



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

11th May, 2016

At an ANNUAL MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 3.00 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 11th day of MAY, 2016, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MR COUNCILLOR JOHN EDWARD SKINNER

Councillor

Mrs C.A. Corlett

Mr S.R. Pitts

Ms C.R. Turner

Mr D.J. Ashford

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Ms C.E. Malarkey

Mrs C.L. Wells

Mr C.L.H. Cain

Mr F. Pabellan

Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Ms J. Thommeny

Apologies for absence were submitted by Mr Councillor K. Oliphant-Smith.

The Chief Executive and Town Clerk, the Director of Finance, the Director of Housing and Property and the Director of Environment and Regeneration were in attendance.

1. **Chair of Meeting**

The retiring Mayor, Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, J.P., took the Chair at the commencement of the meeting.

2. **Election of Mayor**

Nomination proposed by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, "That Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner be elected Mayor of the Borough of Douglas for the forthcoming municipal year."

Question put on Nomination: a vote was taken electronically, and the Nomination was carried unanimously.

3. **Investiture of Mayor**

Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford and Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl communicated the decision of the Council in the matter of the election of Mayor to the Mayor-Elect in the Mayor's Parlour and escorted him into the Council Chamber where the Retiring Mayor invested him with the Mayor's Chain of Office.

4. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor**

The Worshipful the Mayor, Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, made and subscribed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office prescribed under Section 10 of the Local Elections Act, 1986, as follows:

"I, John Edward Skinner, of 6 Berkeley Street, Douglas, having been elected Mayor of the Borough of Douglas, for the year commencing 11th May, 2016, hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgement and ability."

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive countersigned the declaration as having been made before her.

5. **Appointment of Deputy Mayor**

The Worshipful the Mayor appointed Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett to act as Deputy Mayor and signified the appointment to the Council in the following terms:

"In pursuance of Schedule 2 of the Local Elections Act 1986, as substituted by the Douglas Corporation Act 1988, I hereby appoint Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett to act as Deputy Mayor during my illness or absence."

Resolved unanimously, "That the appointment as Deputy Mayor of Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett be recorded on the minutes."

6. **Appointment of Chaplain; Civic Church Service**

The Worshipful the Mayor informed the Council of the appointment of The Reverend Canon John Coldwell as Mayor's Chaplain during his term of Office, and invited Members and Officers of the Council and other public bodies, together with ratepayers and friends, to accompany him to divine service at St. George's Church on Sunday, 12th June, 2016.

7. **Vote of Thanks to Retiring Mayor – Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, J.P.**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Councillor Ms. C.E. Malarkey, "That the best thanks of the Council be accorded to the Retiring Mayor, Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, J.P., for her exemplary services as Mayor of the Borough."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, J.P., suitably replied.

8. **Suspension of Business**

The Worshipful the Mayor suspended the business of the meeting whilst he presented Mrs Gillian Skinner as Mayoress and Mrs Wendy Caulfield as Deputy Mayoress with their respective badges of office.

9. **Minutes – 13th April 2016**

Minutes of monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 13th April, 2016 were approved and signed, subject to the amendment of a clerical error in clause 24, Councillor Mrs C.L. Wells seconded the private proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, not Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett.

10. **Standing Order 39 – Question – Mr Councillor D.W. Christian**

Mr Councillor D.W. Christian asked the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee:

Question:

1. How many full page adverts have been placed in local newspapers regarding recycling between 1/4/2015 - 6/5/2016?
2. Has the Committee approved the content and the number of adverts?

3. Did the Committee determine where in the papers the adverts should be placed?
4. What has been the total cost of the adverts?

Reply:

1. Six adverts were placed during the year, at approximately two-month intervals;
2. The Committee in May 2015 had approved the expenditure on and the nature of the campaign subject to the approval by the Executive Committee of the funding from reserves. That approval was given on 29th May, 2015. The content of each article was approved by myself as Chair of the Environmental Services Committee prior to release.
3. The Committee did not give any guidance on the locations of articles within any newspaper, but it was clear throughout that each article was to contain significant detail requiring full-page advertising. The most recent article was not charged for and therefore the Council was not in a position to specify the location.
4. The final cost of the newspaper promotion was £2,744.18 with the cost of the most recent article waived.

11. Standing Order 30 – Notice of Motion – Mr Councillor D.W. Christian

Mr Councillor D.W. Christian moved the following Motion, notice of which had been given:-

"That the Council:

- 1) Agrees to reduce the number of Councillors to twelve, with each of the six Wards returning two members;
- 2) The reduction in Councillors to be effective from the 2020 local authority general election;
- 3) That a review of the Ward boundaries be undertaken, in order to achieve fairness of representation."

The motion was seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford.

Under the provision of Standing Order 30, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee for consideration and report back to the Council.

12. Standing Order 30 – Notice of Motion – Mr Councillor D.W. Christian

Mr Councillor D.W. Christian moved the following Motion, notice of which has been given:-

"That this Council:

- 1) Expresses its growing concern at the number of tenants reporting damp related issues in Council housing;
- 2) That the Housing Committee carry out an independent study to identify how widespread the problem is and identify the causes;
- 3) That an action plan be drawn up to remedy issues identified."

The motion was seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford.

Under the provision of Standing Order 30, the matter was referred to the Housing Committee for consideration and report back to the Council.

The Council rose at 3.52pm.



Town Clerk & Chief Executive