

COUNCIL

Wednesday, 17th May, 2023
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present: Councillor Gillian Burnett -Faulkner (Chair)

Councillors:	Adcock	Heesom	Skelding
	Allport	Holland	Stubbs
	Barker MBE	Fox-Hewitt	Sweeney
	Beeston	Hutchison	J Tagg
	Bettley-Smith	Johnson	S Tagg
	Brockie	S Jones	J Waring
	Brown	D Jones	P Waring
	Bryan	Lawley	Whieldon
	Crisp	Moffat	G White
	Dymond	Northcott	S White
	Edginton-Plunkett	Panter	Wilkes
	Fear	Parker	G Williams
	Gorton	Reece	J Williams
	Grocott	Richards	Wright

Apologies: Councillor(s) Talbot

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Martin Hamilton	Chief Executive
	Daniel Dickinson	Service Director - Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer
	Sarah Wilkes	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer
	Andrew Bird	Service Director - Sustainable Environment
	Roger Tait	Service Director - Neighbourhood Delivery

Also in attendance:

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. **MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April, 2023 be agreed as a correct record.

3. **ELECTION OF MAYOR 2023/24**

Council - 17/05/23

Two nominations were received. However, one nominee had not been made aware of this and wished to be withdrawn, leaving just one:

Councillor Simon White. Proposed by Councillor Simon Tagg and seconded by Councillor Bettley-Smith.

Resolved: That Councillor Simon White be appointed as Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

The Mayor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

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4. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2023/24

Two nominations were received:

Councillor Barry Panter. Proposed by Councillor Northcott and seconded by Councillor Simon Tagg.

Councillor Richard Gorton. Proposed by Councillor Fox-Hewitt and seconded by Councillor Dave Jones.

A vote was taken.

Resolved: That Councillor Barry Panter be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

The Deputy Mayor Made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

[Watch the proceedings here](#)

5. MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments were made:

Consort:	Cllr Gary White
Mayoress:	Tanya Morgan
High Constable:	Peter Whalan
Mayor's Cadet:	Cpl Abigail Pye
Chaplain:	Rev. Peter Nisbeck
Mace Bearers:	Jenny Otter and Glenn Martin-James

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6. MAYORAL ADDRESS

The Mayor thanked members for electing him and stated that he was honoured to be appointed to the role which he would carry out to the best of his ability. The Mayor looked forward to attending many engagements throughout his year in Office.

The Mayor named his chosen charities as the Academy for Theatre Arts and We Love Newcastle.

The Mayor thanked former Mayor, Gill Burnett-Faulkner for carrying out her duties diligently and with enthusiasm and congratulated her on her recent marriage.

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7. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND CONSORT

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Simon Tagg expressed gratitude and appreciation to the retiring Mayor and Consort. Over one hundred and six engagements had been carried out and raised over £7000 for her chosen charities.

The term had coincided with momentous and historic events including a Platinum Jubilee, funeral of the late Queen and Coronation of the new King.

The Leader thanked Councillor Burnett-Faulkner and congratulated her and David on their recent marriage. This was echoed by the Labour Group leader.

[Watch the proceedings here](#)

8. RESPONSE OF THE RETIRING MAYOR AND SUMMARY OF THE MAYORAL YEAR

The retiring Mayor stated that it had been a delight to serve the Borough in what had been a busy year both personally and in her Mayoral role. Thanks were given to the Consort, support staff, Mayor's Chaplain, Council Officers and all members of the Council.

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9. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET

The Leader confirmed Councillor Sweeney as Deputy Leader and the following as members of the Cabinet for 2023/24:

Councillor Gill Heesom (Portfolio, Community Safety and Wellbeing)
Councillor David Hutchison (Portfolio, Sustainable Environment)
Councillor Andy Fear (Portfolio, Strategic Planning)
Councillor Jill Waring (Portfolio, Leisure, Culture and Heritage)
Councillor Stephen Sweeney (Portfolio, Finance Town Centres and Growth)
Councillor Simon Tagg (Portfolio, One Council, People and Partnerships)

The Leader welcomed Councillor Hutchison to the Cabinet and thanked Councillor Trevor Johnson who had previously held the Portfolio for Environment and Recycling for all of his hard work.

[Watch the proceedings here](#)

10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR 2023/24

Committee Membership

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Tagg and seconded by Councillor Sweeney that the appointments to committees, for 2023/24 be as set out in the Agenda.

Resolved: That the appointments to committees, as set out in the

agenda, be approved.

Chairs and Vice-Chairs

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Tagg and seconded by Councillor Dave Jones that the nominations for Chairs and Vice Chairs be taken en-bloc and have a single vote.

Resolved: That the following Chair and Vice-Chair appointments be approved:

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	VICE-CHAIR
Audit and Standards	Paul Waring	Gill Burnett-Faulkner
Conservation Advisory	Trevor Johnson	Lilian Barker
Licensing and Public Protection	Andrew Parker	Joan Whieldon
Planning	Paul Northcott	Nick Crisp
Health, Wellbeing and Environment Scrutiny	Ian Wilkes	Rupert Adcock
Economy and Place Scrutiny	Gary White	Robert Bettley-Smith
Finance, Assets and Performance Scrutiny	Mark Holland	Amy Bryan

[Watch the debate here](#)

11. REVISED FINANCE AND CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The Leader introduced a report asking Council to adopt a new set of Finance and Contract Procedure Rules as they had not been substantially revised since 2020. The revised rules were attached as an appendix in the supplementary agenda.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the new Finance and Contract Procedure Rules as set out in the appendix, be adopted; and,
 - (ii) That the Monitoring Officer be delegated authority, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder One Council, People & Partnerships, to make such minor modifications as may be required to finalise the drafting and integrate the same into the Constitution.

[Watch the debate here](#)

12. CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The Leader introduced a report seeking Council's approval of the proposed changes to update the Constitution. The changes had taken place following adoption of the new Constitution at Annual Council in 2022.

The Leader proposed an amendment to the Constitution which was seconded by Councillor Holland:

'That Council resolves to add a new paragraph numbered 1.3, after the existing paragraph 1.2 in Section B4 of the Constitution. Section B4 contains the Council

Procedure Rules and Part 1 deals with proceedings at Annual Council. The new Paragraph 1.3 would read:

No Member shall be nominated for election to the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor, nor to a position of Chair or Vice-Chair of any committee, without consent first having been obtained from the Member being nominated'.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the changes at 1.1 and 1.2, relating to the Planning Committee, be approved:
 - 1.1 allowing 5 minutes for each public speaker to address the Planning Committee, and
 - 1.2 automatically referring to committee any application involving 10 or more dwellings or where the number of dwellings is not known.
 - (ii) That the changes required to reflect the recently amended Officer structure be approved.
 - (iii) That a change in name of Scrutiny Working Groups to Scrutiny Task and Finish Groups be approved.
 - (iv) That a new paragraph, as written in italics above be added to the Constitution.
 - (v) That the Monitoring Officer, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder One Council, People & Partnerships be authorised to amend the Constitution accordingly.

[Watch the debate here](#)

13. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

14. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items.

**Councillor Gillian Burnett -Faulkner
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.51 pm