

Stone Town Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held virtually on Tuesday 4 May 2021

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and Government Guidelines on public gatherings, the meeting was held virtually on Zoom. Members of the public were invited to observe the meeting streamed live on YouTube.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J. Hood in the Chair for Minute Number C22/001.
Councillor J. Powell in the Chair thereafter and
Councillors: A. Best, Mrs A. Burgess, J. Davies, Mrs L. Davies, Mrs K. Dawson,
I. Fordham, T. Kelt, R. Kenney, P. Leason, C. Thornicroft and R. Townsend

ABSENT: Councillors: K. Argyle, M. Green, M. Hatton and J. Hickling

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Town Council that in the absence of the Town Mayor, Councillor Mark Green, who had recently undertaken surgery, she had invited Mayoress, Mrs Kristan Green, to attend the meeting as her guest.

Before the meeting began Reverend Prebendary Cardinal led prayers

Councillor Mrs Hood thanked Reverend Prebendary Cardinal for leading prayers over the previous mayoral year.

C22/001 To appoint the Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor Mrs Hood invited nominations for Town Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Kenney nominated Councillor Jonathan Powell.

Councillor Best seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations and all members agreed.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Jonathan Powell as Stone Town Mayor for the year 2021-22.

Councillor Mrs Hood requested the opportunity to say a few words about the newly appointed Mayor. She advised the Town Council that Jonathan had been born in Nairobi, Kenya, where his father had served in the British Army. His family later moved to Germany and then on to England to his father's home town of Stafford. Jonathan followed in his father's footsteps and spent a time in the Army before going to Wolverhampton University to pursue a career in Hospitality. He later moved into the Events Industry and relocated to Stone in 1999. He currently works at the JCB headquarters in Staffordshire.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Council that Jonathan had always been an active member of Stone community and enjoyed coaching at Stone Rugby Club for seven years, working with many age groups.

She said that both Jonathan and Mrs Powell were proud to be given the opportunity to take on the positions of Mayor and Mayoress of Stone. Jonathan's focus was very much on Stone town's community environment its inclusivity and firmly believed that treating people as the strongest resource of our community was essential.

There was a short adjournment in the meeting while Councillor Powell donned the Mayor's Chain of Office and took the chair.

The Town Clerk invited Councillor Powell to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was signed and witnessed on camera.

Councillor Powell announced that his wife, Mrs Nancy Powell, would be his Mayoress. Mrs Powell received her Chain of Office away from the camera.

Councillor Powell stated that Reverend Prebendary Ian Cardinal, Rector of St Michael and St Wulfad and Aston and St Saviour Churches, had agreed to be Mayor's Chaplain for the year.

Councillor Powell addressed the Town Council. He expressed that he had been honoured to be elected Councillor for Walton North ward in 2019 and was now overwhelmed to be chosen as the next Mayor of Stone. He said that Stone had a great community, a vibrant energy and a wonderful friendly atmosphere. He hoped he could build on this during his term as Mayor when hopefully the previous months of uncertainty will be coming to an end.

Councillor Powell announced his chosen charities to be Stone Community Hub and Chuckle Productions who both do invaluable work in the local community.

C22/002 To appoint the Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor Powell invited nominations for Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Hood proposed Councillor Mrs Kerry Dawson as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year. This was seconded by Councillor R. Kenney. No further nominations were received and all members agreed.

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor Mrs Kerry Dawson to Deputy Town Mayor for the year 2021-22.

Councillor Mrs Dawson was invited to don her badge of office and while doing this Councillor Mrs Hood offered some words about the newly appointed Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Hood said that she had known Kerry's family since the year 2000 and had watched her grow into the most charming, kind, considerate and hard working young woman. Kerry is married to Lee and they have three young children. Kerry is very busy with one of her roles being Bandmaster to Stone Scout and Guide Band.

Councillor Mrs Hood stated that Councillor Mrs Dawson and her Consort will make marvellous ambassadors for Stone and wished them both a fabulous year ahead.

The Town Clerk invited Councillor Mrs Dawson to sign the Declaration of Office which was witnessed on camera.

Councillor Mrs Dawson thanked the Town Council for appointing her to the position of Deputy Mayor and announced that her mother, Mrs Diane Edwards, would be her Consort. Mrs Edwards accepted the Deputy Mayor's Consort badge of Office, away from the camera.

C22/003 To thank and record the Town Council's appreciation of the services of the retiring Mayoral team

Councillor Mrs Hood expressed her appreciation of the services of the retiring Mayor. She said it was an honour to speak about her friend and fellow Town Councillor, Mark Green. Mark had been Town Mayor for the last two years, supported by his best friend, wife and Mayoress, Kristen.

Councillor Mrs Hood informed the Council that they were an inseparable team and their first year in office had been hectic. They had accepted/attended 99% of their invitations and held the record for attending every event during the Stone Festival. They went on stage to switch on the Christmas Lights and last Christmas began the remote switch on in the film that was viewed by people all over the world. At the Stone by the Sea event the Mayor and Mayoress had rolled up their trousers and joined the children in the sand pit. On St George's Day they led the knights in a procession down the High Street. The Mayor and Mayoress had represented the town at HMS Collingwood and also in Southsea at the St Vincent Reunion where Stone has a very strong place in the hearts of those who served as members of the Ships Company on HMS St Vincent.

Councillor Mrs Hood advised the Town Council that one of Mark's proudest moments during his term of office had been laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday as representative of the town. She said there was no doubt that Councillor Mark Green and his Mayoress, Kristan Green, had upheld the tradition of the Chain with respect, integrity and hard work. On behalf of the town, its residents and the Council, she extended to both of them her sincerest thanks.

On behalf of the Town Council, Councillor Kenney expressed his thanks and appreciation of the services of the retiring Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Jill Hood.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Powell, thanked the retiring Mayor, Mayoress and Deputy Mayor sincerely for their hard work and dedicated services to the Stone community. He said they were wonderful people who would be a very hard act for him to follow.

C22/004 Apologies for Absence

Councillors: K. Argyle, M. Green and J. Hickling

C22/005 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations Received

None

C22/006 Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) That the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on the 13 April 2021 (Minute Numbers C20/174 – C20/180), be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C22/007 Committee Minutes

RESOLVED:

- a) The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the 13 April 2021 (Minute Numbers GP20/366 – GP20/383), were noted.
- b) The minutes of the Planning Consultative Committee Meeting held on the 13 April 2021 (Minute Numbers P20/151 – P20/156), were noted.

C22/008 Committee Terms of Reference

The Council considered the terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Consultative Committees.

RESOLVED: The terms of reference for the Council's General Purposes and Planning Consultative Committees were approved without amendment.

C22/009 To determine membership and elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of General Purposes Committee and Planning Committee for 2021-22

It was proposed that all members be appointed to both the General Purposes Committee and Planning Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED: That all Members be appointed to the General Purposes Committee and Planning Consultative Committee.

Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor R. Kenney be appointed as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2021-22.

Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee:

RESOLVED: That Councillor I. Fordham be appointed as Vice Chairman of the General Purposes Committee for the year 2021-22

Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor T. Kelt as Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2021-22.

Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee:

RESOLVED: To appoint Councillor J. Davies as Vice Chairman of the Planning Consultative Committee for the year 2021-22.

C22/010 To defer other business under Standing Order 2, paragraph (j) to an appropriate meeting of the General Purposes Committee

RESOLVED: That all other business under this Standing Order be deferred to the General Purposes Committee

TOWN MAYOR