

## COUNCIL

Wednesday, 15th May, 2024  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Mayor - Councillor Barry Panter (Chair)

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

Apologies: Councillor(s) Dymond and S Jones

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Simon McEneny	Interim Chief Executive
	Sarah Wilkes	Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer
	Andrew Bird	Service Director - Sustainable Environment
	Anthony Harold	Service Director - Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be agreed as accurate record.

### 3. **ELECTION OF MAYOR 2024/25**

One nomination had been received: Cllr Barry Panter.

This was proposed by Cllr Northcott who provided background information and a timeline of Cllr Panter's involvement in the Borough over the years and seconded by Cllr S Tagg who wished to echo the feeling that Cllr Panter would be suited for the role with a thought for his spouse who would also be present.

**Resolved:** That Councillor Barry Panter be appointed as Mayor for the 2024-25 Municipal Year.

The retiring Mayor, preceded by the Mace Bearers, retired from the room, accompanied by the Chief Executive and the Mayor Elect.

After being robed and invested with the chain of office, the Mayor Elect returned to the meeting room preceded by the Mace Bearers and accompanied by the Chief Executive.

The Mayor took the chair and made the declaration of acceptance of office.

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#### 4. **APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2024/25**

Two nominations were received:

- Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith (RBS), who was proposed by Cllr Barker and seconded by Cllr Adcock who shared having seen Cllr Bettley-Smith excelling in a number of roles, taking into account residents' views and working to achieve change.
- Cllr John Williams (JW), who was proposed by Cllr Jones as second longest service member of the Council (29 years) having taking part in pretty much every single committee; the nomination was seconded by Councillor Fox-Hewitt.

A named vote was taken which resulted as follows.

<b>ADCOCK</b>	RBS	<b>GROCOTT</b>	JW	<b>SKELDING</b>	RBS
<b>ALLPORT</b>	JW	<b>HEESOM</b>	RBS	<b>STUBBS</b>	JW
<b>BARKER</b>	RBS	<b>HOLLAND</b>	RBS	<b>SWEENEY</b>	RBS
<b>BEESTON</b>	ABSTAIN	<b>HUTCHISON</b>	RBS	<b>J TAGG</b>	RBS
<b>BETTLEY-SMITH</b>	RBS	<b>JOHNSON</b>	RBS	<b>S TAGG</b>	RBS
<b>BROCKIE</b>	JW	<b>D JONES</b>	JW	<b>J WARING</b>	RBS
<b>BROWN</b>	JW	<b>S JONES</b>	ABSENT	<b>P WARING</b>	RBS
<b>BRYAN</b>	RBS	<b>LAWLEY</b>	JW	<b>WHIELDON</b>	RBS
<b>BURNETT-FAULKNER</b>	RBS	<b>LEWIS</b>	JW	<b>G WHITE</b>	RBS
<b>CRISP</b>	RBS	<b>MOSS</b>	JW	<b>S WHITE</b>	RBS
<b>DYMOND</b>	ABSENT	<b>NORTHCOTT</b>	RBS	<b>WILKES</b>	RBS

<b>EDGINGTON-PLUNKETT</b>	JW	<b>PANTER</b>	RBS	<b>G WILLIAMS</b>	JW
<b>FEAR</b>	RBS	<b>PARKER</b>	RBS	<b>J WILLIAMS</b>	JW
<b>FOX-HEWITT</b>	JW	<b>REECE</b>	JW	<b>WRIGHT</b>	JW
<b>GORTON</b>	JW	<b>RICHARDS</b>	JW		

There were:

- 24 (twenty-four) votes in favour of Cllr Robert Bettley-Smith (RBS)
- 17 (seventeen) votes in favour of John Williams (JW)
- 1 (one) abstention

**Resolved:** That Councillor Robert Bettley-Smith be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

The Deputy Mayor made the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and expressed feeling honoured and delighted about endorsing his new role.

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## 5. **MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

The following appointments were made:

- **Mayoress:** Mrs Beatrice Panter
- **High Constable:** Mr David Whitmore
- **Mayor's Cadet:** Cdt FS Will Halford
- **Chaplain:** Rev. Tim Watson
- **Mace Bearers:** Ms Jenny Otter and Mr 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 and in a professional manner. His two chosen charity would be Headway North Staffordshire and the Salvation Army. The Mayor also expressed his thanks to the retiring Mayor Cllr S White for carrying out his duties and for his support and tutoring while Cllr Panter was serving as Deputy Mayor.

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## 7. **NOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR, MAYORESS AND CONSORT**

On behalf of the Council, the Leader Cllr Simon Tagg congratulated the Mayor on his appointment and expressed thanks and appreciation to the retiring Mayor, Mayoress and Consort as well as High Constable, Mayor's Cadet, Chaplain and the driver who also took official pictures on numerous occasions.

The Leader notably referred to successful events of the past year including the first admission of female burgesses in the borough, sharing his gratitude to the retiring mayor and everyone involved.

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

The retiring Mayor stated it had been an honour to serve during the year marking the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the borough.

On this occasion he visited all schools participating in the 850 competition and handling anniversary plates. He took part in more than 240 events and an excess of £30,000 was raised which would be distributed among the main charities as well as smaller organisations having requested support.

The retiring Mayor wished to thank all who had helped during those events. Gifts were handed to the Mayoress, Consort, High Constable, Civic and Member Support Officer, Driver and Photographer, Mace Bearers, Chaplain and High Sergeant.

The retiring Mayor finished by congratulating the new Mayor and letting him know he could rely on him would he need any advice or support.

The Mayor handed out packages of office to the retiring mayor, mayoress and consort as recognitions for their service.

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**9. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET**

The Leader confirmed the re-appointment of Cllr Sweeney as Deputy Leader as well as the following Cabinet members for 2024-25:

- Cllr Heesom, portfolio holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Cllr Hutchison, portfolio holder for Sustainable Environment
- Cllr Fear, portfolio holder for Strategic Planning
- Cllr Skelding, portfolio holder for Leisure, Culture and Heritage
- Cllr Sweeney, portfolio holder for Finance Town Centres and Growth
- Cllr S Tagg, portfolio holder for One Council, People and Partnerships

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**10. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS FOR 2024/25**

The Mayor proposed that members of the committees be appointed as per the list provided with the report attached to the agenda. All agreed.

**Resolved:** That the appointments to committees, as set out in the agenda, be approved.

The Mayor then proposed that a vote on committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs be taken en-bloc as per the report attached to the agenda. There were 24 (twenty-four) votes in favour of Conservative members and 17 (seventeen) in favour of Labour members.

**Resolved:** That Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs be appointed as follows:

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

The Mayor finally invited the Leader and Cllr Jones to speak on nominations to external organisations. Cllr Jones wished for the list shared by Cabinet to be amended and nominated six labour Group members to fill the roles instead.

The Leader commented that Cabinet members were already filling these positions although he was willing to accept Cllr Lewis as Campaign for Rural England liaison.

The Mayor submitted the nomination of Cllr Lewis to the vote.

**Resolved:** That Cllr Lewis be appointed as liaison to Campaign for Rural England.

The Mayor then submitted the five other nominations to an en-bloc vote.

**Resolved:** That the Labour motion be lost and the roles remain as per the list provided with the agenda.

[Watch the proceedings here](#)

11. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

12. **DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

There were no confidential items.

**Mayor - Councillor Barry Panter  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.50 pm