being honest), to those staff who help with social media and press

Circumstances do not allow me to show my appreciation in the usual manner of offering gifts however I will be thanking you all personally in the very near future. All that remains to say is thank you it's been my absolute pleasure to serve you all. Thank you."

2 TO ELECT A DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor M Greatorex was elected as Deputy Mayor

(Moved by Councillor M Oates and seconded by Councillor Dr S Peaple)

3 TO ELECT THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor J Oates was elected Leader of the Council

(Moved by Councillor D Cook and seconded by Councillor J Chesworth)

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on the 9th March 2021 and 16th March 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peaple and seconded by Councillor J Oates)

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

There were no announcements

7 QUESTION TIME:

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.1

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor T Clements will ask the Leader of the Council , Councillor J Oates, the following question:-

“With the ever-growing tally of military veterans taking their own lives like Lance Shingler due to lack of support please can I ask what this council is doing to identify veterans within our community and what support is offered to them if required?”

Councillor J Oates gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Clements.

We should remember that anybody taking their own life is any absolute tragedy, for that person in the run up to that event, but also for their family, friends and colleagues.

In terms of servicemen Tamworth is a signatory in the Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant which seeks to support current and former armed forces personnel in their communities

The Covenant was signed by the Staffordshire County Council in 2015 and was also adopted by Tamworth Borough Council

Details of the County wide scheme, including current funding programmes are on the County Councils website.

The aims of the Staffordshire Armed Forces Covenant are to:

- Encourage local communities to support the armed forces community in their areas and to nurture public understanding and awareness among the public of issues that face the armed forces community
- Another aim is to recognise and remember the sacrifices faced by the armed forces community, it is key that we refer to the community not just the individuals who served because their families certainly served alongside them as do their friends and colleagues.
- It also aims to encourage activities which help to integrate the armed forces in to communities and into local life
- Also encourage the armed forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, and other forms of engagement

Tamworth is committed to supporting veterans and serving members of the armed forces and their families through a variety of ways Mr Mayor, for example

- Priority award under the Councils Allocations policy and access to the housing register seeking to accelerate re-housing is one of our large focuses this is important Mr Mayor we hear all too often about servicemen or woman who struggle to get re housed after leaving the forces
- Our homelessness Strategy also identifies current and former members of the armed forces, partnering with organisations such as SSAFA to prevent homelessness and prevent crisis
- Recent award of MHCLG funding for rough sleeping has been successful (£100k) and will help signpost vulnerable applicants, including veterans, through a range of social and health pathways

One of the main Community Safety Partnership priorities is to support vulnerable people and as such ex-armed forces personnel who require support will be signposted where the situation merits, including organisations who can help support them with housing, mental health and job opportunities.

Only this afternoon Mr Mayor I was in the presence of a former member of the armed forces who is re training in the building industry and he has got that training from support that has been given out locally and signposting for that position. Thank you Mr Mayor.”

Councillor T Clements asked the following supplementary question-

“Thank you Mr Mayor, and thank you to the leader for his response.

Tamworth Conservative group now has three veterans sitting on this Council, I’m not all alone anymore.

We all have varying degrees of what is actually on offer to those that have served Queen and country. We all know about the Royal British Legion and we all know about SSAFA to name two.

So can I ask the leader and this Council to take forward my questions and maybe bring a report back at a later date? Thank you.”

Councillor J Oates gave the following reply:-

“Happy to have a further discussion with Councillor Clements, Mr Mayor.”

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL NO.2

Under Procedure Rule No 11, Councillor Dr S Peale will ask the Leader of the Council , Councillor J Oates, the following question:-

“Following HM Government’s announcement that Planning Reform is to be included in their legislative programme, what steps is the Leader taking to restate to ministers, the case made by Tamworth BC about the negative impact the proposed reforms are likely to have on Tamworth?”

Councillor J Oates gave the following reply:-

“Thank you Mr Mayor, Thank you Councillor Peale.

Just for the newer members or those that aren’t aware, in October 2020 the Council responded to the consultations on Government proposals to reform the planning system set out in the Planning White Paper and the Changes to the current planning system consultation document.

In response, this Council raised a number of concerns and this was done cross party about the elements within their proposals and their potential negative impact on Tamworth.

I was part of that discussion I think, I most members who were on the Council at that time where. These included:

- The introduction of a zone based system for plan-making
- Changes to the standard method for calculating housing need that would inflate Tamworth’s requirement
- The Removal of the Duty to Cooperate that the Council has used effectively to deliver against its housing need
- Automatic outline planning permission in some designated areas
- Changes to decision making that would see stricter timescales introduced and a refund of application fees where they are not met

Government announced in April 2021 the intention not to take forward their proposed changes to the standard method following the consultation exercise, however responses to the other elements of the consultations are yet to be published. This is particularly important Mr Mayor I will continue to push the argument to defend our position and ensure that decision making powers are not eroded but are strengthened in Tamworth.

Only this afternoon I was in conversation with our MP, the housing minister about planning reform and I gave him a clear indication that we would not be sitting quietly allowing the Government to erode any of our powers Mr Mayor”

8 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET AND ALLOCATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Membership of Cabinet for 2021/22 was received and circulated as below;

Leader of the Council	
Cllr Jeremy Oates	
Portfolio	A.D.
Business Continuity	AD Assets
Emergency Planning	A.D. Neighbourhoods
MTFS	A.D. Finance
Organisational Development inc HR & Payroll	A.D. People
PR / Comms / Corporate Consultation	A.D. People
Marketing	A.D. People
Partnership Development	A.D. Partnerships
Corporate Assessments	C.E.O.
Corporate Risk Management	A.D. Finance
Constitution	C.E.O.
WMCA Member	A.D. Growth
Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's)	A.D. Growth
Performance	A.D. People
Lead for Climate change & Green Agenda	AD Growth
Reset and Recovery programme	ED Communities
FHSF	AD Growth
Town Centre Regeneration	A.D. Growth
Town Centre Master-planning	A.D. Growth

Finance and customer services	
Cllr Marie Bayley	
Portfolio	A.D.
Property Management Investment	A.D. Assets
GF Repairs	A.D. Assets
Commercial Property Portfolio	A.D. Assets
Asset Management	A.D. Assets
Revenues & Benefits	A.D. Finance
Treasury Management	A.D. Finance
Finance	A.D. Finance
Procurement	A.D. Finance

Audit & Governance	C.E.O.
Democratic Services inc Member Development	E.D. Organisation
Land Charges/Legal/RTB	E.D. Organisation
Customer Services and insight Information Mgt/GDPR/Ombudsman	A.D. People
Technology	A.D. People
Climate change & Green Agenda	

Economy and Waste Cllr Danny Cook	
Portfolio	AD
Heritage Assets	A.D. Growth
Street Markets	A.D. Growth
Dry Recycling Disposal Contract	C.E.O.
Waste Management	C.E.O.
Joint Waste Board with LDC.	C.E.O.
Voluntary Sector	A.D. Partnerships
Economic & Business Development	A.D. Growth
General Regeneration opportunity	A.D. Growth
Town Centre Relationships	A.D. Growth
Aspiration to Education Sector/ Educational Attainment	
Career Skills and Training	
Climate change & Green Agenda	

Regulatory and Community Safety Cllr Stephen Doyle	
Portfolio	A.D.
Local Plan Development/Implementation	A.D. Growth
Development Control (Planning)	A.D. Growth
Building Control (Planning)	A.D. Growth
Conservation (planning)	A.D. Growth
Environmental Health (all disciplines)	A.D. Growth

Licensing Policy	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Corporate Health & Safety	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Taxi Licensing	A D Growth
PCC Engagement	A.D. Partnerships
Community Safety	A.D. Partnerships
Corporate ASB Strategy	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Safeguarding	A.D. Partnerships
E H Enforcement	A D Growth
Community Wardens	A.D. Neighbourhoods
CCTV	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Climate change & Green Agenda	

Environment and Leisure	
Robert Pritchard	
Portfolio	A.D.
TIC	A.D. Growth & A.D. People
Litter/Car parking Enforcement	A.D. Partnerships
Street Scene / Tamworth in Bloom	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Cemeteries	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Arts / Culture / Heritage exp	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Outdoor Events	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Community Leisure / Sport	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Public Toilets	A.D. Assets
Nature Reserves, Parks and Play	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Assembly Rooms	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Sports Development	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Tourism / Destination Tamworth	A.D. Growth
Castle operations	A.D. Growth
Assembly Rooms operations	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Town Centre Car Parks	A.D. Growth
HRA Green Spaces and Neighbourhoods	A.D. Op's & Leisure
Climate change & Green Agenda	

Social Housing and homelessness prevention Cllr Alex Farrell	
Portfolio	A.D.
HRA Repairs standards /performance	A.D. Assets
HRA Business Planning	ED Communities
HRA Regeneration	A.D. Assets
Tenant Regulation / enforcement	A.D. Neighbourhoods
HRA Community contribution	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Homelessness Prevention	A.D. Neighbourhoods
Private Rental Sector (including private sector enforcement)	A.D. Partnerships
HRA communal buildings	A.D. Assets
Social Landlord Providers	A.D. Neighbourhoods
HRA Strategy	A.D. Neighbourhoods
DFG's	A.D. Assets
Climate change & Green Agenda	

9 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Membership of Committees for 2021/22 is as follows

Cabinet

Councillors

J Oates
R Pritchard
M Bailey
D Cook
S Doyle
A Farrell

Appointments and Staffing Committee

Councillors

J Oates
D Cook
S Doyle
R Pritchard
S People

Audit and Governance Committee

Councillors

M Summers
R Ford
J Chesworth
A Cooper
M Greatorex
Dr S People
P Thurgood

Planning Committee

Councillors

J Chesworth
M Bailey
J Harper
P Brindley
R Rogers
S Goodall
M Greatorex
T Jay
J Wade
K Norchi
S Pritchard
D Maycock
D Box

Licensing Committee

Councillors

B Price
M Oates
J Oates
R Claymore
T Clements
S Doyle
A Farrell

J Jones
K Norchi
P Thurgood
M Cook
R Pritchard
D Box

Nominations Committee

Councillors

T Clements
R Pritchard
D Cook
T Jay
P Thurgood
K Norchi
B Price

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee

Councillors

S Goodall
T Clements
J Chesworth
R Claymore
A Cooper
D Maycock
Dr S Peaple
B Price
M Summers

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Councillors

T Jay
S Pritchard
J Chesworth
A Copper
R Ford
S Goodall
J Harper
R Rogers
Dr S Peaple

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillors

R Claymore
D Maycock
P Brindley
M Greatorex
J Harper
J Jones
S People
R Rogers
J Wade

Chief Officer Conduct Committee

Councillors

M Cook
M Oates
A Cooper
R Ford
D Box

Statutory Officer Conduct Committee

Councillors

M Bailey
M Summers
S Pritchard
P Brindley
S People

The Leader also announced Dr S people has been nominated to sit on the Scrutiny panel for the West Midlands Combined authority

10 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appointments and Staffing Committee

Councillor J Oates as Chair
Councillor R Pritchard as Vice Chair

Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor M Summers as chair
Councillor R Ford as Vice Chair

Licensing Committee

Councillor B Price as Chair
Councillor T Clements as Vice Chair

Planning Committee

Councillor J Chesworth as Chair
Councillor M Bailey as Vice Chair

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Councillor T Jay as Chair
Councillor S Pritchard as Vice Chair

Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Councillor R Claymore as Chair
Councillor D Maycock as Vice Chair

Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee

Councillor S Goodall as Chair
Councillor T Clements as Vice Chair

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor S Pritchard)

11 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 Council,

Endorsed the Annual Executive Arrangements Report

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor D Cook)

12 APPOINTMENT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Report of the Chief Executive seeks Council approval to appoint to the statutory post of Monitoring Officer in accordance with the Council's Constitution and local government legislation

RESOLVED That Council;

Approved the appointment of Nicola Hesketh (Information Governance Manager) with effect from 1 June 2021 for a period of 2 years, and

Formally thanked Mrs Fowkes (Director Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) for her support to the Council during this time.

(Moved by Councillor Dr S Peaple and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

13 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - 2021/2022

The Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22 was received and circulated at the meeting

The Leader thanked Democratic services for the production of the calendar of meetings.

RESOLVED: That Members

Accepted the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/22

(Moved by Councillor J Oates and seconded by Councillor R Pritchard)

The Mayor