

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE ON WEDNESDAY 25 MAY 2011 AT 6.00PM**

**PRESENT:**

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of  
Newcastle upon Tyne (Councillor Brenda Hindmarsh)

Councillors: Ahad, Ali, Allison, Andras, Bartlett, Lord Beecham, Bell, Bird, Boyle, Breakey, Burke, Carter, Cook, Cott, Denholm, Donnelly, Down, Faulkner, Franks, Forbes, Gallagher, K Graham, Hardman, Higgins, Huddart, Hunter, Johnson, Kane, Keating, Kemp, Kingsland, Lambert, Langfield, Laverick, Leggott, Lower, Lawson, McCarty, McStravick, Murison, Myers, O'Brien, Pagan, S Pattison, Pearson, Phillipson, Preston, Psallidas, Rahman, Renton, Risk, Schofield, Shepherd, D Slesenger, J Slesenger, Stephenson, Stokel-Walker, Stone, Tinnion, Todd, White, D Wood, M Wood, Woodward and Wright

**1 APPOINTMENT OF LORD MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12**

The Lord Mayor confirmed that only one nomination had been received for the office of Lord Mayor for 2011/12.

Councillor Forbes moved, seconded by Councillor Kingsland, that Councillor Geoff O'Brien be elected Lord Mayor of the City for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Geoff O'Brien be appointed Lord Mayor of the City for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor O'Brien then made and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Lord Mayor and the Oath of Allegiance to the Crown. Councillor Hindmarsh thereupon vacated the Chair which was taken by the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor thanked the Council for his election, welcomed his guests and outlined his proposed initiatives for the coming year.

**2 LADY MAYORESS**

The Lord Mayor announced that he had appointed his daughter Colleen O'Brien as his principal Lady Mayoress. She would be supported by his other three daughters: Kate, Siobhan and Roisin O'Brien and his cousin Dr Patricia Gray for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**3 LORD MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN**

The Lord Mayor announced that his Chaplain for the year would be Reverend Glyn Evans.

#### 4 **APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFF AND DEPUTY LORD MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12**

The Lord Mayor confirmed that only one nomination had been received for the office of Sheriff and Deputy Lord Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/12.

Councillor Cott moved, seconded by Councillor Shepherd, that Councillor Jackie Slesenger be elected Sheriff and Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** – That Jackie Slesenger be appointed Sheriff and Deputy Lord Mayor for the City for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Councillor J. Slesenger then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Sheriff and Deputy Lord Mayor and thanked the Council for her election.

#### 5 **SHERIFF'S CONSORT**

The Sheriff and Deputy Lord Mayor announced that she had appointed her husband David Slesenger as her Consort for the ensuing Municipal Year.

#### 6 **VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR**

A vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor was proposed by Councillor Faulkner and seconded by Councillor Forbes.

The Lord Mayor presented a medallion to the retiring Lord Mayor and a brooch to the retiring Lady Mayoress to commemorate their year of office. The chain of office was also presented to the Lady Mayoress.

Councillor Hindmarsh responded to the vote of thanks by expressing sadness that her term of office as Lord Mayor had come to an end and that she would remember the year with pride and gratitude. She highlighted a number of memorable events during her year of office and expressed thanks to all staff involved for their assistance and to family and friends for their support.

The Lord Mayor then indicated that Council would proceed with the remaining items on the agenda as set out. Those guests who wished to attend the church service would be welcome to leave for St Thomas the Martyr Church or would be welcome to stay for the remainder of the meeting, if they so wished.

#### 7 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen, Bailey, Cross, Curthoys, Daghish, G. Pattison, Shipley and Taylor.

## 8 OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### a) Former Councillor Neil Hamilton

The Lord Mayor called upon Councillor Faulkner and Councillor Forbes to lead the tributes to former Councillor Neil Hamilton following his recent death. He was remembered as a popular community activist who was devoted to his family and community. For these reasons and more, he would be greatly missed. Condolences were extended to his family and members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

### b) Resignation

The Lord Mayor confirmed that Councillor Faulkner had resigned as Leader of the Executive and Leader of Council. On behalf of the Council he thanked Councillor Faulkner for his leadership over the past 8 months.

## 9 NOTICE OF MOTION - LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Bartlett moved, seconded by Councillor McCarty that:-

“In the light of Councillor Faulkner’s resignation as Leader of Council and in accordance with Article 7 of the Newcastle Charter, Council resolves to appoint Councillor Nick Forbes as the new Chair of Cabinet (also to be known as Leader of Council) for the remainder of his current term of office.”

The motion was unanimously agreed. At the invitation of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Forbes addressed the Council by indicating that it was a great honour to be given the responsibility of Leader and outlined his priorities for the future. He paid tribute to the leadership of the previous Administration and drew attention to his appointment of Cabinet and Deputy Cabinet Members, as detailed and previously circulated in Appendix A.

**RESOLVED:** That in the light of Councillor Faulkner’s resignation as Leader of Council and in accordance with Article 7 of the Newcastle Charter, Councillor Nick Forbes be appointed as the new Chair of Cabinet (also to be known as Leader of Council) for the remainder of his current term of office.

## 10 APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION FOR 2011/12

Councillor Renton moved, seconded by Councillor Woodwark, that Councillor Faulkner be appointed as Leader of the Opposition and Councillor Lower as Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the ensuing Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Faulkner be appointed as Leader of the Opposition and Councillor Lower as Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the ensuing Municipal Year.

## 11 **PROPOSED NON-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12**

Submitted: Report of the Head of Corporate Law and Head of Democratic Services

Councillor Forbes moved the report, which was seconded by Councillor McCarty.

Councillor Faulkner took part in the debate and discussion on the item.

**RESOLVED** – That Council agree the committee structure as detailed in the report and agree the various appointments to those committees and sub-committees to be reported separately as put forward by the two political groups.

## 12 **INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCILLORS**

The Lord Mayor invited each new Councillor to stand as they were being introduced and indicated that he would invite each of them to reply following the introductions of all new members.

- Councillor Sue Pearson from Blakelaw Ward was introduced by Councillor Keating.
- Councillor Simon Bird from Denton Ward was introduced by Councillor Burke.
- Councillor Henry Gallagher from East Gosforth Ward was introduced by Councillor D. Slesenger.
- Councillor Ann Schofield from Elswick Ward was introduced by Councillor Ahad.
- Councillor Antoine Tinnion from Fawdon Ward was introduced by Councillor Faulkner.
- Councillor Matt Myers from Fenham Ward was introduced by Councillor McStravick.
- Councillor Barry Phillipson from Lemington Ward was introduced by Councillor Langfield.
- Councillor Hilary Franks from Newburn Ward was introduced by Councillor Wright.
- Councillor Michael Johnson from North Heaton Ward was introduced by Councillor Stone.
- Councillor Peter Andras from North Jesmond Ward was introduced by Councillor Breakey.
- Councillor Ian Preston from Ouseburn Ward was introduced by Councillor Psallidas.

- Councillor David Hardman from South Heaton Ward was introduced by Councillor Woodwark.
- Councillor David Denholm from Walkergate Ward was introduced by Councillor Lawson.

13 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, DELEGATED SUB-COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND PANELS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12**

The Lord Mayor indicated that Section A was for information only and had been included for completeness; under the executive arrangements such matters were for the Leader of Council to determine.

The appointments were moved by Councillor Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Renton.

**RESOLVED** - That the Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Groups, Delegated Sub-Committees, Boards and Panels as set out in Appendix 'A' circulated be appointed until the next Annual Meeting of the Council or until the Council otherwise directs having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

14 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT AUTHORITIES, JOINT COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/12**

The appointments were moved by Councillor Bartlett and seconded by Councillor Renton.

Councillor Huddart raised queries regarding two of the proposed appointments, to which the Lord Mayor requested that the Leader of Council to respond to in writing.

**RESOLVED** – That the members set out in Appendices 'B' and 'C' circulated, be appointed to serve as the Council's representatives on the bodies indicated for the terms stated in the fourth column thereof or until such time as the Council otherwise directs having regard to the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

15 **CONCLUDING REMARK**

The Lord Mayor indicated that the business of the Annual Meeting was now concluded and he invited everyone to join him for the service at St Thomas the Martyr Church and afterwards for tea in the Banqueting Hall.

(The meeting ended at 3.50pm)