

DEREHAM TOWN COUNCIL

14th May 2019

At the Annual Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at the Assembly Rooms, Dereham at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillors H Bushell (in the chair), C Bunting, H Clarke, P Duigan, S Green, L Monument, T Monument and P Morton.

Also in attendance were Town Clerk Tony Needham, Deputy Town Clerk Jillian Barron, District Councillor A Webb and County Councillor W Richmond.

1. **To appoint the Town Mayor for the year 2019-2020.**

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| Councillor H Clarke proposed Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor P Duigan, there were no further nominations. It was put to the vote and agreed that Councillor L Monument serve as Town Mayor for the year 2019 – 2020. |
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Councillor L Monument took the chair.

2. **To receive the Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Councillor L Monument read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3. **To appoint the Deputy Mayor for the year 2019-2020.**

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| Councillor P Duigan proposed Councillor S Green, seconded by Councillor H Bushell, there were no further nominations. It was put to the vote and agreed that Councillor S Green serve as Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2019 – 2020. |
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4. **To receive the Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Councillor S Green read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

5. **Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

6. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H King.

7. **Outgoing Town Mayor's address.**

Councillor H Bushell said that her last two years as Mayor has really been, exciting, eye opening, informative and she had a wonderful time meeting so many members of the public. Councillor Bushell spoke of the many charities within the town that raise all their own money to enable them to carry out their work with people, who go un-thanked for the extra work they undertake. During the past year Councillor Bushell has worked very much with young people from schools, from the age's 1st and 2nd years up to 6th form and felt that we can

all learn a great deal from the younger generation.

Councillor Bushell said there have been great opportunities to be able to speak to people without having to be concerned about politics, colour or creed, and from whom she has learnt so much.

She said it had been an honour to represent Dereham at many other towns and boroughs and at RAF Marham. Councillor Bushell said the highlight of the past years was November 11th – 100 years since the cease fire of the 1st World War. To lay a wreath at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month was so very poignant, and something she will never forget.

Councillor Bushell thanked her fellow councillors and officers for all their help and support over the last two years, and gave a special thanks to Terri Sanderson and Linda Monument who have been her drivers for many of the away events and also great ambassadors for Dereham.

Councillor Bushell offered her best wishes to both Councillors L Monument and S Green and hoped that they will have a most enjoyable year as Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

8. **To receive tributes to outgoing Mayor.**

Councillor H Clarke thanked Councillor Bushell for all her hard work and said that she had had a big impact with young people and was a huge ambassador for the town.

Councillor P Duigan reiterated Councillor Clarke's comments and said that she was very brave to take on the role for two years. He said that the last time a councillor had been a Mayor for more than a year was in the 1940's.

Councillor Duigan also thanked Ann Bowyer for all her hard work and said that she would be missed on the Council

Councillor T Monument said thank you and well done.

Councillor S Green thanked Councillor Bushell for all her hard work and said that he saw her as a great ambassador for the town.

Councillor L Monument thanked Councillor Bushell for all the things she had done during her two years as Mayor, some of which were beyond the call of duty. She said that Councillor Bushell did not hesitate going out on the market in February dressed as a suffragette with pupils from Northgate High School. She also walked around the town blindfolded with members for the Association for the blind; Councillor L Monument said that Councillor Bushell will be a hard act to follow.

9. **To receive announcements.**

The Mayor, Councillor L Monument welcomed Councillor C Bunting on to the Town Council and went on to say that the most important thing is that we all work together to represent the town.

Councillor L Monument went on to say that as the Town Council need to co-opt 3 new councillors she was going to propose suspending standing orders with regards to agreeing committees.

10. **To agree membership of Committees.**

Councillor L Monument proposed that Standing Orders 11(g) be suspended until the next meeting, seconded by Councillor H Bushell and agreed.

11. **To confirm representatives for outside bodies (normally appointed for 4 years) and to receive a brief report.**

Councillor L Monument proposed that Standing Orders 11(g) be suspended until the next meeting, seconded by Councillor H Bushell and agreed.

12. **To fix the dates and times of Council, Plans and Committee meetings**

The dates and times of Council, Plans and Committee meetings were agreed up to the Annual Town Council Meeting 12th May 2020, subject to the Annual Parish Meeting 17th March 2020 being added.

13. **To make arrangements for Civic Sunday and Bowls Match.**

The Mayor, Councillor L Monument announced that details of her Civic Sunday would be confirmed at a later date.

The annual Bowls Match will be held on Friday 16th August 2019, invitations will be sent out nearer the date.

The meeting was adjourned

District Councillor A Webb thanked Councillor Bushell for the brilliant job she has done while being the Mayor and congratulated Councillors L Monument and S Green on being elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

District Councillor A Webb said that Breckland Council had discussed transferring the Management of the Neatherd to the Town Council along with some funding. Breckland Council would be in contact with the Town Council with a proposal.

County Councillor W Richmond thanked Councillor H Bushell and Ann Bowyer for all their hard work and congratulated Councillors L Monument and S Green on being elected as Mayor and Deputy Mayor, also Councillor C Bunting on being elected onto the Town Council.

County Councillor W Richmond said that Norfolk County Council were now working on the Norwich Western Link consultation. He also said that he has been approached by a member of the public requesting a No Cold Calling zone at Highfield Road

The meeting resumed

14. To receive, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Full Council** meeting held on **Tuesday 9th April 2019.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor H Bushell, the minutes of the Full Council meeting Tuesday 9th April 2019 were agreed and signed.

15. To receive, confirm as correct and sign the minutes of the **Planning** meeting held on **Tuesday 9th April 2019.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor H Bushell, the minutes of the planning meeting Tuesday 9th April 2019 were agreed and signed.

16. **To receive and adopt the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid.**

Proposed by Councillor L Monument, seconded by Councillor H Bushell, the list of accounts paid, the Financial Statement and list of accounts to be paid were agreed and signed.

17. **To consider co-opting additional Councillors.**

Councillor L Monument proposed that Standing Orders 11(c) be suspended until the next meeting to allow the vacancies to be widely advertised, seconded by Councillor H Bushell and agreed.

18. **To consider supporting MP Johnny Mercer in his stance on the historical prosecution of servicemen and women.**

MP Johnny Mercer has made the decision to “go on strike” and will not be voting for any of the Government’s legislative actions outside of Brexit until legislation is brought forward to protect veterans from being repeatedly prosecuted for historical allegations.

Nobody is above the law but if servicemen and women have broken the law then this should be investigated immediately. Investigating these allegations decades after the event, when public attitudes have changed and when politics has changed is totally unjust.

Councillor H Bushell proposed that the Town Council supports MP Johnny Mercer’s actions by flying the Armed Forces day flag for one day, seconded by Councillor P Duigan, put to the vote and agreed.

Chairman