

HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021 at REMOTE MEETING

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors; Stow (Chair for item 1), Stevens (Chair for item 2 and onwards), Bampton Smith, Boggis, Cammack (from item 15), Courtney, Fenton, Fraser, Freeth, Harvey, Hodgins, Hoyle, Needham, Patient, Wood and Young

Also present: Town Clerk – Jason Boom
Deputy Town Clerk – Emma Green
Administrator – Rebekah Cox

1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR

It was moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Boggis and

RESOLVED: to elect Cllr Freeth as the Mayor of Hebden Royd Town Council for the Council Year 2021/22

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cammack, Guilfoyle and Hodgins.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Cllr Fenton

Seconded by Cllr Fraser and

RESOLVED: to elect Cllr Hoyle as Deputy Mayor of Hebden Royd Town Council for the Council Year 2021/22

4. THE MAYORAL YEAR 2020/21

The retiring Mayor took the opportunity to thank the council for its support, in particular her two consorts in what has been a very strange year. There have been 60 events attended some remotely and others in person and £1000 has been raised for her nominated charity the Old Peoples welfare Committee. Cllr Stevens had some key objectives when she first started, these were to complete the Neighbourhood Planning process, to obtain the Ginkgo seeds from Hiroshima and get them planted, and to improve the town council email platform. Two out of three have been accomplished with the third on the way. And of course, it was an overriding priority to keep the council doing its job of serving the community. Cllr Stevens highlighted meeting a young resident concerned about litter, which has risen up the agenda and will no doubt appear again this summer. In response to their concerns a poster competition for primary school children has been launched to tie in with the Spring Clean. Cllr Stevens shared that her main highlight has been the development of High Hirst Woodmeadow, and she thanked Cllr Harvey for the amazing transformation. Cllr Stevens spent her last day as Mayor visiting the nursery to look at the Ginkgo seeds and hopefully one day these will be able to be planted out in Hebden Royd. "Trees are poems that the earth writes up the sky."

Cllr Needham responded with a tribute to the retiring Mayor and said that Cllr Stevens had given council just a flavour of her year and has done so in a modest way. It is a special year with the opportunity to meet many people and join celebrations, a happy mix of formal duties and fun. From March 2020 it was clear it would be a different year, with many people disheartened and frustrated our mayor, accepted the challenge of leadership. It has been a quiet year for many organisations but not the Town Council as she set about bringing forth new initiatives such as High Hirst Wood Meadow, the Hebden Heroes to thank key workers for their efforts. She established positive links with CMBC work together to tackle challenges, and with Mytholmroyd library set to close the Mayor as been at the heart of a group to seek to take it on as a Community Asset Transfer. She has raised funds for the Old Peoples Welfare Committee without any formal fundraising events, and has established the Age Friendly Working Group - a lasting legacy. The Town Council is enormously grateful for the energy and skill she brought to the role of Mayor, she was exactly what our community needed.

It was moved by Cllr Freeth

Seconded by Cllr Needham and

RESOLVED: To record a vote of thanks to Cllr Stevens for her contribution.

5. MAYORAL ASPIRATIONS FOR 2021/22 & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYORS CHARITY

Cllr Freeth began by thanking Cllr Stevens and Jason for the support that they have given him during his year as Deputy Mayor. He looks forward to working in partnership with the council and in role which he is honoured to hold. Cllr Freeth believes in importance of communities and that by working together it is possible to make a better world to live in.

Cllr Freeth aspires to support our Hebden Royd community to be able to rise over the challenges of the last two years, including the floods and Covid19. It is important that Hebden Royd returns to be a vibrant, diverse, and energetic community that we love to be members of.

As a Town Council is acknowledged that it has limited powers and budget but there is still lots that can be done. The Town Council can act as advocates to promote our communities and be facilitators and enablers to work together as a community, reaching out to other people with creative energy and willingness to engage. It's important to draw in people who might not have otherwise been involved. This is demonstrated by Cllr Harvey and the Climate Emergency Committee, Cllr Stevens and the Age Friendly Working Group and Cllr Stow and the Disability Access Forum, which all work with a range of people to engage and make them feel that they have something to offer as part of a diverse community.

Cllr Freeth's chosen charity is Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice, which although is not based in Hebden Royd serves the community of Hebden Royd.

6. AUTHORISATION OF AWARDS

a) Kaberry Barker	£1,350.00
b) Mayor's Allowance	£4,068.00
c) Service to the Community	£300.00

It was moved by Cllr Freeth

Seconded by Cllr young

RESOLVED: to pay the awards

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was moved by Cllr Freeth

Seconded by Cllr Young and

RESOLVED: To approve the Committee membership as presented.

8. OUTSIDE BODIES MEMBERSHIP

It was moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Young and

RESOLVED: To approve the Outside Bodies membership as presented.