

CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held on 9 November 2022 at 7pm

PRESENT:

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor S Dobson)

Councillors R H Ambor, L Ashley, K Bentley, M W Bracken, N B Chambers, A E Davidson, C K Davidson, J A Deakin, N A Dudley, J A Frasca, I D Fuller, R J Gisby, M C Goldman, S M Goldman, I S Grundy, N Gulliver, P V Hughes, R J Hyland, D Jones, G B R Knight, R J Lee, M J Mackrory, L A Mascot, R Massey, R J Moore, G H J Pooley, J A Potter, R J Poulter, J M Raven, I C Roberts, S J Robinson, T E Roper, E J Sampson, S J Scott, C M Shaw, M Sismey, A B Sosin, J E Sosin, M Steel, A Thorpe-Apps, C R Tron, N M Walsh, R T Whitehead, T N Willis, I Wright and S Young

1. Opening the Meeting

The Council held a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Deputy Mayor reflected upon Her Majesty's visits to Chelmsford, which were remembered with great affection, the last being in 2014. The Deputy Mayor also reflected on Her Majesty's greatest legacy to Chelmsford in 2012, when Chelmsford was awarded City status as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It was noted that the Council shared in the sentiments of loss and sorrow at the passing of such a loyal and dedicated servant to the country.

The Council also held a minute's silence in for Councillor John Galley, the worshipful Mayor of Chelmsford. The Deputy Mayor informed the Council that tributes in his memory would be heard later on in the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ayres, D Clark, Daden, Lager, Lardge and Rajesh.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded to declare at the appropriate time any personal and prejudicial interests in the business on the meeting's agenda. None were declared.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Mayor's Announcements

The Deputy Mayor informed the Council that they would make their announcements under agenda item 11.

6. Tribute to Councillor John Galley, Mayor of Chelmsford

Members of the Council paid tribute to their colleague and friend, Councillor John Galley, the worshipful Mayor of Chelmsford.

Councillor Potter passed on her group's condolences to Councillor Galley's family and friends. Councillor Potter reflected on working with Councillor Galley for over twenty years and noted that he had been a great friend to herself and Conservative colleagues. The Council heard that he was first elected to the Council in 2000 at a by election to the Boreham ward, after retiring from Coutts bank in London. Councillor Potter told the Council how Councillor Galley formed a great team with Councillor Whitehead as the Deputy Leader and Leader of the Council. The Council heard that in his role as Cabinet Member for Finance, he had looked after the finances of the Council with great expertise. Councillor Potter noted that he had been due to retire in 2023 and it had been a great privilege for him to serve as Mayor in his final year in the Council. The Council heard how it had been an honour for Councillor Galley to read the formal proclamation of the King and that the Conservative group would miss him as both a friend and a colleague.

Councillor Gulliver left the meeting at 7.12pm.

Councillor Robinson echoed the tribute from Councillor Potter on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group and passed on their condolences to Councillor Galley's family and friends. Councillor Robinson informed the Council that when he became the Leader of the Opposition in 2015, he began to get to know Councillor Galley well. He informed the Council that he knew Councillor Galley had the best interests of the residents at the forefront of his mind and that he had a great sense of humour. Councillor Robinson reflected on the time he had spent with Councillor Galley recently, since he had become the Mayor and that it had been an honour to attend events such as the proclamation with him. The Council heard that the two funeral services had also included tributes showing the important and vast contribution that Councillor Galley had made to both Boreham and Chelmsford.

Councillor Roberts informed the Council of his group's great sadness at learning that Councillor Galley had passed away and that he had been a trusted mentor and friend. The Council heard that Councillor Galley had been on the Council since 2000 and had then gone on to spend many years as the Cabinet Member for Finance. Councillor Roberts noted how important it had been to Councillor Galley to serve as Mayor and that he was pleased he had managed to do so. Councillor Roberts thanked Councillor Galley for his dedicated public service and noted that he would be missed by all groups on the Council. Councillor Roberts also said his thoughts were with Councillor Galley's family and friends.

Councillor Deakin also paid tribute to Councillor Galley and reflected upon the debates he had with his counterpart Councillor Smith Hughes on the Council's finances. Councillor Deakin also highlighted their trip to Backnang with Councillors Galley and Mountain and how Councillor Galley made the trip both enjoyable and memorable. Councillor Deakin noted that he had taken on the role as Mayor after her term and that it was very sad the year had been cut short. Councillor Deakin informed the Council that Councillor Galley had relished every minute of being the Mayor, including important events such as the proclamation along with meeting the residents of Chelmsford. Councillor Deakin said her thoughts and prayers were with his family and that he would be missed.

7. Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Election of Mayor

Councillor Whitehead noted that Mayor making was normally a happy event, but this was one of mixed emotions due to the sad passing of Councillor Galley. It was noted that over the past few years Mayor making had been conducted both remotely and in person but that in May 2022, his friend and colleague, Councillor Galley had been elected as Mayor of Chelmsford, with Councillor Dobson as his deputy. Councillor Whitehead reflected on the moving memorial services held for Councillor Galley, which had been attended by huge numbers of people and that he would be greatly missed.

In nominating Councillor Dobson, it was noted that she had held various roles within the local community, including being the Parish Clerk at Sandon Parish Council for 30 years. Councillor Whitehead noted the important work she had conducted including work for the Essex Bridleways association and chairing Danbury's neighbourhood planning steering group. Councillor Whitehead nominated Councillor Dobson and thanked her for agreeing to be promoted and that she would be supported by her consort, her husband Keith.

The nomination was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

RESOLVED that Councillor Sue Dobson, be elected Mayor of the City of Chelmsford for the remainder of the Mayoral year.

Appointment of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor nominated Councillor Bob Massey to be her deputy, this was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

RESOLVED that Councillor Bob Massey, be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Chelmsford for the remainder of the Mayoral year.

8. Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Dobson made the declaration of acceptance of office as Mayor and took the chair.

Councillor Massey then made the declaration of acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor.

9. Mayor's Consort and Deputy Mayoress

The Mayor introduced to the Council her consort for her year in office, her husband Keith. The Deputy Mayor introduced his Deputy Mayoress, his wife Ali.

The Mayor invested her consort with his badge of office.

The Deputy Mayor invested his Deputy Mayoress with her badge of office.

10. Address by Mayor

The Mayor thanked the Council for their confidence in nominating her as Mayor and stated that she was deeply honoured to carry on Councillor Galley's year. The Mayor informed the Council that it had been an honour to work with Councillor Galley as his deputy. The Mayor told the Council he had an amazing sense of humour, but knew when to be dignified, especially when reading a word perfect proclamation for the new King. The Mayor informed the Council she would work to carry on his ethos with dignity and humour as he would of wanted and thanked Councillor Massey for agreeing to be her deputy.

11. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that her Chaplain for the remainder of the year would be Reverend Terry Brown and that her chosen charities would be Farleigh Hospice and Parkinson's.

The meeting closed at 7.44pm

Mayor