

MIDSOMER NORTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber at The Town Hall, Midsomer Norton on Thursday 12th May 2011 Commencing at 7.00pm

Present:	Mayor:	Cllr P Myers
	Deputy Mayor:	Cllr Mrs L Dunford
	Councillors:	Cllr M Evans, Cllr B Lawrence, Cllr Miss J Lewis, Cllr P Moccock, Cllr S Plumley, Cllr Mrs L Robertson, Cllr R Robertson, Cllr J Slade, Cllr S Wellington
Also Present:	Thirty Seven (37) Members of the Public and three members of the Media	
In Attendance:	G J Furze (Locum Clerk) Mrs C Sims (Administration Assistant)	

The meeting was opened by Locum Clerk, John Furze as the person appointed by Bath & North East Somerset Council in accordance with the requirements set out in Representation of the Peoples Act 1983, section 39, sub-section 4, paragraphs a (i and ii).

1. Election of Chair

The Appointed Person, John Furze sought nominations for the position of Chair of Council. Cllr Mrs L Dunford proposed and Cllr S Wellington seconded Cllr P Myers for election as Chair of Council.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved: That Cllr P Myers be elected as Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year until such a time as a new Chairman is elected.

Cllr Paul Myers read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance that was countersigned by the Locum Clerk, John Furze.

Cllr Paul Myers assumed the Chair for the rest of the meeting.

2. Designation of Chairman of the Council to be called 'The Mayor of Midsomer Norton'.

Following discussion it was ...

Resolved: That the Chair of Council be called 'The Mayor of Midsomer Norton'.

Cllr Paul Myers read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Cllr Paul Myers read and signed the Oath of Allegiance that was countersigned by the Locum Clerk.

3. Mayor's Appointments

The Mayor announced that a Chaplain from each church would be appointed on a three monthly basis.

4. Mayor's / Chairman's Announcements

The Mayor thanked Members for having confidence in him and that the Town Council looked forward to fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people.

5. Adoption of Standing Orders

Members were asked to formally adopt the Standing Orders as inherited from Norton Radstock Town Council in accordance with the Bath & North East Somerset (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Norton Radstock) Order 2011 para 23 (1 & 2).

Resolved: That the Standing Orders be adopted.

6. Adoption of Financial Regulations

Members were asked to formally adopt the Financial Regulations as inherited from Norton Radstock Town Council in accordance with the Bath & North East Somerset (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Norton Radstock) Order 2011.

Resolved: That the Financial Regulations be adopted.

7. Adoption of Code of Conduct

Members were asked to formally adopt the 2007 Code of Conduct as inherited from Norton Radstock Town Council in accordance with the Bath & North East Somerset (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Norton Radstock) Order 2011.

Resolved: That the 2007 Code of Conduct be adopted.

8. Apologies for Absence and to consider the reasons given

There were no Apologies of Absence received.

9. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Mrs L Dunford declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Treasurer of the Sarah Ann Trust - Agenda Item 19.

Cllr P Myers declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Secretary of the Sarah Ann Trust – Agenda Item 19.

10. Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Mayor asked the Locum Clerk if there were any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

Resolved: That no Agenda item be treated as confidential and dealt with after the Public (including the Press) had been excluded.

11. Election of Deputy Chairman or if appropriate Deputy Mayor of Midsomer Norton

Nominations were sought for the position of Deputy Mayor of Midsomer Norton.

Cllr J Slade proposed and Cllr P Moccock seconded Cllr Mrs L Dunford for election of Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Miss J Lewis proposed and Cllr Mrs L Robertson seconded Cllr M Evans for election of Deputy Mayor.

A secret vote followed with 7 votes for Cllr Mrs L Dunford and 4 votes for Cllr M Evans.

Resolved: That Cllr Mrs L Dunford be elected as Deputy Mayor of Midsomer Norton Town Council until such a time as a new Deputy Mayor is elected.

12. Appointments to Committees, Sub Committees and Working Parties

Members were asked to consider appointments of Members to Standing Committees.

- Resolved:**
- a) There be no appointments to Committees or Sub Committees at this time and that the matter be deferred to a date in the future.
 - b) That Cllr P Myers, Cllr Mrs L Dunford, Cllr S Wellington, Cllr R Robertson, Cllr M Evans, assisted by the Locum Clerk be appointed to the Selection Panel to short list and interview applicants for the position of Town Clerk.

13. Appointment of Representatives

Members were asked to consider appointing representatives to Outside Bodies.

- Resolved:**
- a) That Cllr Mrs L Robertson be appointed as the representative for Avon Local Councils Association (ALCA);
 - b) That the Mayor, Cllr P Myers and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Dunford be appointed as representatives for the Sarah Ann Trust;
 - c) That Cllr S Plumley and Cllr P Moccock be appointed as representatives for the Midsomer Norton Forum.

14. Appointment of Bank Accounts Cheque Signatories

Members were asked to appoint five (5) Councillors to be authorised signatories of the Council Bank Accounts.

The Locum Clerk asked that thanks be given to Bath & North East Somerset Councillors B McCrae and C Watts and ex-BathNES Cllr J Whittock who had been temporary Account signatories since 1st April 2010.

Resolved: That Cllr R Robertson, Cllr Brian Lawrence, Cllr J Slade, Cllr Mrs L Dunford and Cllr S Plumley be appointed as cheque signatories for the Council Bank Accounts.

15. Accounts for Payment

Members were asked to review and approve a schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Resolved: To approve the Schedule of Accounts for payment.

16. Appointment of Pension Provider for Members of Staff

Members were asked to acknowledge the Avon Pension Fund as the provider for existing members of staff under 'protected rights' and to agree that all future posts would qualify for membership of this fund.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the Avon Pension Fund be acknowledged as the Designated Pension Provider for the member of staff transferred under the Reorganisation Order from Norton Radstock Town Council;
 - b) That the position of Town Clerk qualifies for membership of the Avon Pension Fund
 - c) That all future staff appointments will be considered on a 'case by case' basis as qualifying for membership of the Avon Pension Fund.

17. Schedule of Future Meetings

Members were asked to consider and agree a schedule of future meetings.

Resolved: That the Council meet on the first and third Monday of each month for a period of three months.

18. Appointment of Town Clerk

Members were asked to authorise the Locum Clerk to advertise the post of Town Clerk at a scale of remuneration and hours of work and to appoint a Selection Panel to short list and interview applicants.

- Resolved:**
- a) That the post of Town Clerk be advertised at Lower LC3 Level (Spinal Column Point 39-42inc), giving a salary of £32,800 - £35,430 per annum (full time);
 - b) The Selection Panel appointed as in Minute Number 12 (b) be noted.

19. Council Office Accommodation

Cllr P Myers and Cllr Mrs L Dunford withdrew from the meeting at 8.54pm and took no part in this item.

Cllr M Evans took chair with members approval for this item.

Members were asked to consider an offer from the Sarah Ann Trust in respect of accommodation of Midsomer Norton Town Council at the Town Hall.

Resolved: That the Midsomer Norton Town Council offices be located at the Town Hall, Midsomer Norton as soon as is practicable.

Cllr P Myers and Cllr Mrs L Dunford rejoined the meeting at 8.57pm.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank members of public, and gave special thanks to John Furze and Carole Sims for all their hard work.

The Meeting finished at 8.58pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed at the Town Council Offices

Signed:

Dated: