

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 4th April, 2018.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Maurice Perry); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Sonia Bailey, Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Chris Clough, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lisa Grainge, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr David Harrington, Cllr Di Hewitt, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Mrs Kathryn Nelson, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Andrew Stephenson, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Matthew Vickers, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Julia Whitehill, Cllr David Wilburn, Cllr Norma Wilburn, Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

Officers: Neil Schneider (CE), Julie Danks, Peter Bell (DCE), Jonathan Nertney (HR, L&C), Garry Cummings (F&BS), Richard McGuckin (E,G&D), Jamie McCann (CS), Ann Workman (AH); Reuben Kench (CL&E).

Also in attendance: Invited guests and dignitaries.

Apologies: Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Julia Cherrett, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Tracey Stott and Cllr Sylvia Walmsley.

1 Evacuation Procedure

The Chief Executive advised all present of the premises evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency.

2 Civic Welcome

The Worshipful the Mayor addressed the meeting by way of civic welcome.

3 Mayor's Civic Awards Scheme

The Civic Awards scheme provided an opportunity for the Mayor, on behalf of the Borough, to recognise the achievements of individuals and organisations who had made a real difference to the community.

This was the 7th year of the Awards Scheme recognising the contribution nominees within the categories make to the community.

Yet again, the quality of nominations, across all categories, had been exceptional and as a member of the Awards Panel tasked with choosing an overall winner for each of the categories, The Worshipful the Mayor testified to how difficult it was to choose the winners.

The winners had been invited to the meeting and it was the Worshipful the Mayor's great pleasure to present each in turn with a certificate and their award as a thank you for their achievements.

The winner of The Young Persons Award went to Savannah Hounsome.

Savannah had been part of the Let's Take Action (LTA) group since October 2016. Since then she had been an integral part of the different projects including supporting the group to raise over £500 for the charity, and supporting the 2017 Children in Care Council Conference.

Services to the Community Award – Individual

This award went to John Christie who was the landlord of The Golden Smog, the first micro pub in Stockton. John, through the efforts of the pub had raised tens of thousands of pounds for charity through such events as Teesside Brew Fest and Palegrimage. Recipients had included Teesside Hospice and Great North Air Ambulance, as well as numerous other small groups and charities. He was very supportive of other businesses and events happening in Stockton, and was a proud advocate for the town.

- Services to the Community Award – Groups and Organisations

There were joint winners within this category;

Firstly, Soroptimist International, Stockton on Tees had been raising money and supporting local organisations for 60 years. Their recent activities included promoting what constitutes a good relationship and recognising unhealthy relationships to young people; and organising 25 “New Start” bags for Cleveland Police to distribute to people in need.

Caroline Allread and Maureen Brown were at the meeting to receive the award.

- Services to the Community Award – Groups and Organisations

The other joint winner within this category was St Mary’s Advent Calendar Team. They were involved in a real community project involving St Mary’s Church, Norton businesses, school children and teachers, Ward Councillors and residents, to deliver a new Christmas event. Each day throughout December participating businesses around Norton displayed Advent and residents collected stickers to complete an advent map to be entered into prize draw to win gifts. Over 112 residents completed the trail.

Mary and Mike Rawson had come to the meeting to collect the award on the team’s behalf.

- Services to the Community Award – Business

There were joint winners within this category, such was the calibre of nominations.

Firstly, Jacobs Engineering who were a global consultancy service, and it’s Stockton offices employ around 250 people who provided technical and management consulting services. They had rolled out a work placement programme for young people in the half term holidays for the past year, with some taking part returning for further work experience and inspiring young people to consider a career in engineering.

Mike Bowen & Victoria Richardson were at the meeting from the company to receive the award.

The other joint winner was Wilton Engineering Services who were encouraging local schools to come to their facility and advising them about possible career opportunities. They were Championing “Opportunities for Teesside” forming a group of likeminded companies to bring decommissioned

North Sea assets back to Teesside for re-commissioning and send them back out for further use.

Their business leader, Bill Scott had also taken part in numerous events to raise thousands of pounds for charity and given his time to the Clarences community and mentoring local start-ups.

John Price and Caroline Wilton were at the meeting to accept Wilton's award.

The Health & Wellbeing Award went to David Munt. As a member of the Billingham Angling Club since 1965, and current Chairman, David had been involved in Charltons Pond coaching new anglers and being involved in the Forward Assist Group who supported former soldiers who had experienced physical injury or emotional trauma. He had also worked with Friends of Stillington Forrest Park to install facilities for angling.

David was at the meeting to receive his award.

The Green Award went to Clarences Horticultural Centre who had transformed the allotments in Port Clarence into a Horticultural Centre of Excellence. They regularly engaged with local schools and got local residents involved. The allotments had won the Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom level five awards for the last four years.

Deryck and Barry from the team were at the meeting to receive the award.

The Awards Panel had chosen to recognise a number of our Foster/Carers.

Kathleen Mitchell. Kath had been an approved foster carer with our Council for over 21 years, fostering over 50 children and young people with Stockton, ranging from respite and temporary placements to long-term arrangements. Many of the children had been sibling groups and the young person Kath currently looks after has lived with Kath for over 10 years on a permanent placement. She was 20 years old and with Kath on a 'staying put' arrangement.

Kath was at the meeting to receive her award.

The second Carer / Foster Carer Award goes to Trish and Kenny Leishman.

Trisha and Kenny were approved to care for babies and toddlers, and in their 24 years' service they had successfully moved children on to adoptive placements or back home to their birth parents. They were very empathetic with birth families and worked well with birth parents and extended family members, promoting and supporting contact.

Trish and Kenny were at the meeting to receive the award.

The Panel also recognised Sheila Branson. Sheila had fostered around 20 young people over 23 years as a single carer across a mix of placements from emergency to long-term. Sheila had a skill in calming troubled waters, and had a natural ability to soothe and relax teenagers who were facing stressful, volatile situations. Many young people had said that Sheila had helped to transform

their lives through her non-judgemental, accepting approach.

The Panel also wanted to give a Special Carer / Foster Carer Award to Ivy Lee.

Ivy was seven years old and had shared her parents with numerous children who had not been able to live with their birth families. Ivy was a very caring, kind and compassionate young lady who had tried her hardest to be understanding towards the children who had lived with her family. Ivy tried her hardest to be positive and to help the young person, sharing her toys and books, showing them how to behave and explain the household rules.

Ivy was at the meeting to receive a special award.

The Special Business Award this year went to Chris Musgrave.

Chris had a reputation for 'making things happen'. The media had given him a variety of titles including 'business visionary', 'forward-thinking entrepreneur' and 'regeneration specialist.'

Back in 2004 Teesside was left stunned when electronics giant Samsung announced the closure of its factories at Wynyard with the loss of over 400 jobs. It was a devastating blow for the region's economy.

But fast forward to today and that initial 'negative' had been transformed into a huge positive for the Tees Valley – thanks to the person who was being presented with this 'Special Business Award'.

The site had become Wynyard Park Ltd., attracting hundreds of millions of pounds in private investment, home to international companies such as Aventador registered on the new York stock exchange-who relocated staff from Geneva, Nortech, Fabricom, Clipper and many others. The business park employed almost a thousand people in a wide variety of jobs providing great opportunities for local people. It's unique housing development continued to enhance the reputation of the area.

Chris had also led on many other successful schemes such as the redevelopment of the Visqueen site in Stockton and assisting Nifco to build their new factories in Eaglescliffe

Chris was a great supporter and ambassador for the Borough, contributing to the own economic growth plan and taking what he had learned through his experiences here to help benefit other areas of the country – developing a thriving new science and technology park, called "Discovery Park" at Sandwich, Kent – which was described by the Government Communities' Department as "one of Europe's leading science, technology and business enterprise parks".

He had been a generous and consistent supporter of the Mayor's charities over the last 15 years and was a silent low profile supporter and benefactor of many other others in our area. Whilst he may have Hartlepool roots his role and contribution to the regeneration, growth and betterment of our Borough through tough times had been exceptional and therefore on behalf of The Council, the Worshipful the Mayor was delighted to present this special achievement award to Mr Chris Musgrave of Wynyard Park Ltd.

4 Business Awards

The Worshipful the Mayor formally recognised the contribution of some of the long serving business community.

The following businesses had contributed hugely to the life and economy of the Borough and the Worshipful the Mayor invited representatives from them to come up on stage and receive an award:-

- Newby Solicitors
- Pickering Lifts
- Jackson Solicitors
- Harrison Packaging
- M. Arrowsmith Ltd
- Francis Brown Engineering
- Tomlinson Hall
- Baines Jewitt
- KW Devereux
- Billingham Press
- Stockton Castings

The following businesses were unable to be at the meeting but however, they would still receive their awards:-

- Amos Swift & Co Ltd
- Strickland & Holt
- Luicite International
- JB Smith Ltd

5 Customer Services Awards – Civic Recognition

The Customer Service Awards was for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council staff who had been a shining example of outstanding customer service.

The Worshipful the Mayor recognised the winners of the Customer Services Awards within the following categories:-

First was the Pride of Stockton Award Winner Rosanne Eeles.

Rosanne or “Nan” as she was known, worked as a passenger assistant in one of the most sensitive and, what could be, highly charged environments within the Council providing essential services to some of the most vulnerable client groups, driving day service clients to and from Allensway and the Halcyon centre as a Passenger Assistant.

Nan was at the meeting to receive her award.

The Team Award Winners went to Lanark Close who provided short breaks for any adult living within the Borough who had an identified learning disability. The service supported and encouraged people to access activities within the community but also provided a range of activities within the unit.

Members of Lanark Close to joined the Worshipful the Mayor to receive the award.

The Council Star Employee award went to Philip Hardie.

Phillip was appointed to the role of Street Lighting Customer Liaison Officer when the Council Embarked on a £14 million invest to save scheme in 2015. Phillips willingness to take on new skills, continually develop and test himself, whilst providing the best service he can for the Authority, were just a few of the reasons why he was chosen as recipient of this year's Star Employee Award.

Phillip joined the Worshipful the Mayor on the stage to receive the award.

The Extra Mile Award Winner was presented to Katherine McDonagh.

Katherine was awarded the Extra Mile Award due to her work at Eggescliffe Library and the positive impact she had with customers prior to its closure. Katherine was working in Stockton Central Library as Libraries and Information Assistant, where she continued with her strong dedication and forward thinking, always bringing new ideas to the table.

Katherine couldn't be at the meeting, however she would still receive her award.

6 Long Service Awards

The Worshipful the Mayor recognised the contribution of the following long serving staff who had all achieved 25 years' service within the local authority by presenting them with a certificate of achievement.

- Robert Cowell, Senior Environmental Protection Officer
- Mark Freeman, Libraries and Information Service Manager
- Judy Trainer, Team Leader (Electoral Services)
- Dianne Wright, Technician

7 Presentation of Silver Salver to Retiring Deputy Mayor

On behalf of the Council, the Worshipful the Mayor presented a silver salver to the retiring Deputy Mayor for her services during 2017/18.

8 Appointment of The Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2018/2019

Moved by Councillor Jean O'Donnell, seconded by Councillor Bob Cook, that Councillor Eileen Johnson be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/2019.

RESOLVED that Councillor Eileen Johnson be elected Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

9 Return of Thanks for Appointment by The Mayor

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Eileen Johnson, returned thanks for her appointment and addressed the meeting regarding her ambitions for the year ahead.

10 Vote of Thanks to Retired Mayor

Moved by Councillor Matthew Vickers, seconded by Councillor Lynn Hall, that a vote of thanks be extended to the retired Mayor and Mayoress for the admirable way in which they had discharged their duties during their terms of office.

RESOLVED that thanks be extended to the retired Mayor and Mayoress for the admirable way in which they had discharged their duties during their terms of office.

11 Presentation of Medallions and Commemorative Album to the Retired Mayor and Mayoress

The Worshipful the Mayor presented the Retired Mayor and Mayoress with a Medallion. The Retired Mayor was also presented with a Commemorative Album.

12 Address by the Retired Mayor

The retired Mayor addressed the meeting to reflect on his year in office and the charities he had supported.

13 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2018/2019

Moved by Councillor Bill Woodhead, seconded by Councillor Matthew Vickers, that Councillor Lynn Hall be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/2019.

RESOLVED that Councillor Lynn Hall be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/2019.

14 Return of Thanks for Appointment by the Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for her appointment.

15 Presentation of Floral Arrangements

Floral arrangements were presented to the Mayoress, Retired Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor

16 Presentation of Bible to the Mayor by the Mayor's Chaplain

Reverend Martin Anderson presented the Bible to the Worshipful the Mayor.

17 Meetings of Council

RESOLVED that meetings of the Council be held at 7.00pm (except where otherwise stated) during the Municipal Year 2018/2019 on the following dates:-

25 April 2018
6 June 2018
18 July 2018
19 September 2018
31 October 2018
12 December 2018
30 January 2019
27 February 2019 (Special - Budget)
6 March 2019
27 March 2019 (Special – Council Plan)
22 May 2019 (Annual Meeting - 11.00 am)

18 Announcement of Cabinet Members for 2018 - 2019

The Leader of the Council had distributed a copy of his Annual Report that detailed the achievements of the Council during 2017/18.

The Leader of the Council outlined that Members and Officers could be proud of what had been achieved.

The Leader of the Council announced his Cabinet for the Municipal Years 2018 - 2019:-

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health - Councillor Jim Beall

Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture - Councillor Norma Wilburn

Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing - Councillor Nigel Cooke

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Councillor Mrs Ann McCoy

Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety - Councillor Steve Nelson

Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport - Councillor Mike Smith

19 Announcement of Assistant Cabinet Members for 2018 - 2019

The Leader of the Council announced his Assistant Cabinet Members for the Municipal Years 2017 - 2018:-

Councillor Lauriane Povey

Councillor Lisa Grainge

Councillor Paul Rowling

20 Amendments/Appointments to Committees and Outside Body for the 2018 - 2019 Municipal Year

RESOLVED that the following amendments to Committees and appointment of Vice Chairs for the 2018 - 2019 Municipal Years be approved:-

People Select Committee:-

Remove Councillor Di Hewitt from membership
Add Councillor Louise Baldock to membership

Appeals and Complaints Committee:-

Remove Councillor Tracey Stott from membership
Add Councillor Paul Weston to membership

People Select Committee:-

Councillor Eileen Johnson be removed as Vice Chair

Councillor Louise Baldock be appointed as Vice Chair

Appeals and Complaints Committee:-

Councillor Evaline Cunningham be appointed as Vice Chair (Position formerly held by Councillor Tracey Stott)

21 The Mayor will close the Meeting

The Mayor closed the meeting and invited guests to the civic reception.