

Councillor Andy Cooper (Mayor)

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

K M Aspin	P A Leason
J A Barron	A M Loughran
F E Beatty	B McKeown
E L Carter	A R McNaughton
R P Cooke	D M McNaughton
M G Dodson	A Nixon
A P Edgeller	G P K Pardesi
P C Edgeller	A N Pearce
I D Fordham	J M Pert
A T A Godfrey	M Phillips
A D Hobbs	A F Reid
J Hood	J T Rose
F D J James	D P Rouxel
R A James	A J Sandiford
E G R Jones	J Thorley
P W Jones	M J Winnington
R Kenney	

Officers in attendance:-

T Clegg	-	Chief Executive
I Curran	-	Head of Law and Governance
J Dean	-	Democratic Services Officer
J Allen	-	Democratic Services Officer

C58 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024 were agreed as a true and correct record.

C59 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B M Cross, J A Nixon, J S Powell, J P Read and S N Spencer.

C60 Announcements

The Mayor detailed the following for Members to note:

- (a) Mayor's Charity Appeal 2023/34 - College Lunch - Friday 22 March 2024 - the Mayor thanked those who supported this event which had raised in the region of £350 for the Charity Appeal;
- (b) Mayor's Charity Appeal 2023/24 - Mayor's Civic Dinner - Thursday 11 April 2024 - this had been a successful evening and raised in the region of £700 for the Chairity Appeal;
- (c) The Mayor informed the Council of the recent passing of Alderman and former Mayor of the Borough William R Simpson. Members paid tribute with a minute's silence.

C61 Housing Benefit - Modified Scheme in Respect of War Disablement and Bereavement Pensions

Considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Resources).

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and noted the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 before concluding his comments by moving that said recommendations be approved.

The proposal was seconded by A T A Godfrey.

The matter was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that:-

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) the policy statement as set out in the appendix to the report be adopted.

C62 Review of the Constitution

Considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance.

Councillor R P Cooke introduced the report and noted the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2 before concluding his comments by moving that said recommendations be approved.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor A T A Godfrey.

During the ensuing discussion, the following amendment was proposed by Councillor M J Winnington and seconded by Councillor R A James:

"The wording of point 8.17 to be changed from "may, on recommendation of the Section 151 Officer, be referred to the cabinet for consideration of write off" to "will, on recommendation of the Section 151 Officer, be referred to the cabinet for consideration of write off".

Members of the Council then discussed the amendment as provided for in paragraph 15 of the Council Procedure Rules.

The amendment was then put to the vote and subsequently declared to be lost.

The substantive matter was then put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:- that the amendments to the Constitution as detailed in the appendix to the report be approved for implementation in the new Municipal year.

C63 Appreciation for the Outgoing Mayor

Councillor A T A Godfrey, Leader of the Council, thanked the Mayor and Mayoress for the past year where they have represented the Borough in the highest regard.

The Mayor responded by thanking Members for their support.

MAYOR