

## COUNCIL

Wednesday, 28th June, 2023  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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**Present:** Mayor - Councillor Simon White (Chair)

Councillors:	Adcock	Grocott	Reece
	Allport	Heesom	Skelding
	Barker MBE	Holland	Sweeney
	Beeston	Fox-Hewitt	J Tagg
	Bettley-Smith	Hutchison	S Tagg
	Brown	Johnson	Talbot
	Burnett-Faulkner	S Jones	G White
	Crisp	D Jones	Wilkes
	Dymond	Lawley	G Williams
	Edginton-Plunkett	Moffat	J Williams
	Fear	Panter	
	Gorton	Parker	

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Brockie, Bryan, Northcott, Richards, Stubbs, J Waring, P Waring, Whieldon and Wright

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Civic & Member Support Officer
	Martin Hamilton	Chief Executive
	Daniel Dickinson	Service Director - Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer

Also in attendance:

### 1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

### 2. **MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader spoke on the earliest set of Minutes recorded by the Council in 1368. The Minutes noted a Roger Letys as being elected as Mayor for the third time and by coincidence, in the Council's 850<sup>th</sup> year, the Current Mayor, Councillor Simon White was also in his third term of Office.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes, dated 1368 be received.

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### 3. **HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH**

## **Council - 28/06/23**

Honorary Freeman of the Borough, Jim Worgan gave an address on the history of the Borough and its origins from 1066 to the present day.

The Royal Charter, issued in 1173 was long since lost. It was believed to have been loaned to Preston but never returned. The first record of Newcastle-under-Lyme as a town was in 1168.

[Watch the address here](#)

### **4. AN 850TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION**

The Leader moved an 850<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Resolution:

On the 850th anniversary of its Royal Charter, this Council looks back, with pride on the history and achievements of our ancient and loyal Borough and forward with optimism to its further progress and success.

The Leader spoke on the many events that had already taken place to celebrate the anniversary and of the events yet to happen.

This was also a year of opportunity with the £55m regeneration investment from the Government for Newcastle and Kidsgrove town centres.

The Resolution was seconded by Councillor Dave Jones who spoke about the Borough's history and ended by saying that the Borough was the best place to live, study and work.

Members agreed that the Borough was a place to be proud of.

**Resolved:** That the Commemorative Resolution be agreed

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### **5. HIGH STEWARD**

The Leader introduced a report seeking support to re-establish the role of High steward for the Borough as part of the legacy programme of the 850<sup>th</sup> Year Celebrations.

Councillor Dave Jones proposed an amendment to the report that, in the event of the role of High Steward being re-established, the Chief Executive establish an independent Appointments Committee. The Committee would comprise of three Aldermen, agreed by Group Leaders. The Independent Appointments Committee would receive nominations for the role of High Steward and appraise the nominations before making a recommendation to Full Council for consideration for appointment. This was seconded by Councillor Fox Hewitt.

The Leader and seconder of the motion, Councillor Bettley-Smith accepted the amendment.

Councillor Gary White spoke about the historical significance of the Borough and stated that history showed that the re-election of High Steward had traditionally been upon the death of a Monarch and the subsequent coronation of the new Monarch.

**Resolved:** (i) That the historical role of the High Steward in Newcastle

- under Lyme be noted.
- (ii) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council be authorised to further investigate and pursue the relevant processes to re-establish the role of High Steward for Newcastle under Lyme.
  - (iii) That, should the role of High Steward be re-established, the Chief Executive establish an Independent Appointments Committee, comprising three Aldermen agreed by Group Leaders.

[Watch the debate here](#)

## 6. **850TH YEAR CELEBRATIONS AND LEGACY**

The Leader introduced a report giving an update on the 850<sup>th</sup> year celebrations and the legacy programme being delivered throughout the year.

The Leader made reference to paragraph 2.10 of the report, the awarding of a £1000 bursary, by the Council, to one of the cohort who went through the annual GivEnergy funded programme, outlined at paragraph 2.6, and subsequently secured a place at Keele University.

Further projects would be the installation of a statue of the late Queen Elizabeth II in the Queen's Gardens and the planting of the 850 Lyme Forest on the former Keele Golf Course.

Councillor Dave Jones had concerns regarding the bursary only being awarded to one of the cohort of ten and asked that Council consider expanding it to the whole cohort, should they secure a place at Keele University.

The Leader stated that Councillor Jones' comment would be considered.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the progress made with the 850th Year Celebrations programme of activity, be noted.
  - (ii) That the development of the legacy programme including the following, be noted:-
    - (a) An annual award ceremony to celebrate individuals from our borough who make an outstanding contribution to their community
    - (b) An educational programme for young people, introducing them to sustainable engineering careers and University opportunities
    - (c) Commissioning a statue of the late Monarch Queen Elizabeth II for Newcastle under Lyme Town Centre funded through the sale of 11 limited edition bronze maquettes
    - (d) The 850 Lyme Forest

[Watch the debate here](#)

## 7. **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN FOR THE BOROUGH OF NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME**

The Leader read out the following resolution that was agreed at the Special Council meeting held on 23 November, 2022.

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*That pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the undermentioned persons be admitted as Honorary Aldermen of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme in recognition of their long and dedicated service to the people of the Borough through the performance of their duties as members of the Borough Council.*

The following Honorary Aldermen were awarded with their certificate:

Kyle Robinson-Payne  
Tony Kearon  
Marion Reddish  
Mary Maxfield  
Silvia Burgess  
Julie Cooper  
Mark Olszewski  
Elizabeth Shenton  
June Walklate

Sandra Simpson, who was unable to attend, would receive her certificate in due course.

[Watch the ceremony here](#)

**Mayor - Councillor Simon White  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.19 pm