

Taunton Charter Trustees - 9 June 2020

Present: Councillor Francesca Smith (Mayor)

Councillors Sue Lees (Deputy Mayor), Lee Baker, Chris Booth, Simon Coles, Caroline Ellis, Marcia Hill, Richard Lees, Libby Lisgo, Derek Perry, Martin Peters, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Federica Smith-Roberts, Alan Wedderkopp and Brenda Weston

Officers: Jo Comer and Marcus Prouse

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm)

1. **Election of Mayor Of Taunton**

Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey proposed and Councillor Libby Lisgo seconded:-

"That Councillor Francesca Smith be elected Mayor of Taunton for the ensuing year".

RESOLVED that Councillor Francesca Smith be elected Mayor of Taunton for the ensuing year.

Councillor Smith made the declaration of acceptance of office, thanked Councillors for their support and would arrange to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2. **Deputy Mayor of Taunton**

Councillor Simon Coles proposed and Councillor Chris Booth seconded:-

"That Councillor Susan Lees be elected Deputy Mayor of Taunton for the ensuing year".

RESOLVED that Councillor Susan Lees be elected Deputy Mayor of Taunton for the ensuing year.

Councillor Lees made the declaration of acceptance of office, thanked Councillors for their support and would arrange to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. **Apologies**

No apologies had been received and all Charter Trustees for Taunton were present.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Councillor or Clerk of a County, Town or Parish Council or any other Local Authority:-

| Name | Minute No. | Description of Interest | Reason | Action Taken |
|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr L Baker | All Items | Cheddon Fitzpaine & SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr C Booth | All Items | Wellington and SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Coles | All Items | SCC & SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr C Ellis | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr R Lees | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr S Lees | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr L Lisgo | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Perry | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr M Peters | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr H Prior-Sankey | All Items | SCC & SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr F Smith | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr F Smith-Roberts | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------------|
| Cllr A Wedderkopp | All Items | SCC & SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr D Wedderkopp | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |
| Cllr B Weston | All Items | SWT | Personal | Spoke and Voted |

5. **Communications**

The Mayor of Taunton wished to communicate some thoughts on her previous year in holding the office and also looked forward to the following year.

Despite the lockdown effecting events recently, there were still events carrying forward virtually which was pleasing to see and she hoped there would still be an opportunity this year to proceed with many of those that had been planned and raise much needed funds for charities. It was especially pleasing to be able to still make decisions and help with the establishment of the Wilton and Sherford Community Shop at such speed. The Mayor was Patron of the Taunton Heritage Trust and attended a meeting that morning, and it was wonderful to see the work they had done to protect and support their residents in the Almshouses in the Town and through their charitable funding.

The Mayor wished to thank the staff supporting the Charter Trustees of Taunton during the pandemic and dealing with the new challenges around ways of working. The Mayor also wished to thank all those who had supported her chosen charity for their generosity in their support over the past year, Somerset Neonatal Unit, which would continue to roll over into the next year and be gifted to them at the end of the 2021 Municipal Year.

6. **Appointment of Members of the Standing Committee 2020/2021**

The purpose of the item was to appoint Charter Trustees, from nominations received from each group, to serve on the Standing Committee for the year 2020/2021. The proposed 'Powers and Duties' of the Standing Committee were set out in the attached document to the Agenda.

If the Committee allocated politically proportionally as per the Standing Orders there would be 6 Liberal Democrats and 1 Labour seat, though it was always within the gift of the political groups as to whether they took up their full entitlement.

RESOLVED that the following Councillors were appointed to the Standing Committee of the Taunton Charter Trustees for 2020/2021;

- Councillor Chris Booth

- Councillor Simon Coles
- Councillor Sue Lees
- Councillor Libby Lisgo
- Councillor Derek Perry
- Councillor Martin Peters
- Councillor Alan Wedderkopp

7. **Any items which the Mayor considers to be urgent business**

The Mayor of Taunton advised that they had no urgent business to consider.

8. **Dates of future meetings**

The Clerk to the Charter Trustees for Taunton advised of the dates of meetings for the 2020/21 Municipal Year that had been identified in the meetings diary.

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and asked questions which included:-

- Councillor Smith-Roberts drew the Charter Trustees attention to a survey that she had been made aware sent to every Town and Parish Council in Somerset by the County regarding the Future of Local Government in this area, and asked the Clerk to confirm if this survey had been sent to the Charter Trustees?
- *The Clerk confirmed that he had not seen it.*

RESOLVED that the dates for future meetings of the Charter Trustees for Taunton were agreed as follows;

- 20th August 2020
- 10th December 2020
- 2nd March 2021

RESOLVED that a special meeting of the Charter Trustees to be called to discuss the survey recently sent by Somerset County Council to all Towns and Parish councils in Somerset regarding their unitary proposals before its closing date for response on the 3rd July 2020 at 5pm.

(The Meeting ended at 6.53 pm)