

Minutes of the Annual Statutory Meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council held on **Friday 17th May 2019** in the **Large Hall of Buckingham Community Centre**, Meadow Walk, Buckingham at 7:30pm.

**Present:**

Cllr. T. Bloomfield  
Cllr. M. Cole JP (Mayor from minute 2/19)  
Cllr. Mrs. G. Collins  
Cllr. P. Collins  
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley  
Cllr. J. Harvey (Mayor until minute 2/19)  
Cllr. P. Hirons  
Cllr. D. Isham  
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:**

*The High Sheriff Julia Upton MBE and Deputy Lieutenant Carolyn Cumming, together with invited guests.*

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The Mace Bearer announced The Mayor, Town Clerk and Town Councillors.

The Town Mayor, Cllr. Harvey opened the meeting and welcomed the guests. He gave a speech thanking his family, council staff, his fellow Councillors and the people of the Town of Buckingham. He reflected on his time in office and wished Cllr. Cole and his family all the best. *[Cllr. Harvey's speech can be found in **Appendix A**]*

The Mayor presented cheques of £1,280.66 each from the Mayor's Charity Fund to:

- Buckingham Youth Club
- Buckinghamshire Mind
- Buckingham and Aylesbury Citizen's Advice (BACAB)

There was a further speech by Cllr. Harvey regarding Mr L. Weston. Mr. Weston was then awarded the title of Friend of Buckingham in recognition of his sterling work organising a range of memorable events in Buckingham. The Mayor presented Mr L. Weston with a silver salver in recognition of his award. *[Cllr. Harvey's speech can be found in **Appendix B**]*

The title of Friend of Buckingham was then awarded to Mrs S. Handley in recognition of her years of voluntary service organising community lunches and as chair of Project Street Life.

There was a speech by Cllr. Hirons thanking Mrs Handley for her public service.

The Mayor presented the Buckingham Town Council Award for Excellence in Sport and the Arts to The Buckingham Pantomime in recognition of their successful 35-year history delivering the Buckingham Pantomime. The award was collected on behalf of the pantomime by Cllr. M. Try.

Cllr. Smith gave a short speech remarking on the influence of the Pantomime.

*At 1956hrs Cllr. Harvey formally opened the ASM.*

#### **1/19 Apologies**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr. Martin Tett, Leader of the Cabinet, BCC, Mrs Rachael Shimmin, Chief Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council, Mr. Andrew Grant, Chief Executive, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Mayor of Aylesbury, The Mayor of Leighton-Linslade, The Mayor of Towcester, The Mayor of Winslow, The Chair of South Northants District Council, The Chair of Gawcott-with-Lenborough Parish Council, Cllr. Charlie Clare, BCC, Mr. C. Fogden, Mrs. P. Steven, Friends of Buckingham: Mr. T. Merrick, Mr. Simon Wilkinson, Mr. K. Croxton, Mr N. Stafford.

#### **2/19 Election of the Town Mayor for 2019-2020: Cllr. Mark Cole JP.**

Proposed by Cllr. Stutchbury and seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue.

Cllr. Stutchbury gave a speech recognising the hard work of Buckingham Town Council as led by Cllr. Harvey's mayorship in 2018/19 [attached in **Appendix C**]. There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously – that Cllr. Cole be elected Town Mayor of Buckingham, to hold office until the next Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council.

*Cllr. Cole took the chair*

#### **3/19 Vote of thanks to outgoing Mayor Cllr. Jon Harvey**

Cllr. Gateley gave a speech recognising the hard work of Cllr. Harvey. The Mayor presented Cllr. Harvey with a commemorative badge and salver.

#### **4/19 The Robing of the Mayor and history of the Regalia**

Cllr. Cole was invested with the Chain of Office by the outgoing mayor Cllr. Jon Harvey. There was a speech by Cllr. Mordue regarding the history of the town and the regalia. The Mayor was robed by the Town Clerk.

**5/19 Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Mayoral address**

Cllr. Cole signed the statutory declaration of office and gave a short speech (attached in **Appendix D**)

**6/19 Election of the Deputy Mayor for 2019-2020: Cllr. Geraldine Collins.**

Proposed by Cllr. M. Cole JP, seconded by Cllr. O’ Donoghue  
Cllr. Hirons gave a short speech noting Cllr. Geraldine Collins’s experience and service.

There being no further nominations, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously – that Cllr. Geraldine Collins be elected Deputy Town Mayor of Buckingham, to hold office until the next Annual Statutory Meeting of the Council.

The Mayor presented Cllr. G. Collins with the Deputy Mayor’s badge of office.

**7/19 Appointment of the Mayoress, Mrs. Alexandra Cole, by the Town Mayor and presentation of the Mayoress’s Chain.**

Mrs Cole was presented with the Chain of Office by the Mayor, Cllr. Cole.

**8/19 Appointment of the Rev’d W. Pearson-Gee as the Mayor’s Chaplain**

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

**9/19 Town Mayor’s Announcements**

The Town Mayor announced that his charities this year would be, YC2 - The Young Carers and Medical Detection Dogs. [*Cllr. Cole’s speech can be found at Appendix C*]

**10/19 Blessing by the Mayor’s Chaplain**

The Mayor’s Chaplain, the Rev’d W. Pearson-Gee, offered a prayer for the community of Buckingham and those who serve the town as employees and councillors.

*Meeting closed at: 20:27hrs*

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

Town Mayor

## Appendix A

Cllr. Harvey's valedictory speech:

My term as Mayor of this wholesome town is now very nearly over. Over the last two years, I have represented our town as Mayor on over 330 occasions, many of course with my wonderful wife and consort, Julie. I made a decision, at the beginning of my term, to blog every event I attended. To date that blog has been uploaded nearly a quarter of a million times. I am very happy that I achieved my aim to be a most transparent and accessible Mayor.

But now here we are. It is time for me to hand over the Chain of Office. I deeply and sincerely wish Cllr Mark Cole and his consort Alix, all the very best for the times they have ahead of them. Mark was a brilliant Deputy Town Mayor and I am confident that they will both serve this town well. Thank you Mark and Alix for all that you have done over the last two years.

You will be glad to know that I am not going to be long reviewing the highlights of the last two years. You can after all, read the blog for all that information. But I will say this: Buckingham is a glorious town. It has been my and Julie's honour and joy to appreciate all the facets of this community.

Here in our town, our community, we have been:

Marvelled by the sporting talent we have watched  
Awestruck by the artistic flair we have seen  
Delighted in and impressed with the poetry and singing we have listened to  
Bowled over by the business and entrepreneurial spirit that glues our town together  
Reveling in our educational institutions - the schools, the library and the university - such fantastic temples to imagination, ambition and achievement  
Moved deeply by the local charitable efforts commitments - so many people do so much for so many others  
Uplifted by our spiritual leaders - who use their grace and care to cradle Buckingham in their hearts and hands  
Endlessly charmed by the much cared for beauty of our parks and town  
Amused and entertained by many people and groups - comedy, music, drama  
And we have been humbled by the welcome and the warmth of our citizens wherever we went.

Our highlights are all around us. And will always be so.

Just before I finish this speech and give some cheques to the three charities I have been raising money for, I just want to say a few thanks.

I want to thank:

Russell - our loud and wondrous Town Crier  
Barbara - our fine and dextrous Mace Bearer  
Paul - our new Town Clerk who is doing such a brilliant job at the helm of our ship  
Chris Wayman - our former Town Clerk who was such a help in my first year  
All the Town Council staff - but especially Katharine (our oracle), Eloise-Mary (currently on maternity leave) and Louise - who have all helped Julie and myself to manage this role. Any deviations from protocol are entirely my fault!

My fellow town councillors who have offered wise counsel and helped me stay grounded  
And really so many others in the town who, in ways that they will never know, have made  
these last two years such a joy.

And of course, Julie my wife, my Mayoress, my consort, my confidante, my love. I could  
write another whole speech about how much you have helped me - in more ways than you  
can imagine!

I will end here.

Thank you my fellow councillors, and thank you Buckingham for allowing me the opportunity  
to be your Mayor for these two fabulous years!

## Appendix B

Cllr. Harvey's speech presenting Mr Lionel Weston as a Friend of Buckingham.  
Buckingham Town Council has decided to bestow the title of 'Friend of Buckingham' on Mr Lionel Weston for his contribution to the life of our community. It is my great honour, joy and privilege to say a few words about why Lionel is such a worthy recipient of this title.

Decades ago, Lionel and his good wife Maggie, moved to Buckingham. In 1984, Lionel had the idea of mounting a community pantomime in the then new Community Centre in which we are all currently sitting. And so in January 1985, Lionel wrote and directed the first ever pantomime, which has gone from strength to strength ever since.

As a former England international rugby player (they could probably have used his talents this year) Lionel was employed to teach rugby to Stowe School students. And when he was not doing this he was often to be found dreaming up another idea for a dramatic production. He is our local impresario. Lionel's focus has always been on what more he can do to bring our Buckingham communities together. Notably a few years ago, he organised a moving (in both senses of the word) performance of the Nativity around the town. A while back he took on the task of producing the musical Annie for and with the community.

Lionel seems to know everyone. He is described with great affection by many. As one person said to me "he is a genuinely very nice guy". And as a consequence, when he comes up with an idea, others just want to help and support him make it happen. This is the mark of a great leader.

Lionel creates visions and an ability to recruit people to help make those visions come true that is second to none. As someone else said "Lionel doesn't see barriers, only hurdles to clear". He is fiercely tenacious and profoundly inclusive with a massive and infectious charm. And of course he is very well supported by Maggie and their three children. Some people describe Maggie as tolerant or even long suffering. I of course would not comment.

And then of course, there is last year when I got to know Lionel myself.

Put simply, Lionel, like the Tapestry that he organised, wove together a wide range of strands into what became our town's own Festival of Remembrance. With the large open air show on Remembrance Sunday, the Silent Soldiers, the Tea Party for the families of those who fought, the Tapestry and other events, Lionel helped make sure that all of us will forever remember the 100th anniversary of the Armistice with great understanding and a deep passion. Of course, many many people were part of these events but it was Lionel's leadership, focus and verve that made them all happen.

Thank you Lionel. Truly, thank you.

Over many years, you have shown yourself to be one of our town's greatest citizens. It is my huge pleasure to offer you this recognition on behalf of the Town Council.

I give you Lionel Weston, a Friend of Buckingham!

Thank you, again.

## Appendix C

### Cllr. Robin Stuchbury's speech proposing Councillor Mark Cole JP as Mayor of Buckingham

Firstly, it's worth remembering that Buckingham Mayor is this historically office predating both the district and county council. In proposing Mark for Mayor of Buckingham it is my privilege Mark has been a magistrate and knows all about civic responsibility as does his wife Alix who supported Mark throughout that time and I know she will support Mark as the Mayor Buckingham, as did Julie support councillor Jon Harvey in fulfilling his role to the best of his abilities and serve Buckingham well.

I've known Mark for great number of years fortunately I didn't meet him as a magistrate but as a councillor representing Thornborough. Mark has showed himself to be an admirable councillor representing Buckingham as Chair of our Planning Committee at District Council at Planning hearings. He has been nothing less than brilliant, It's worth remembering that Buckingham has big challenges ahead this year forming a new local plan on finding its place alongside the new Buckinghamshire Unitary council. As ADVC and the County Council will be abolished its worth noting Buckingham Town Council will continue while both the District and County will disappear.

I look forward to supporting Mark in his role as Mayor of Buckingham Town Council chooses their Mayor and the role was not given by patronage but by ability and approval of their peers. I know that all councillors present support Cllr. Cole in his role - which he will do a brilliant job at. I'm sure he is a tremendous man and has the ability to listen to others by putting his point of view and I wish him all the best in the coming year.

## Appendix D

### Cllr. Cole's inaugural speech Buckingham Town Mayor for 2019/20:

I might be considered a foreigner, having been born in Tring, but I have lived most of my life in Buckinghamshire; I grew up in Soulbury, watching the birth pangs of Milton Keynes, and I was in the booing mob outside the White Hart on the night in 1964 that Robert Maxwell became – briefly – Buckingham's MP

Buckingham – founded in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century by the Anglo-Saxon Bucca, although the Romans passed through long before - is known as the *Loyal and Ancient Borough*, its allegiance to the Crown rewarded with two royal charters with its markets and fairs. Our second charter was given by King Charles II in 1684, creating the first Mayor, who replaced a long line of bailiffs stretching back to Norman times. I am the 254<sup>th</sup> Mayor since then, a humbling thought.

Over this next year my mission is to continue the good work which my predecessor Jon Harvey has done in rebuilding the relationship with the University of Buckingham, promoting Town & Gown to the benefit of everyone; to make Buckingham a better place in which to live, work and visit; and to work closely with

our new unitary authority, Buckinghamshire Council, which replaces the county and four district councils next April.

Buckingham was one of the first towns in Britain to have a neighbourhood development plan, which gives residents the say in where and what developments they want in the town, and as we rapidly approach 15,000 residents, we are already working on Version 2 to keep pace with the momentous changes all around us – the reopening of the OxCam railway, the East-West Expressway, and the housing increases which go with them.

We may have lost our county town status to Aylesbury in 1725, and our magistrates' court in 2002 - just before I was appointed a Justice of the Peace! - but the fact that we have six of the UK's eight top supermarkets, and that MacDonaldis is coming, shows that Buckingham is open for business.

In closing, may I thank Jon Harvey for his support during my two years as his Deputy Mayor; my fellow councillors, particularly those on the Planning Committee; our indefatigable council staff, headed by Town Clerk Paul Hodson; and my wife Alix, who has been with me every step of the way for the past 31 years.