

Taunton Charter Trustees - 25 May 2021

Present: Councillors Francesca Smith

Sue Lees, Lee Baker, Simon Coles, Caroline Ellis, Marcia Hill, Richard Lees, Libby Lisgo, Derek Perry, Hazel Prior-Sankey, Alan Wedderkopp, Danny Wedderkopp and Brenda Weston

Officers: Jo Comer and Marcus Prouse

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm)

1. **Election of Mayor of Taunton**

The Mayor opened the meeting, and invited her chaplain, Reverend Debbi Turley, to open the meeting with a short prayer.

Councillor Richard Lees proposed and Councillor Simon Coles seconded the following motion, which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

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

Councillor Susan Lees then repeated and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

The Mayor addressed the Charter Trustees and stated she had an ambition to be the best she can be, and to bring some cheer in what has been a difficult period.

2. **Deputy Mayor of Taunton**

Councillor Francesca Smith proposed and Councillor Lee Baker seconded the following motion, which was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

"That Councillor Brenda Weston be elected Deputy Mayor of Taunton for the ensuing year".

Councillor Brenda Weston then repeated and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. **Councillor Francesca Smith - A Councillor to propose and a Councillor to second:-**

Councillor Hazel Prior-Sankey proposed and Councillor Lee Baker seconded:-

"That the best thanks of the Charter Trustees be accorded to Councillor Francesca Smith for the manner in which she has discharged the duties of the office of Mayor of the Town during her two terms of office".

The motion was carried unanimously.

Councillor Smith replied and thanked the Charter Trustees for their kind words. It had been a wonderful two years to represent the Town as Mayor and an opportunity and privilege she would never forget. Being Taunton born and bred, she had thought she knew everything about the town, but she had been pleasantly surprised at all the work that is done by volunteers, charities, and businesses to raise funds, provide entertainment and the work that keeps the town vibrant and an interesting place to live. The Mayor had been fortunate to attend so many events, from opening shops and businesses to attending concerts, to switching on lights, both virtually and in person, it has been amazing.

4. **The Mayor will present to Councillor Smith her Past Mayor Badge.**

Unfortunately, due to delays due to Covid-19, the Past Mayor's Badge had not arrived in time. Councillor Smith was presented with a small token of appreciation of flowers by the Mayor who also presented Cllr Smith's consort with a gift.

5. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Booth, Smith-Roberts and Peters.

6. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Taunton Charter Trustees**

(Minutes of the meeting of the Taunton Charter Trustees held on 16th March 2021 were circulated with the agenda)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Taunton Charter Trustees held on 16th March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

7. **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 Mrs Hill	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 M Peters	All Items	SWT	Personal	Spoke and Voted
Cllr D Perry	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

8. **To receive any questions or statements from residents of Taunton in accordance with Standing Order 30**

The Clerk advised the Mayor that no members of the public had requested to speak.

9. **Appointment of Members of the Standing Committee 2021/2022**

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 2021/2022;

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

10. **Any items which the Mayor considers to be Urgent Business**

The Mayor advised that there were no items of urgent business to consider.

11. **An intercessional Prayer will be offered by the new Mayor's Chaplain at the conclusion of the meeting.**

Reverend James Clapham, the new Mayor's Chaplain, offered an intercessional Prayer.

(The Meeting ended at 6.45 pm)