

# COUNCIL

## 22 MAY 2013

*Present :-* Councillor Colin Sykes (the Mayor) (Chairman)  
Councillor John Elliott (Deputy Mayor)  
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Nick Barlow,  
Lyn Barton, Kevin Bentley, Mary Blandon,  
Elizabeth Blundell, Mark Cable, Nigel Chapman,  
Peter Chillingworth, Barrie Cook, Nick Cope, Mark Cory,  
Beverly Davies, Andrew Ellis, Margaret Fairley-Crowe,  
Annie Feltham, Stephen Ford, Bill Frame, Ray Gamble,  
Martin Goss, Marcus Harrington, Dave Harris, Julia  
Havis, Jo Hayes, Pauline Hazell, Theresa Higgins,  
Mike Hogg, Martin Hunt (Deputy Leader) , Brian Jarvis,  
John Jowers, Margaret Kimberley, Sonia Lewis,  
Cyril Liddy, Michael Lilley, Sue Lissimore, Jon Manning,  
Richard Martin, Colin Mudie, Kim Naish, Nigel Offen,  
Beverley Oxford, Gerard Oxford, Will Quince,  
Lesley Scott-Boutell, Peter Sheane, Paul Smith,  
Terry Sutton, Laura Sykes, Anne Turrell (Leader of the  
Council) , Julie Young and Tim Young

The Retiring Mayor, Councillor Arnold, chaired the meeting for the item at minutes 1 and 2.

The meeting was opened with prayers by the Retiring Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon David Atkins.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bourne, Chuah, Greenhill, P. Higgins, Maclean, Manning, P. Oxford, Scott-Boutell (for the Mayor Making ceremony only) and Willetts

### **2. Election of Mayor**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Frame, SECONDED by Councillor Jowers and SUPPORTED by Councillors T. Young and G. Oxford and:-

*RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY* that Councillor Colin Leslie Sykes be elected Mayor of the Borough of Colchester for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Sykes took the customary oath and made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor then took the Chair and returned thanks for his election.

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **4. Election of Deputy Mayor**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Bentley, SECONDED and SUPPORTED by Councillors Barlow, T. Young and G. Oxford and -

*RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY* that Councillor John Frederick Elliott be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Colchester for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor Elliott then made and subscribed the declaration of acceptance of office and returned thanks for his election as Deputy Mayor.

### **5. Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor**

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Lewis, SECONDED and SUPPORTED by Councillors Barlow, T. Young and G. Oxford and -

*RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY* that the best thanks of the Council are due and are hereby accorded to Councillor Christopher Arnold for the admirable manner in which he has discharged the responsible duties of the Mayoralty during the past year and that a transcript of this resolution under the Common Seal be furnished to Councillor Arnold.

### **6. Mayor's Chaplain and Other Announcements**

The Mayor indicated that he had appointed Pastor Eric Blowes to be his Chaplain for the ensuing Municipal Year.

The Mayor indicated that that theme of his Mayoralty would be "Colchester.... United". He indicated he would be supporting the following charities:-

Army Benevolent Fund  
East Anglia's Children's Hospices  
Colchester and Tendring Youth Enquiry Service  
Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Guide Dogs for the Blind  
Action for the Wild

The Mayor announced the following forthcoming events:-

The Mayoress at Home on 8 June 2013;

The Civic Service would be held on 16 June 2013 at Stanway Evangelical Church;  
Colchester Zoo would be hosting an event promoting the Mayor's Charities on 27 July 2013;  
An Evening Safari would be held at Colchester Zoo on 31 August 2013;  
A Rock and Curry evening would be held on 8 March 2014;  
The Mayor's Ball would be held on 9 May 2014 in the Moot Hall.

## **7. Adjournment**

*RESOLVED* that the meeting stand adjourned until 12.00 noon and be resumed in the Council Chamber.

## **8. Have Your Say! - Announcements and General Statements**

Andy Hamilton addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1). He expressed concern that Council had increased Councillors allowances but had done nothing to deserve such an increase. The Council continued to support the Visual Arts Facility. Visitor numbers were exaggerated and each visit was subsidised by the taxpayer. Attempts to increase visitor numbers through weddings and conferences were contrary to the terms of the lease. A referendum should be held on the future of the VAF. Attention was also drawn to the Council's failure to provide a mobility scooter service, the preference for a commercial rather than charitable lease for Tymperleys and the condition of the walls at the green at the junction of Sussex Road and Lexden Road.

Linda Bradwell presented a petition to the Mayor and addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1) calling on Colchester Borough Council to lobby Essex County Council Highways to undertake repairs to the pavements on Rowan Close. These were in a poor condition with trip hazards and other dangers. Residents were surprised that Highways had concluded that repairs were not necessary, especially as repairs were being undertaken to the neighbouring road, Holly Road.

Councillor Bentley, in his capacity as Essex County Councillor representing Stanway and Pyefleet, indicated that as this was a County Council matter he would take the matter forward at Essex County Council.

Councillor Kim Naish addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1). A number of recent issues such as the bus station, which he believed was not fit for purpose, and the ending of the trial of changes to access to the High Street, and the subsequent "blame game" between Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council, had made him embarrassed to be a Councillor. The problems that had arisen were due in part to inadequate consultation and the failure to take account of the views of back bench Councillors. He urged the Cabinet to conduct

its affairs in a professional manner and to ensure that future projects were properly brought forward and public were properly consulted properly in future. The Mayor advised Councillor Naish that further comments he sought to make about Liberal Democrat campaign literature were outside the scope of Have Your Say! as they did not relate to Council business and should be taken up separately with the Leader of the Liberal Democrat group.

Councillor Turrell, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, responded that Essex County Council was the Highways Authority but the Council would continue to work on highways issues with them.

## **9. Delegations made by the Leader of the Council**

*RESOLVED* that the appointment of the Deputy Leader of the Council, the appointment of Cabinet members and the allocation of responsibility for portfolios, as determined by the Leader of the Council and as set out in the Supplementary Information for the meeting, be noted.

## **10. Appointment of Panels, Committees and Sub-Committees**

*RESOLVED* that:-

(a) in accordance with the provisions of Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the number of seats, Group Representation and membership of the Governance Committee, Licensing Committee, Local Plan Committee, Planning Committee, Policy Review and Development Panel, Scrutiny Panel (including the Crime and Disorder Committee) and the Trading Board for the ensuing municipal year be as set out in the Supplementary Information for this meeting.

(b) in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the appointments of the Task and Finish Groups not be on a Group basis and membership be as set out in the Supplementary Information for this meeting.

(c) that the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel be as set out in the Supplementary Information for this meeting.

(d) that Sarah Greatorex and Barbara Pears be appointed as Independent Persons for a period of four years with effect from 1 July 2013.

## **11. Former Councillors**

*RESOLVED* that the Council record its grateful thanks to former Councillor Granger for the public service rendered by him to this Borough during his period of office as Councillor and that a transcript of this resolution be furnished to him on parchment

under the Common Seal of the Borough as a permanent record of the appreciation of the Council.