



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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## Minutes Council

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### Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 21st May 2015

### Place

The Council Chamber, South Street, Farnham

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#### Councillors

- \* Jeremy Ricketts (Mayor of Farnham – Agenda Item 1)
- \* Jill Hargreaves (Deputy Mayor – items 1- 6)
- \* Pat Frost (Mayor of Farnham items 2 onwards)
- \* John Ward (Deputy Mayor – item 6 onwards)
  
- \* David Attfield
- \* Patrick Blagden CBE
- \* Carole Cockburn
- \* Paula Dunsmore
- A John Scott Fraser
- \* Stephen Hill
- \* Mike Hodge
- \* Sam Hollins-Owen
- \* Mike Hyman
- \* Andy Macleod
- \* Kika Mirylees
- \* Julia Potts
- \* Susan Redfern
- \* John Williamson
  
- \* Present
- A Apologies for absence

#### Officers Present:

Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)  
Rachel Aves (Team Leader Corporate Governance)  
Kevin Taitt (Team Leader, Outside Services)  
Stephanie King (Projects and Events Officer)  
Linda Robinson (Civic administrator)

Mr Jonathan Jones – Honorary Town Crier

There were 28 members of the public in attendance.

Prior to the meeting, prayers were said by Pastor Michael Hall.

C001/15      **Election of Mayor of Farnham**

Cllr Hargreaves proposed, and Cllr Hill seconded, that Cllr Mrs Pat Frost be elected Mayor of Farnham for the Municipal Year 2015/2016. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED nem con that: Cllr Mrs Pat Frost be elected Mayor of Farnham for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.**

C002/15      Cllr Ricketts invested Cllr Frost with the Mayoral Chain and Badge of Office.

C003/15      **The Mayor of Farnham's Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Having been invested with the Chain and Badge of Office, Cllr Mrs Pat Frost made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and commenced her duties as Mayor.

C004/15      **The Mayor's speech of acceptance**

Cllr Frost thanked her proposer and seconder for their kind words. As a resident of Farnham for some forty years, and a councillor since the 1980s, Cllr Frost was especially pleased to be elected as Farnham Town Mayor.

Being passionate about the town and its villages, Cllr Frost said she would do all in her power to ensure Farnham's prosperity and vibrancy - part of which was centred around its people. Farnham is blessed with people who care and Cllr Frost looked forward to meeting as many Farnham's service organisations and voluntary groups as possible during her year of office.

Cllr Frost noted there would be many challenges ahead for the Town Council, not least the numerous planning applications for development which would be considered carefully by the Town Council. Appropriate comments would be made with the work which had already been done on the Farnham Design Statement and the Neighbourhood Plan, making Farnham ready for any challenges.

As Farnham's very proud civic head, the Mayor said the Town Council would continue to make the town a pleasure to live in, with the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Farnham in Bloom, the various tourism events and the willingness to listen and respond being part of the focus of the year ahead.

For her Mayoral charity Cllr Frost had chosen to support Farnham Assist, a new charity by Farnham standards, whose mission is to be there through a range of clubs and activities, for older people living in Farnham.

In conclusion Cllr Frost was humbled by the honour to be Mayor, and with the support of her husband Bob, pledged to work for everyone to the best of her ability.

C005/15      **Presentation of the Mayor's Consort's badge of office**

The Mayor presented Mr Bob Frost with the Mayor's Consort's badge of office.

C006/15      The Mayor welcomed new councillors and hoped they would enjoy their time on Farnham Town Council. The Mayor also thanked the staff who had been tending to

injured members of the public and their children following an accident which had involved several vehicles outside the offices.

- C007/15      **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr John 'Scotty' Fraser
- C008/15      **Minutes**  
The Minutes of the Farnham Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- C009/15      **Declarations of interests**  
There were no disclosures of interest relating to items on the agenda.
- C010/15      **Election of Deputy Town Mayor**  
Cllr Redfern proposed, and Cllr Cockburn seconded, that Cllr John Ward be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/16. There were no other nominations.  
  
**RESOLVED *nem con* that: Cllr John Ward be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/2016.**
- C011/15      Cllr Mrs Pat Frost, the Mayor of Farnham, invested Cllr Ward with the Badge of Office of Deputy Mayor of Farnham.
- C012/15      **The Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**  
Having received the Badge of Office, Cllr Ward made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for his appointment. He looked forward to working with the new Mayor and serving the people of Farnham in the year ahead.
- C013/15      **Presentation of the Deputy Mayoress badge of office**  
The Mayor presented Mrs Gillian Ward with the Deputy Mayoress' badge of office.
- C014/15      **Vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor**  
Cllr Ward proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Jeremy Ricketts, which was seconded by Cllr Blagden CBE.  
  
Cllr Ward said the retiring Mayor had worked tirelessly for the good of the community and was a colourful individual in a world of often grey characters. Many had admired his friendliness and openness as well as his deep concerns for the health of those around him. During his Mayoral year, he was particularly keen on supporting the institutions which help look after those in need and special mention had to be made of Post 19, the Mayoral Charity which does fantastic work for the educationally challenged by teaching them life skill.  
  
Cllr Ward said that the role of Mayor, whilst seeming glamorous, was in fact quite arduous, and the support of Jeremy's wife Debbie as a dedicated consort was invaluable. In addition to fulfilling the duties of Mayoress, Debbie was also running a

business looking after horses. The Mayoress had been a credit to the office and like Jeremy had been a wonderful asset to the town.

On behalf of the Council and the Town of Farnham Cllr Ward conveyed heartfelt appreciation for what the Mayor and Mayoress had achieved and was pleased to propose the formal vote of thanks.

C015/15 **Presentation of Past Town Mayor's badge and Past Mayoress' Badge**  
The Mayor presented Cllr Jeremy Ricketts with a Past Mayor's Badge and the Mayoress Mrs Debbie Ricketts with a Past Mayoress' Badge.

C016/15 **Vote of thanks to the retiring Deputy Town Mayor**  
Cllr Cockburn proposed, seconded by Cllr Ward, a vote of thanks to the retiring Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Jill Hargreaves. Cllr Hargreaves had supported the Mayor admirably and had been a terrific ambassador for Farnham, giving her time freely and showing genuine interest in the vast range of voluntary groups in the town. Cllr Cockburn had no doubt that Cllr Hargreaves would continue to be an exemplary councillor. The Mayor presented the outgoing Deputy Mayor with a bouquet of flowers as a token of the Council's sincere thanks.

#### **Part 1 – Items for Decision**

C017/14 **Appointment of Lead Member or Spokesperson for the council**  
Cllr Potts proposed, seconded by Cllr Hollins-Owen that Cllr John Ward be appointed as Leader of the Council for 2015/16. There being no other nominations it was  
**RESOLVED *nem con* that: Cllr Ward be appointed as Leader of the Council for 2015/16.**

C018/15 **Adoption of the General Power of Competence.**  
Council noted the requirement to readopt the General Power of Competence following the recent election. The Clerk confirmed that Farnham Town Council met the eligibility criteria as i) all councillors held office as a result of being declared elected (as opposed to being appointed or co-opted); ii) the clerk was suitably qualified (holding the Certificate in Local Council Administration -CILCA) and iii) the clerk had completed the relevant training in the exercise of the power.

Following a show of hands, it was **RESOLVED *unanimously* that Farnham Town Council readopts the General Power of Competence.**

#### **Part 2 – Items Noted**

C019/14 **Date of next meeting**  
Members noted that the next Council Meeting would take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.47 pm

Date

Chairman