

Council

Wednesday, 22 May 2019

Attendees:

Councillor Christopher Arnold, Councillor Lewis Barber, Councillor Nick Barlow, Councillor Lyn Barton, Councillor Kevin Bentley, Councillor Tina Bourne, Councillor Roger Buston, Councillor Nigel Chapman, Councillor Peter Chillingworth, Councillor Helen Chuah, Councillor Phil Coleman, Councillor Nick Cope, Councillor Mark Cory, Councillor Simon Crow, Councillor Robert Davidson, Councillor Beverly Davies, Councillor Paul Dundas, Councillor John Elliott, Councillor Andrew Ellis, Councillor Adam Fox, Councillor Mark Goacher, Councillor Martin Goss, Councillor Dave Harris, Councillor Chris Hayter, Councillor Pauline Hazell, Councillor Theresa Higgins, Councillor Mike Hogg, Councillor Brian Jarvis, Councillor John Jowers, Councillor David King, Councillor Cyril Liddy, Councillor Michael Lilley, Councillor Sue Lissimore, Councillor Derek Loveland, Councillor Andrea Luxford Vaughan, Councillor Jackie Maclean, Councillor Sam McCarthy, Councillor Patricia Moore, Councillor Beverley Oxford, Councillor Gerard Oxford, Councillor Philip Oxford, Councillor Chris Pearson, Councillor Lee Scordis, Councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell, Councillor Martyn Warnes, Councillor Lorcan Whitehead, Councillor Dennis Willetts, Councillor Barbara Wood, Councillor Julie Young, Councillor Tim Young

316 Prayers

The Reverend John Richardson opened the meeting with prayers.

The Retiring Mayor, Councillor Peter Chillingworth, chaired the meeting for the items at minutes 316-318.

317 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor F. Maclean and Honorary Aldermen Bober, Gamble, Gower, Green, Kimberley, Lewis and Sykes.

318 Election of the Mayor

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Goss, seconded by Councillor Jowers and supported by Councillor J. Young and Councillor G. Oxford and:-

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that Councillor Nick Cope be elected as Mayor of Colchester for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Cope took the customary oath and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

Councillor Cope then took the Chair and returned thanks for his election.

319 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

320 Election of the Deputy Mayor

It was PROPOSED by Councillor G. Oxford and seconded and supported by Councillors Goss, Davidson and Bourne and:

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that Councillor Beverley Oxford be elected Deputy Mayor of Colchester for the ensuing municipal year.

Councillor Beverley Oxford then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and returned thanks for her election.

321 Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Chapman and seconded and supported by Councillors Goss, Bourne and G. Oxford and:-

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the best thanks of the Council are due and are hereby accorded to Councillor Peter Chillingworth 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 him.

322 Mayor's Chaplain and Other Announcements

The Mayor announced that he had appointed the Reverend Canon Paul Norrington to be his Chaplain for the ensuing municipal year.

The Mayor announced that he would be supporting the following charities:-

- Age Concern;
- Army Benevolent Fund;
- Colchester Chinese Society;
- Colchester Citizen's Advice Bureau;

- Colchester Food Bank;
- The Mercury Theatre;
- MIND
- Youth Enquiry Service.

The theme of his mayoralty would be Young and Old, building a healthy environment.

323 Adjournment

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned until 11.45m and be resumed in the Council Chamber.

324 Have Your Say! (Council)

Nigel Hildreth, Chair of Colchester Twinning Society, addressed Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(5). He explained that twinning had undergone a renaissance over the last few years with visits to and from Imola, Wetzlar and Avignon. He expressed concern that the new road signs did not contain any reference to the twinned towns and called for this to be rectified. On 7 September a banquet would be held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of twinning with Wetzlar, which he hoped many Councillors would attend.

Councillor J. Young, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Culture and Performance, undertook to look into the issues of the road signs and thanked the Twinning Society for the work it undertook for the benefit of Colchester.

Sir Bob Russell addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(5) to express his concern that an item for the exclusion of members of the public had been included in the Summons for the Annual Meeting. He also expressed his concern about the Cabinet model of local authority governance. All Councillors had an equal mandate from the electorate, but the Cabinet system excluded most Councillors from decision making. The Council should consider moving to a Committee system in which all 51 Councillors could be involved in decision making.

Councillor Cory, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, confirmed that there were no items on the agenda that would be considered without the public present. He understood the arguments that were made about the Committee and Cabinet systems. It was important to keep an open mind on governance issues and this could potentially be an issue that the Policy and Public Initiatives Panel could look at. However the administration was committed to inclusive and open governance.

325 Appointment of the Leader of the Council

RESOLVED that Councillor Cory be appointed Leader of the Council for the remainder of his period of office.

326 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.

327 Appointment of Panels. Committees and Sub-Committees

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that:-

(i) in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the appointments to the Governance and Audit Committee for the ensuing municipal year shall not be on a Group basis and membership shall be as set out in the Supplementary Information for the meeting.

(ii) 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 Licensing Committee, Local Plan Committee, Planning Committee, Policy and Public Initiatives Panel and Scrutiny Panel (including the Crime and Disorder Committee) for the ensuing municipal year be as set out in the Supplementary Information for the meeting.

(ii) in accordance with the provisions of section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the appointments to the Task and Finish Groups shall not be on a group basis and be as set out in the Supplementary Information for the meeting.

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

(v) that the terms of reference for the Governance and Audit Committee be amended by deleting

“(27) Recommend the constitution and appointment of the Board of Directors of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited to Cabinet.”

and that the constitution and appointment of the Board of Directors of Colchester Commercial (Holdings) Limited be agreed by Cabinet as part of the nominations to outside bodies.

328 Former Councillors

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Council hereby records its grateful thanks to former Councillors Flores and Laws for the public service rendered by them to this Borough during their period of office as a Councillor and instructs that a transcript of this resolution be furnished to them under the Common Seal of the Borough as a permanent record of the appreciation of the Council.

329 Appointment of Interim Section 151 Officer

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that Paul Cook be designated as the Council's Interim Section 151 Officer with effect from 22 May 2019.

330 Adoption of the Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that the Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan be made following its approval at referendum.