

## **Council**

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025.

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Stephen Richardson)  
Cllr Stefan Barnes, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Michelle Bendelow, Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Richard Eglinton, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Nathan Gale, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Elsi Hampton, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Shakeel Hussain, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Mohammed Mazi, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Jack Miller, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Vanessa Sewell, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Norma Stephenson OBE, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Emily Tate, Cllr Jim Taylor, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Hilary Vickers, Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Katie Weston, Cllr Paul Weston and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

**Officers:** Mike Greene, Garry Cummings, Reuben Kench, Majella McCarthy, Tracey Carter, Ged Morton, Julie Butcher, Jonathan Nertney and Judy Trainer.

**Also in attendance:** Civic Dignitaries and Invited Guests.

**Apologies:** Cllr Steve Nelson.

### **COU/1/25 Welcome and Evacuation Procedure**

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised all present of the premises evacuation procedure in the event of an emergency.

### **COU/2/25 Election of The Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

Moved by Councillor Lynn Hall and seconded by Councillor Tony Riordan, that Councillor Stephen Richardson be appointed Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

RESOLVED that Councillor Stephen Richardson be appointed Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

### **COU/3/25 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2025/26**

Moved by Councillor Jim Beall and seconded by Councillor Eileen Johnson, that Councillor Robert Cook be appointed Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

RESOLVED that Councillor Robert Cook be appointed Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2025/2026.

#### **COU/4/25    The Council's Constitution**

Council was invited to approve the Council's Constitution. Members had been provided with a link to the Constitution.

RESOLVED that the Council's Constitution be agreed.

#### **COU/5/25    Meetings of the Council**

RESOLVED that meetings of the Council be held at 6.00pm (except where otherwise stated) during the Municipal Year on the following dates:

21 May 2025  
23 July 2025  
24 September 2025  
19 November 2025  
21 January 2026  
18 February 2026  
18 March 2026  
1 April 2026 at 11.00 am (Annual Meeting)

#### **COU/6/25    Appointment of the Leader of the Council 2025-2027**

Councillor Paul Rowing moved and Councillor Eileen Johnson seconded that Councillor Lisa Evans be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Years 2025 - 27.

Councillor Niall Innes moved and Councillor Lynn Hall seconded that Councillor Tony Riordan be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Years 2025 - 27.

On being put the vote it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor Lisa Evans be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Years 2025-27.

#### **COU/7/25    Announcement of Cabinet Members for 2025 - 2027**

The Leader announced her Cabinet for the Municipal Years 2025/27:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport – Councillor Paul Rowling  
Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care – Councillor Pauline Beall  
Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Clare Besford  
Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture – Councillor Nigel Cooke  
Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing – Councillor Richard Eglington  
Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety – Councillor Norma Stephenson

#### **COU/8/25    Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees and Outside Bodies for the Municipal Years 2025/27**

RESOLVED that the following amendments/ appointments be made for the Municipal Years 2025 - 2027:

**Audit Committee**

Remove: Cllrs Paul Rowling and Katie Weston - Add: Cllrs Eileen Johnson and Carol Clark

**General Licensing Committee**

Remove: Cllr Clare Besford - Add: Cllr Jim Beall

**Statutory Licensing Committee**

Remove: Cllr Clare Besford - Add: Cllr Jim Beall

**Executive Scrutiny Committee**

Remove: Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Richard Eglington - Add: Cllr Ann McCoy and Cllr Jim Beall

**Adults Social Care and Health Select Committee**

Remove: Cllr Ray Godwin - Add: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley

**Children and Young People's Select Committee**

Remove: Cllr Paul Rowling - Add: Cllr Bob Cook

**Community Safety Select Committee**

Remove: Cllr Sylvia Walmsley - Add: Cllr Ray Godwin

Remove: Cllr Paul Rowling and Cllr Richard Eglington – Add: Cllr Katie Weston and Cllr Bob Cook

**Place Select Committee**

Remove: Cllr Richard Eglington - Add: Cllr Bob Cook

**Members' Advisory Panel**

Remove: Cllr Bob Cook - Add: Cllr Paul Rowling

**River Tees Port Health Authority**

Add Cllr Paul Weston

**Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee**

Remove: Cllr Jack Miller - Add: Cllr John Coulson

**COU/9/25 Councillors' Corporate Parenting Commitments**

The Worshipful the Mayor signed the Corporate Parenting Commitments on behalf of the Council accepting all Members' role as Corporate Parents.

**COU/10/25 Civic Welcome and Evacuation Procedure**

The Worshipful the Mayor addressed the meeting by way of civic welcome and advised all of the premises evacuation procedure.

**COU/11/25 Support for the Mayor's Appointment**

Councillor Lynn Hall and Councillor Tony Riordan spoke in support of the Mayor's appointment.

**COU/12/25 Return of Thanks for Appointment by the Mayor**

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Stephen Richardson, returned thanks for his appointment and addressed the meeting regarding his ambitions for the year ahead.

**COU/13/25 Presentation of Bible to the Mayor by the Mayor's Chaplain**

Reverend Paul Neville presented the Bible to the Worshipful the Mayor.

**COU/14/25 Presentation of the Mayoress and Deputy Mayoress Chains**

The retired Mayoress presented the Mayoress Chains to the new Mayoress.

The retired Deputy Mayoress presented the Deputy Mayoress Chains to the new Deputy Mayoress.

**COU/15/25 Support for Deputy Mayor's Appointment**

Councillor Jim Beall and Councillor Eileen Johnson spoke in support of the Deputy Mayor's appointment.

**COU/16/25 Return of Thanks for Appointment by Deputy Mayor**

The Deputy Mayor returned thanks for his appointment.

**COU/17/25 Vote of Thanks to the Retired Mayor**

Moved by Councillor Tony Riordan and seconded by Councillor Niall Innes, that a vote of thanks be extended to the retired Mayor for the admirable way in which he has discharged his duties during his term of office.

RESOLVED that thanks be extended to the retired Mayor for the admirable way in which he has discharged his duties during his term of office.

**COU/18/25 Presentation of Medallions and Commemorative Digital Album to the Retired Mayor and Mayoress**

The Worshipful the Mayor presented the retired Mayor and Mayoress with Medallions and a commemorative album.

**COU/19/25 Address by the Retired Mayor**

The retired Mayor addressed the meeting to reflect on his year in office.

**COU/20/25 Presentation to Retired Mayor's Charities**

A presentation was made to the Mayor's Charities.

The Worshipful the Mayor presented Sam Johnston and Tracy Westgarth from Parkinson's UK and Lottie King and Lucie Pitman from Leo's Neonatal with cheques for £18,666.45 raised during his civic year.

#### **COU/21/25 Long Service Awards**

The Worshipful the Mayor recognised the special contribution of a unique group of staff who had all achieved 25 years' service as a Local Government employee:

Helen Betts  
Clare Bowser  
Rebecca Marshall  
Emma Rennie  
Christine Richardson

Clare Bowser, Rebecca Marshall and Christine Richardson were in attendance at the meeting and the Worshipful the Mayor invited them to come to the stage to receive their long service certificates.

#### **COU/22/25 Mayor's Civic Awards Scheme**

The Worshipful the Mayor recognised the achievements of those who had been successfully nominated for a Mayor's Civic Award:

The Green Award – Mill Lane Community Garden  
Young Person Award – Amelia Howson and Myles Sivewright  
Services to the Community Award – Groups/Organisations – Blue Light Babies  
Services to the Community Award – Individual – Joanne Owen  
Services to the Community Award – Business – Hampton by Hilton  
Health and Wellbeing Award – Women's Health Team (Hartlepool & Stockton Health)  
Carer / Foster Carer Award – Lindsay Taylor  
Mayor's Special Award – Les Southerton

#### **COU/23/25 Presentation of Silver Salver to Retired Deputy Mayor**

On behalf of the Council, the retiring Mayor presented a silver salver to the retiring Deputy Mayor for his services during 2024/25.

#### **COU/24/25 Presentation of Floral Arrangements**

Floral arrangements were presented to the Mayoress, the retired Mayoress and the Deputy Mayoress.

#### **COU/25/25 The Mayor will close the meeting**

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