

**CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHARNWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**HELD IN**  
**THE VICTORIA ROOM, TOWN HALL, LOUGHBOROUGH**  
**ON 21ST MAY 2018**

**PRESENT**

The Mayor (Councillor P. Ranson)  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor C. Harris)

Councillor T. Barkley	Councillor R. Jukes
Councillor B. Bebbington	Councillor M. Lowe
Councillor I. Bentley	Councillor P. Mercer
Councillor J. Bokor	Councillor J. Miah
Councillor J. Bradshaw	Councillor J. Morgan
Councillor M. Brookes	Councillor P. Murphy
Councillor R. Campsall	Councillor K. Pacey
Councillor J. Capleton	Councillor A. Paling
Councillor B. Cooper	Councillor G. Parsons
Councillor M. Draycott	Councillor T. Parton
Councillor S. Forrest	Councillor J. Poland
Councillor H. Fryer	Councillor C. Radford
Councillor D. Gaskell	Councillor R. Rollings
Councillor S. Gerrard	Councillor J. Savage
Councillor D. Grimley	Councillor B. Seaton
Councillor H. Hachem	Councillor R. Shepherd
Councillor L. Hadji-Nikolaou	Councillor M. Smidowicz
Councillor C. Hamilton	Councillor D. Snartt
Councillor S. Hampson	Councillor J. Sutherland
Councillor L. Harper-Davies	Councillor J. Tassell
Councillor K. Harris	Councillor D. Taylor
Councillor R. Huddleston	Councillor J. Tillotson
Councillor R. Jones	Councillor E. Vardy

Honorary Aldermen R. Shields and J. Tormey  
Honorary Freeman M. Jones

1. OPENING THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

The Mayor introduced her Chaplain, Reverend David Owen. Reverend Owen stated that it had been a privilege to serve as the Mayor's Chaplain and then opened the meeting with a prayer.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hayes, Page and Smith, and from Honorary Aldermen Bush and Stott.

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR

In accordance with Council Procedure 9.1 of the Council's Constitution, Council considered electing a Mayor for the 2018/19 Council year.

It was proposed by Councillor Shepherd and seconded by Councillor Forrest that Councillor Christine Harris be elected Mayor of the Borough of Charnwood for the 2018/19 Council year and until her successor becomes entitled to act as Mayor.

Councillor Shepherd stated that he was very pleased to propose his former teaching colleague, Councillor Christine Harris, as Mayor. Although they had different political viewpoints they had worked well together and understood the importance of seeing the person behind the label. He stated that Councillor Harris had lived close to the centre of Loughborough for most of her life. She had attended St Mary's school and Our Lady's Covent and her children and grandchildren had also been educated locally. After leaving school she had worked for Barclays Bank before taking a teaching degree at Loughborough University. After teaching at local schools she had taught at Loughborough College, setting up and managing English for Speakers of Other Languages classes at a number of centres.

Councillor Shepherd stated that it had been a pleasure to work together with Councillor Harris both as a teacher and as a councillor and he wished her all the very best for a great year as Mayor.

Councillor Forrest in seconding the motion stated that she had first got to know Councillor Harris in 1999 when she had first become a councillor. Councillor Forrest stated that for 4 of the 23 years that Councillor Harris had been a Borough Councillor they had been co-councillors for the Loughborough Storer ward.

Councillor Forrest stated that, in her time as a councillor, Councillor Harris had served on a number of committees and panels. Her first interest had been planning and she had served with distinction as Chair and Vice-chair of the Council's planning committees. Councillor Harris had a great interest in wildlife, open spaces and woodlands. This had led her to choose the Woodland Trust as one of her charities for the year.

Councillor Harris was also a family person and the grandmother of triplets. She believed that Councillor Harris would be ably assisted by her Mayoress, who was her cousin, and stated that all councillors sent their very best wishes to Councillor Harris and Ms Cynthia Bradley-Stevenson for what would be an exciting and enjoyable year.

Following the above speeches, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and it was

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor Christine Harris be elected Mayor of the Borough of Charnwood for the 2018/19 Council year and until her successor becomes entitled to act as Mayor.

Following this, Councillor C. Harris signed her declaration of acceptance of office and thanked Councillor Shepherd and Councillor Forrest for their kind words. She stated that she was delighted to accept the great honour of being Mayor and wanted to repay the faith that councillors had shown in her. She stated that it would be a pleasure to represent and promote the Borough and the Council in the wider community.

Following a short adjournment, Councillor C. Harris (Mayor for 2018/19) officiated for the remainder of the meeting.

#### 4. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Following the election of a new Mayor, Council considered a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Ranson.

It was proposed by Councillor Forrest and seconded by Councillor Fryer that this Council tenders to Councillor Pauline Ranson its thanks for the dedicated service she has provided as Mayor of the Borough of Charnwood and for the way in which she has presided over the Council's business during the past Council year. The Council records its gratitude for the manner in which she has maintained the position of the Mayoralty and the commitment she has shown to meeting so many people in the Borough throughout the year. The Council also extends its thanks to Mr Trevor Ranson for his service as Consort and for the help and support he has provided to the Mayor and for the considerate and committed way in which he has undertaken his role. The Council assures both Councillor and Mr Ranson that they have the best wishes of all its members for their future health and wellbeing.

Councillor Forrest stated that it was an honour to propose the vote of thanks and to extend that to Mr Trevor Ranson. She stated that Councillor Ranson had been an outstanding Mayor who had not been daunted by fracturing her shoulder at one of her first engagements. She had also successfully presided over Council meetings, at which she had been firm but fair.

Councillor Forrest described meeting the organiser of an event that Councillor Ranson had attended as Mayor. The organiser had said that the Mayor was very cheerful, wasn't she. Councillor Forrest stated that that was exactly what was wanted from a Mayor: someone who was delighted to be invited, pleased to attend events and interested in everyone and everything that took place.

Councillor Forrest concluded by saying that the Council could not have asked more from Councillor Ranson, and that she deserved the Council's heartfelt thanks for the wonderful way in which she had served the Borough over the past year.

Councillor Fryer in seconding the motion stated that a year ago she had seconded the proposal that Councillor Ranson became the Mayor. She had believed then that Councillor Ranson would be a unique Mayor, and be very hard working and respected, and that was how it had turned out.

Despite a nasty fall at the start of her Mayoral year, Councillor Ranson, with support from her Consort, had attended many events across the whole of Leicestershire and beyond. Those had included a garden party at Buckingham Palace and celebrating peoples' hundredth birthdays. Attending events involved more than just being there and saying a few words and required background reading and research.

Councillor Fryer also stated that Councillor Ranson had raised a great deal of money for her two charities, Myaware and the Wellbeing Café, and had helped to raise the profile of both of them. During her Mayoral year Councillor Ranson had also remained a hard working ward councillor.

Councillor and Mr Ranson were now going to enjoy a well-deserved holiday and have more time for their family and friends, especially their new grandson. Councillor Fryer stated that she too was looking forward to spending more time with them.

Councillor Fryer concluded by saying that Councillor Ranson would be a very well-remembered and respected Mayor and had been a unique one.

Following the above speeches, the Mayor put the motion to the vote and it was

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that this Council tenders to Councillor Pauline Ranson its thanks for the dedicated service she has provided as Mayor of the Borough of Charnwood and for the way in which she has presided over the Council's business during the past Council year. The Council records its gratitude for the manner in which she has maintained the position of the Mayoralty and the commitment she has shown to meeting so many people in the Borough throughout the year. The Council also extends its thanks to Mr Trevor Ranson for his service as Consort and for the help and support he has provided to the Mayor and for the considerate and committed way in which he has undertaken his role. The Council assures both Councillor and Mr Ranson that they have the best wishes of all its members for their future health and wellbeing.

Following this, Councillor Ranson responded by thanking Councillor Forrest and Councillor Fryer for their kind words. She also thanked her husband for all his support, which had included checking the spelling and formatting of her speeches.

It had been 12 months since she had listened to Councillor Gaskell make his speech as retiring Mayor. Yet it seemed like only a few weeks ago and she did not know where the time had gone.

She stated that it had been a wonderful year during which she had met a large number of people who helped make Charnwood a great place to live in. It had been rewarding to see how much meeting the Mayor had meant to people and pleasing that she had received a warm welcome whenever she was representing the Borough. Her year had got off to a lively start with the first week beginning with an early morning start and ending with a trip to Leicester Royal Infirmary Accident and Emergency after a fall.

She had met the Duke of Kent, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Seb Coe on his appointment as Chancellor of Loughborough University and centenarians. She had also attended an inspiring talk by Paralympic gold medalist Stef Reid. She had attended graduation ceremonies for Loughborough University and Loughborough College and lots of events run by students for the benefit of the local community. She stated that she hoped the students would be joining voluntary groups in the future.

Councillor Ranson thanked all those who had hosted events she had attended, those who had made donations to the Mayor's charity, which had raised over £12,500, her Chaplain for his wise words, the Mayoral team, especially Carol Hardy and Mike Hollingworth, and fellow Councillors for giving her the honour of being Mayor. Councillor Ranson concluded by offering her best wishes to the new Mayor and Mayoress for an enjoyable year to come.

The Mayor stated that Councillor Ranson had always shown her enthusiasm and thanked Councillor and Mr Ranson for the excellent job they had done for the Borough.

## 5. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

In accordance with Council Procedure 9.1 of the Council's Constitution, Council considered electing a Deputy Mayor for the 2018/19 Council year.

It was proposed by the Mayor (Councillor C. Harris) and seconded by Councillor Morgan and

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that Councillor Seaton be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Charnwood for the 2018/19 Council year.

Following this, Councillor Seaton signed her declaration of acceptance of office and took up her seat next to the Mayor.

## 6. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No disclosures of personal and pecuniary interests were made.

## 7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30th April 2018 were confirmed and signed.

## 8. POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES FOR 2018/19

A report of the Chief Executive, in respect of the arrangements for considering political balance and making appointments to committees for 2018/19, was submitted (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

A supplementary report of the Chief Executive was also submitted, presenting the nominations received from political groups and ungrouped councillors in order to make appointments to committees, including appointment of Chairs and Vice-chairs (where Council makes these appointments), for the 2018/19 Council year (also filed with these minutes).

It was proposed by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Miah and

### **RESOLVED**

1. that the political balance arrangements for the 2018/19 Council year, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report of the Chief Executive, be approved in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990;
2. that appointments be made to the Council's committees, including to the positions of Chair and Vice-chair, for the 2018/19 Council year as follows:

(i) Appeals and Reviews Committee

Name	Group
Councillor Capleton (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Gaskell (Vice-chair)	Conservative
Councillor Cooper	Conservative
Councillor Hachem	Conservative
Councillor Miah	Labour

(ii) Audit Committee

Name	Group
Councillor Grimley	Conservative
Councillor Hadji-Nikalaou	Conservative
Councillor Parsons	Conservative
Councillor Parton	Conservative
Councillor Smith	Conservative
Councillor Huddleston	Labour

(iii) Member Conduct Committee

Name	Group
Councillor Gaskell (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Tassell (Vice-chair)	Conservative
Councillor Bentley	Conservative
Councillor Hadji-Nikalaou	Conservative
Councillor Murphy	Conservative
Councillor Rollings	Conservative
Councillor Draycott	Labour

(iv) Overview Scrutiny Group

Name	Group
Councillor Capleton (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Ranson (Vice-chair)	Conservative
Councillor Brookes	Conservative
Councillor Jones	Conservative
Councillor Paling	Conservative
Councillor Bradshaw	Labour
Councillor Sutherland	Other

(v) Personnel Committee

Name	Group
Councillor Barkley (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Draycott (Vice-chair)	Labour
Councillor Hampson	Conservative
Councillor Morgan	Conservative
Councillor Poland	Conservative
Councillor Shepherd	Conservative
Councillor Snartt	Conservative

(vi) Plans Committee

Name	Group
Councillor Page (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Forrest (Vice-chair)	Labour
Councillor Bebbington	Conservative
Councillor Bentley	Conservative
Councillor Fryer	Conservative
Councillor Gaskell	Conservative
Councillor Grimley	Conservative
Councillor Lowe	Conservative
Councillor Seaton	Conservative
Councillor Snartt	Conservative
Councillor Tassell	Conservative
Councillor Tillotson	Labour
Councillor Campsall	Other

(vii) Scrutiny Management Board

Name	Group	Role
Councillor Miah (Chair)	Labour	Commissioner
Councillor Parsons (Vice-chair)	Conservative	Commissioner
Councillor Capleton	Conservative	Commissioner
Councillor Fryer	Conservative	Commissioner
Councillor Seaton	Conservative	Commissioner
Councillor Bebbington	Conservative	Assistant Commissioner
Councillor Ranson	Conservative	Assistant Commissioner
Councillor K. Harris	Labour	Assistant Commissioner

(viii) Licensing Committee

Name	Group
Councillor Pacey (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Lowe (Vice-chair)	Conservative
Councillor Tillotson (Vice-chair)	Labour
Councillor Bentley	Conservative
Councillor Brookes	Conservative
Councillor Capleton	Conservative
Councillor Gaskell	Conservative
Councillor Murphy	Conservative
Councillor Parton	Conservative
Councillor Radford	Conservative
Councillor Savage	Conservative
Councillor Smith	Conservative
Vacancy	Conservative
Councillor Hamilton	Labour
Councillor Sutherland	Other

(ix) Performance Scrutiny Panel

Name	Group
Councillor Fryer (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor Bebbington (Vice-chair)	Conservative
Councillor Gerrard	Conservative
Councillor Jones	Conservative
Councillor Paling	Conservative
Councillor Forrest	Labour
Councillor Huddleston	Labour
Councillor Campsall	Other



(x) Policy Scrutiny Group

Name	Group
Councillor Seaton (Chair)	Conservative
Councillor K. Harris (Vice-chair)	Labour
Councillor Brookes	Conservative
Councillor Gerrard	Conservative
Councillor Murphy	Conservative
Councillor Paling	Conservative
Councillor Parton	Conservative
Councillor Shepherd	Conservative
Councillor Smith	Conservative
Councillor Hamilton	Labour

(xi) that in respect of the Loughborough Area Committee the composition of the Committee be noted;

3. that Councillor Taylor be nominated as Charnwood Borough Council's representative on the Police and Crime Panel for the 2018/19 Council year and that Councillor Morgan be nominated as a substitute on the Police and Crime Panel for the 2018/19 Council year;
4. that Councillors Draycott, Jukes and Parton be appointed to the Housing Management Advisory Board on the basis of political balance (2 Conservative and 1 Labour).

Reasons

1. To ensure that the composition of the Council's committees reflects the political balance of the Council.
  2. To reflect the wishes of political groups and make allocations to non-grouped councillors in making appointments to applicable committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, to confirm appointments to other committees and to provide information regarding the composition of the Loughborough Area Committee.
  3. To ensure that the Borough Council is represented on the Panel.
  4. To make appointments to the Board for 2018/19.
9. MEMBERSHIP OF THE CABINET AND DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS 2018/19

A report of the Chief Executive, to inform Council of Cabinet membership and responsibilities for 2018/19, together with details of the delegation of

Executive functions, was submitted (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Miah provided details of the Labour Group's shadow lead member and executive position appointments as follows:

#### Shadow Lead Member Appointments

Councillor Miah	Leader and Shadow for Council Leadership and Financial Affairs
Councillor K. Harris	Deputy Leader Shadow Outdoor Space, Parks and Clean Environment
Councillor Draycott	Shadow for Housing, Benefits and Outsourced Services
Councillor Forrest	Shadow Planning
Councillor Hamilton	Shadow Leisure, Markets and Culture
Councillor Tillotson	Shadow for Statutory Services and Neighbourhood Services

#### Executive Positions

Councillor Forrest	Chair
Councillor Miah	Leader
Councillor K. Harris	Deputy Leader
Councillor Tillotson	Secretary
Councillor Draycott	Whip
Councillor Huddleston	Treasurer

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcement.

"I can announce that the charity appeal for my Mayoral year will contribute towards two charities:

- Sense – which supports people who are deafblind or who have other complex communication needs and helps them to be understood, connected and valued.
- The Woodland Trust – which protects and campaigns on behalf of the country's woods, plants trees and restores ancient woodland."

The Chief Executive made no announcements.

#### Note

These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next ordinary meeting of Council, which is scheduled for Monday, 25th June 2018.