

# Minutes of Annual Council Meeting & Mayor Making

9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

6:30pm at The Guildhall, Beverley

**Present:** Councillors L Johnson (Chair), P Astell, T Astell, I Gow, A Healy, D Healy, C Hopkins, D Horsley, G Johnson, D Tucker and A Willis

**In Attendance:** Matthew Snowden (Acting Town Clerk) and Libby Woodhouse (Administrative Officer).  
18 members of the public.  
3 members of the press.

## **1/22: Welcome to the Meeting and Election of new Mayor of Beverley for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year:**

### **1.1: The outgoing Mayor of Beverley welcomes councillors, guests and members of the public to the meeting.**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1.2: The outgoing Mayor presides over the election of a Mayor of Beverley for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.**

The Mayor invited nominations for Mayor for the 2022-2023 year.

**Proposed:** Councillor D Healy **Seconded:** Councillor C Hopkins

**Resolved:** *That Councillor Linda Johnson is elected Mayor of Beverley for 2022-2023.*

### **1.3: The newly elected Mayor announces their Mayoress/Consort for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.**

Councillor L Johnson announced her Consort for 2022-2023 will be Councillor Graham Johnson.

### **1.4: The newly elected Mayor and Mayoress/Consort will be robed and adorn the Chains of Office.**

There was no robing necessary.

### **1.5: The newly elected Mayor will sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

The newly elected Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

## **2//22: To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies of absence had been received from Councillors D Boynton, D Jack and C Wildey.

## **3/22: Declarations:**

### **3.1: To record declarations of interest by any member of the council and officers in respect of the agenda items listed below. Members declaring interests should identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared.**

There were no declarations of interest.

- 3.2: To note dispensations given to any member of the council and officers in respect of the agenda items below.**

There were no dispensations.

**4/22: Election of new Deputy Mayor of Beverley for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year:**

- 4.1: The newly elected Mayor of Beverley presides over the election of a Deputy Mayor of Beverley for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.**

The Mayor invited nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2022-2023.

**Proposed:** Councillor D Healy **Seconded:** Councillor C Hopkins

*Resolved: That Councillor T Astell is elected Deputy Mayor of Beverley for 2022-2023.*

- 4.2: The new elected Deputy Mayor will announce their Deputy Mayoress/Consort for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.**

The Deputy Mayor did not announce a Consort at this time and this is likely to change during the year.

- 4.3: The newly elected Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress/Consort will be robed and adorn the Deputy Chains of Office.**

No robing was necessary and the Deputy Mayor signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

**5/22: Addresses**

- 5.1: Outgoing Mayor: To receive a short address from the outgoing Mayor of Beverley, including announcement of total funds raised for their specified good causes during the 2021-2022 Municipal Year.**

Councillor Linda Johnson as outgoing Mayor delivered the following short address:

"Freemen of Beverley, honoured guests, fellow Town Councillors and Town Council Staff, well, what an honour it has been to be elected the 418<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Beverley. As far as Covid has allowed, I hope I have been a visible Mayor, in the town and at Civic events, and have been able to promote Beverley as the most wonderful town anyone could possibly imagine to live, work and play in. I have tried to be the best Mayor I can be, because the role has been part of our Civic heritage since Good Queen Bess endowed the honour in 1573.

Beverley wouldn't be here without St John, who established the town as a place of pilgrimage and tourism and some of the most memorable events I attended were down to St John. Last year we celebrated 1300 years since his death and enjoyed a weekend of socially distanced events. On the Saturday of the weekend of the anniversary of St John's translation day, when his remains were interred in Beverley Minster, a town trail of important venues was set up, which you could visit to collect a stamp on a passport. Graham and I were invited to take part – but we were accompanied by a 7ft tall, very naughty beaver which insisted on high-fiving children, some of whom were clearly petrified! On the Sunday, at an Anglican service, we blessed an oak tree, in commemoration of St John, with the promise of a further 1299 trees to be planted around the town, 1244 of which were planted on the Archery Field last month. This tree-planting project in honour of St John has brought together many organisations, including the Civic Society, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Humber Forest, Conservation Volunteers and schools. As one of my objectives last year was to develop more partnership working and this was a real example of that.

Another example of partnerships -working, is the instigation of official Partners to Beverley Town Council, 5 of whom we welcomed at the Mayor of Beverley's Awards Night in November. Held at East Riding Theatre, curated so brilliantly by She Productions with short promotional films made by Jonathan Levy, we celebrated the best of Beverley with 11 Good Neighbour Awards and made 3 new Honorary Freemen. It is really lovely to see so many of our Honorary Freemen and Women here this evening. In the past, such Awards have been made at Mayor-making, but the Awards

night was so successful that we are going to repeat it in November. Once again, we will ask the community to nominate Good Neighbours so they can be recognised, we will confirm our Partnerships and we will make at least one new Honorary Freeman of Beverley.

Because of Covid, my charities have not done as well from fund-raising as I would have hoped. Two Treasure Hunts around Beverley, a generous donation from the Beverley Lions and half of the raffle at my Civic Dinner which was held as a showcase for East Riding College where I am a Governor, have made £527 for Scope, the Disability Charity. Scope provides, amongst other services, an advice and befriending line for people with all kinds of life-limiting disabilities, which was proved to be vital during Covid. The other half of the raffle, plus a couple of donations and Town Council sponsorship of their Minster Christmas Tree made £407 for Hull and East Riding Breastfriends. Sadly, the Pink Party fundraiser for HER Breastfriends had to be cancelled, because I caught Covid (along with my Consort). Additionally, a donation of £150 was made to SSAFA in lieu of Christmas Cards – so a grand total of £1084 to three charities ultimately wasn't too shabby.

The Civic Office has been put under extra strain this year as Civic events around the East Riding have been organised and then cancelled due to Covid, including my own Civic Service. Libby, who keeps the Civic diary says that I've done less than a third of the engagements which the Mayor usually attends. In fact, keeping the Town Council office running smoothly has been an incredible feat as the officers have been hybrid working from home on laptops as well as in-house and meetings have had to be conducted on Zoom and WhatsApp, although latterly more have been face-to-face. I would like to pay tribute to our three very dedicated staff, Acting Town Clerk Matt Snowden, Admin Officer Libby Woodhouse and Finance Officer Carol Oliver. I have some little thank you's for you, but, if I may, I'll present them to you when we head upstairs to the Mayor's Parlour for our refreshments.

The other very important person to the Office of Mayor is the Mace Bearer. We are very lucky to have the services of Peter Nendick, as he knows everything about Civic Protocol there is to know. It's very reassuring to have Peter alongside, because if you do what he says, then you know you are doing it right. So thank you too, Peter – I hope when you write that book about all the Mayor's you have worked with, I come out reasonably favourably.

There are two other people the Mayor relies during their year. One is their Consort - and mine has been an absolute rock. So thank you, Graham – this really has been a year for us to tell the grandchildren about when they are older. The other is the Deputy. Thank you Tom – you wear the purple well and I have appreciated your flexibility at being able to stand in for events when I have been double-booked, despite your very busy job.

Being Mayor is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I am most grateful to my fellow councillors for giving me the honour of chairing the council as well as wearing this fabulous hat and beautiful set of chains. Thank you, too, for being so supportive. If I had a glass I would raise it to you but a heartfelt thank you will have to suffice".

Presentations were made to the Charities by the outgoing Mayor and there was a photo opportunity.

**5.2: Newly Elected Mayor: To receive a short address from the newly elected Mayor of Beverley, including announcement of the good causes for which they will raise funds during the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.**

The newly elected Mayor gave a short address as follows:

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to be Mayor No 418 continuing. I'm not sure whether you have voted me in again because I did OK and you have faith in me or because you are giving me a second chance to get it right.

I've chosen two different charities this year - both are based on partnership working and enable beneficiaries to live their lives to the full. The first is Guide Dogs – because it would be lovely to know that a guide dog, perhaps called Beverley, is helping someone, an adult or a child with sight loss, to stay safe as they travel and maintain their independence. My little grandson loves putting coins in the dog and puppies collection point in Tesco and I met a man in Hull on Thursday who is on his third dog, who says his life wouldn't be worth living without his dog – and that was recommendation enough for me! And Guide Dogs has a base in Beverley!

The second is the Open Doors project based at Princes Avenue Methodist Church in Hull. Open Doors works with asylum seekers, refugees and migrant workers from all over the world who find themselves in this area and don't know where to turn. Many are destitute, all are vulnerable. Open Doors, through its volunteer and partner network, provides a whole range of services, support and practical help, including befriending, socials, advocacy, accommodation, food and clothing, help with form-filling and job applications, English lessons and more. There are over 85million displaced people in the world, around 25 million refugees, with the UK taking in around only 1%, probably because our asylum system is not especially welcoming. Open Doors helps all-comers navigate the system to rebuild their lives. If I needed to seek asylum in another country, I hope I would be directed to an Open Doors.

A quick plug - Cecil Jones, the project co-ordinator at Open Doors, and very talented musician who came to this country from Sierra Leone, professionally known as CJ Sax, is performing at Hull Minster at 5pm on Saturday – do go and listen to him and make a donation to Open Doors!

I do so hope that next year is a more normal year and that we can put Beverley back on the civic and events map! Our first BIG event is the massive celebration for the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, when Beverley will party with music and dancing, and there will be attractions for young and old at venues throughout the town. The town will be festooned with Union flags and residents and visitors alike will, I hope, wear red, white and blue along with big smiles on such a happy occasion. Everyone is invited, including civic guests, so do check out the website for more details and I will definitely see you there!

Thank you once again for putting your trust in me as Town Mayor and may God bless us all.

**6/22: To elect members, chairs and vice-chairs to the following committees (see attached):**

**Proposed:** Councillor L Johnson      **Seconded:** Councillor T Astell

**Resolved:** *To retain membership, Chairs and Vice Chairs of all Committees for 2022-2023 except Christmas Lights*

**Proposed:** Councillor P Astell      **Seconded:** Councillor C Hopkins

**Resolved:** *That the membership of the Christmas Lights Committee remains the same for 2022-2023 apart from Councillor Jack who wishes to be removed from the Committee, and that Councillor D Healy is added as a member. The Chair will remain Councillor Willis and the Vice Chair will be Councillor T Astell.*

**7/22: External Groups**

**To select Councillors to represent the Town Council to the following groups and bodies (Acting Town Clerk to report and explain changes):**

**Resolved:** *That the following Councillors will represent the Town Council on the following groups and bodies:*

**7.1: East Riding and North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association – ERNLLCA (2 representatives)**

Councillor P Astell and Councillor Jack.

**7.2: Parish Planning Liaison Meetings (1 representative)**

Councillor P Astell

**7.3: Beverley Chamber of Trade (2 representatives)**

Councillor A Healy and Councillor Wildey

**7.4: Beverley War Memorial Hall (1 representative)**

Councillor L Johnson

**7.5: Flood Liaison (1 representative)**

Councillor P Astell.

**7.6: ERVAS Youth Development Project (2 representatives)**

Councillor Hopkins

**7.7: Parish Transport Champion (1 representative)**

Councillor P Astell.

**8/22: Meeting Calendar for 2022-2023**

To approve a calendar of meetings for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year in accordance with Standing Orders – this calendar will be technically provisional, with meetings not legally obligated to take place until the official summons are published and circulated (see attached).

**Proposed:** Councillor Hopkins **Seconded:** Councillor A Healy

**Resolved:** To approve the calendar of meetings for 2022-2023 as submitted.

**9/22: Internal Auditor**

To reconfirm Internal Audit Yorkshire as Beverley Town Council's Internal Auditor for 2021-2022 (this will be the second year of their previously resolved three-year contract).

The Council re-confirmed Internal Audit Yorkshire as the Internal Auditor for 2022-2023.

The Meeting finished at 7.15 pm

Signed: 

Date: 30/05/22

***Councillors and guests were invited to adjourn  
to the Mayors Parlour for light refreshments.***

