

**BTC/01/20**

Minutes of a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020** at 7pm via Zoom.

**Present:**

Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. M. Cole (Mayor until minute 04/20)  
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins (Mayor from minute 05/20)  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley  
Cllr. J. Harvey  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. A. Mahi  
Cllr. H. Mordue  
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell  
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. A. Ralph  
Cllr. M. Smith  
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury  
Cllr. M. Try

**In attendance:** Mr. P. Hodson Town Clerk  
Mrs. N. Stockill Committee Clerk  
Cllr. W. Whyte Buckinghamshire Councillor  
Cllr. C. Clare Buckinghamshire Councillor

Welcome – Cllr. Mark Cole JP, Mayor of Buckingham.

The Town Mayor reviewed the highlights of his year of office. A copy of Cllr. Cole's speech can be found in Appendix A of the minutes.

**01/20 Election of the Town Mayor**

Members were asked to elect the Town Mayor who will act as Chair of the Council for the forthcoming year.

Cllr. G. Collins was proposed by Cllr. Cole and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue. There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously – that Cllr. G. Collins be elected Town Mayor of Buckingham, to hold office until the next Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council. Cllr. O'Donoghue gave a speech recognising Cllr. G. Collins' service to the community of Buckingham.

**02/20 Vote of Thanks to the outgoing Mayor**

Cllr. Stuchbury gave a speech recognising the hard work of Cllr. Cole during his term in office.

**03/20 The Robing of the Mayor and history of the Regalia.**

Cllr. G. Collins was invested with the Chain of Office by Cllr. P. Collins. There was a speech by Cllr. Mordue regarding the history of the town and the regalia. The Mayor was robed by Cllr. P. Collins.

**04/20 Signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr. G. Collins signed the statutory declaration of office in front of the Town Clerk via the online system.

*Cllr. G. Collins took the chair*

**05/20 Apologies**

There were none.

**06/20 Election of the Deputy Town Mayor**

Members were asked to elect the Deputy Town Mayor for the forthcoming year. Cllr. Try was proposed by Cllr. Mahi and seconded by Cllr. Bloomfield.

There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously – that Cllr. Try be elected Deputy Town Mayor of Buckingham, to hold office until the next Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council. Cllr. Hirons gave a speech noting Cllr. Try’s experience and service.

Mrs L. Try presented Cllr. M. Try with the Deputy Mayor’s badge of office.

**07/20 Appointment of the Mayoral Consort**

Cllr. P. Collins was presented with the Badge of Office by the Mayor, Cllr. G. Collins

**08/20 Nomination of the Mayor’s Chaplain**

The Rev’d W. Pearson-Gee was appointed by the Mayor to be her chaplain

**09/20 Town Mayor’s Announcements**

The Town Mayor announced that her charities this year would be Clearly Speaking and the Kit Cat Club.

Meeting closed at: 019.29

Signed ..... Date .....

Town Mayor

## **MAYOR'S FAREWELL SPEECH**

I would like to have finished my year as Buckingham's 254<sup>th</sup> Mayor on a higher note than a global lockdown, but events overtook all of us in March, and since then we have all been living and working virtually.

Nevertheless, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the town I love, and have loved since I grew up in North Bucks in the 1950s. Thank you to my fellow councillors for showing their faith in me.

For my Mayoress Alexandra and I, there have been some real highlights in the 10 months during which we were able to function normally. Either singly or together, we attended just over 100 engagements between last May and March, most notably the signing of the German Twinning agreement with Neukirchen-Vluyn, making Buckingham the first town in the UK to twin after Brexit.

It was a great disappointment that we had to cancel the Mayor's Civic Service just as the pandemic took hold, as it would have spotlighted the young of Buckingham and my two charities, Medical Detection Dogs and YC2 Bucks Young Carers. Thanks to everyone who has given so generously during the year.

There are so many I want to thank, but I could not have got through the year without the guidance of our Town Clerk and his dedicated staff – you have all been so supportive. I also thank Sir Anthony Seldon for his friendship and guidance throughout my mayoral year; as well as strengthening our town and gown ties, he has put Buckingham firmly on the map as a centre of educational excellence, and we shall miss him when he leaves the University of Buckingham this autumn.

In closing, I wish my successor Cllr Geraldine Collins every success in her role as the 255<sup>th</sup> Mayor of Buckingham. I look forward to continuing to serve Buckingham as a Town Councillor for as long as you will have me. Thank you all.

**Cllr Mark Cole JP**  
**Mayor of Buckingham, 2019/20**

