

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2013**

Present:

Councillors Arculus, Ash, Casey, Cereste, Dalton, Davidson, Day, Elsey, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Fower, Goodwin, Harper, Harrington, Holdich, Jamil, Johnson, Khan, Lamb, Lane, Lee, Maqbool, Martin, McKean, Miners, Murphy, Nadeem, North, Over, Peach, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sanders, Sandford, Scott, Seaton, Serluca, Shabbir, Shaheed, Sharp, Shearman, Simons, Stokes, Swift, Sylvester, Thacker, Todd and Thulbourn.

The Mayor addressed the meeting and requested Members consent to photographs being taking during the ceremonial proceedings, as required by the Council's Constitution. Members agreed to photographs being taking during the ceremonial proceedings.

The Mayor further advised that there had been a request received for permission to take a video recording of the ceremonial proceedings. Members agreed to a video recording being taken of the ceremonial proceedings.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Forbes, JA Fox, JR Fox, Hiller, Knowles, Kreling, Nawaz and Walsh.

2. Election of the Mayor for the Municipal Year 2013 / 2014

The Retiring Mayor requested nominations for the election of Mayor for 2013 / 2014.

Councillor Stokes was nominated and seconded.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Stokes was duly elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2013 / 2014.

The Mayor made and signed her Declaration of Office. The retiring Mayor, Councillor Simons invested the Mayor with her Chain of Office and presented her with the past Deputy Mayor's badge in recognition of her term of office.

The retiring Mayoress, Mrs Sylvia Simons, invested the Mayoress, Ms Karien Gait, with her Chain of Office and presented her with a gift in recognition of her term of office as the Deputy Mayoress.

3. Election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2013 / 2014

The Mayor requested nominations for the election of Deputy Mayor for 2013 / 2014.

Nominations were received for Councillor Nadeem and Councillor Saltmarsh. Both nominations were seconded and following a vote (25 For Councillor Nadeem, 20 for Councillor Saltmarsh), Councillor Nadeem was duly elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2013 / 2014.

The Deputy Mayor made and signed his Declaration of Office. The Mayor invested the Deputy Mayor with his Chain of Office and the Mayoress invested the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Naheed Akhtar, with her Chain of Office.

4. Investiture of Badges of Office and Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress

Councillor Cereste proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Simons. This vote of thanks was seconded and endorsed by Councillor Swift. Group Leaders supported the vote of thanks and following Group Leaders comments, all Members agreed to support the vote of thanks.

Councillor Simons responded to the vote of thanks and expressed his gratitude to all the people who had supported him throughout his term of office as Mayor.

Councillor Simons further highlighted his key achievements over the year and advised that, to date, £35,000 had been raised for his chosen charities.

The Mayor invited Councillor Simons to receive his Past Mayors Badge in recognition of his service to the city. Upon receiving his Past Mayors Badge, Councillor Simons presented the retiring Mayoress with her Past Mayoress's Badge.

A special award was presented by Councillor Simons to Mr Brian Tyler, the Peterborough Disability Forum Manager, for his outstanding contribution to the work he had undertaken whilst representing people with a variety of disabilities.

The Mayor thanked all Members for their support in electing her as Mayor and expressed her thanks to Councillor Simons for his hard work and dedication over the previous municipal year. The Mayor confirmed her chosen charities for her term of office as Inspire Peterborough, Sue Ryder Thorpe Hall, PHAB Wednesday Club and Parents United.

5. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

6. Minutes of the Meetings held 17 April 2013

The minutes of the meetings held 17 April 2013 were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

7. Political Groups and Group Officers 2013 / 2014

The membership of Political Groups and their Officers for the Municipal Year 2013 / 2014 were noted.

ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS AND THE SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS

8. Appointment of the Executive and Leader's Scheme of Delegations

Councillor Cereste addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations as detailed within the report. In moving the recommendations, he outlined the priorities for the year ahead which included;

- Continued growth and regeneration of the city;
- Giving the children of the city the ability to realise their potential;
- Attracting skilled people to the city;
- The continued safeguarding of the city's adults and children;
- The Environment Capital agenda;
- Protecting the city's businesses; and

- Continued support for Vivacity and Sport England.

Councillor Cereste presented his Scheme of Delegations advising that he would be taking responsibility for 'Planning (Development Control), Highways, Transport including Parking' as well as the Strategic Planning responsibilities that he already held, and Regulatory Functions.

Councillor Cereste further named his Cabinet Members and advisors and their responsibilities.

Councillor Elsey seconded the recommendations and reserved his right to speak.

The Mayor invited Group Leaders in turn to comment on Councillor Cereste's proposals.

Councillor Khan addressed the meeting and raised the following key points:

- The new Cabinet structure was disappointing. The Leader had missed an opportunity to revitalise the city by appointing new Members. A new dynamic was required;
- The lack of a Deputy Leader was not disappointing;
- There was a lack of confidence in some of the Cabinet Members;
- There was one Cabinet Member less than last year and four advisors, this seemed unrealistic.

Councillor Harrington addressed the meeting and raised the following key points:

- Many lives had been disrupted over the past year, for example with the closing of the care homes. The Leader's agenda was therefore questioned as there did not appear to be much consideration given to the people of Peterborough;
- New jobs were required, however the people of the city needed to be supported. It only seemed like facilities were being taken away from them;
- What was happening with the football ground?
- The imposition of self sufficient energy would come at a cost, it would take away much needed industry.

Councillor Sandford addressed the meeting and raised the following key points:

- There were plenty of aspirations, but no real actions had been taken;
- There had been numerous positions created for a number of Members of the Conservative Group;
- There had been no reduction in SRAs or Members Allowances in order to save money;
- The attendance at Neighbourhood Committee meetings had been poor and this had contributed towards their failure;
- The public transport budget had been halved, this was a significant reduction and no impact assessments had been undertaken;
- The Environment Capital agenda was important and needed to be taken forward.

Members were given an opportunity to comment and the following key points were raised:

- The savings made from the care home closures had gone back into the budget;
- The football ground was a part of the community and a long term investment asset;
- The decision to make savings around the play centres had not been taken lightly. There was good work going on around the buildings with regards to turning them into community facilities;
- The educational aspect of the city was positive, with a number of new schools being built and exam direction going well;
- Gratitude was extended to Councillor Matthew Lee for all the work he had undertaken whilst Deputy Leader.

Councillor Lee addressed the meeting and stated that he was proud of all he had achieved during his time as Deputy Leader and he fully supported the Leader going forward.

Councillor Cereste summed up and he stated that he appreciated the comments made by the Group Leaders and he offered all of the opposition Councillors an opportunity to meet him to discuss any issues they may have.

Following debate it was **AGREED**:

- a) To note the decision taken at Annual Council, held on 16 May 2011 to elect Councillor Marco Cereste as Leader of the Council for a period of four years; and
- b) To note the appointment of the Cabinet and the Leader's Scheme of Delegation to Cabinet Members.

9. Committee Structures, Delegations and Allocations

Councillor Cereste addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations as detailed within the report. This was seconded by Councillor Dalton.

It was **AGREED**:

- a) To agree the Council's Committee structure and to note the programme of meetings schedules;
- b) To agree the terms of reference of Committees and the Council's Scheme of Delegations; and
- c) To agree the allocation of seats to political groups.

10. Appointments and Consequential Changes to the Constitution

Councillor Cereste addressed the meeting and moved the recommendations as detailed within the report. This was seconded by Councillor Holdich.

It was **AGREED**:

- a) To appoint the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Council's Committee and Committee Memberships for 2013 / 2014;
- b) To delegate the consequential updating of the Constitution to the Monitoring Officer; and
- c) To appoint Kim Sawyer, Head of Legal Services, as Monitoring Officer.

11. Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

Council received a report that advised it of the work of the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel and further advised Members of the process for questions to be put to the Panel. Councillor Elsey introduced the report and moved the recommendations contained therein. In summary it was advised that for future Council meetings, an item was to be included on the agenda to direct questions for the Commissioner through the Police and Crime Panel members and responded to at the meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Seaton.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

- 1) Noted the activities of the Police and Crime Panel; and

- 2) Agreed that questions from Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner will be directed through the Police and Crime Panel and an agenda item added to future meetings accordingly.

12. Pension Scheme Auto Enrolment

Council received a report that sought its agreement to postpone automatic enrolment to pension schemes and to delegate to the Employment Committee the responsibility for determining future matters relating to auto enrolment, where not delegated to officers. This was moved by Councillor Seaton and seconded by Councillor Holdich.

A vote was taken (Unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Agreed with the option to postpone automatic enrolment to pension schemes from between one day and three months; and
2. Delegated to the Employment Committee the responsibility for determining future matters relating to auto enrolment, where these were not delegated to officers.

The Mayor
18.30 – 20.25