



NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, NORTHAMPTON GUILDHALL

WEDNESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2021 – 18.00

PRESENT: Councillor R Ashraf (Town Mayor);
Councillor D Meredith (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors: J Alwahabi, J Birch, M Brown, R Connolly, J Fuchshuber,
E Haque, M Hallam, K Holland-Delamere, J Lane, L Marriott, T Miah,
W Tarasiewicz

Officer: S Carter (Town Clerk)

34. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Kilbride, Stevens, Purser, Russell, Soan, Ismail G Eales, T Eales, Choudary, Joyce and Hibbert submitted apologies.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All dual hatted councillors (town council and WNC councillors) declared a non-pecuniary interest as they were to consider the city bid at West Northants Council, namely Cllrs Ashraf, Meredith, Alwahabi, Brown, Connolly, Haque, Hallam, Holland-Delamere, Lane and Tarasiewicz

36. Notice of Motion – Proposed by Cllr Birch and seconded by Cllr Hallam

“That having had consideration of the benefits for the local economy and the added prestige of being a city, this Town Council offers its formal support to West Northants Council in its bid for city status for Northampton as part of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations”

Alex Paulley from WNC gave a brief presentation regarding city status.

Councillor's heard of the benefits other towns have had from becoming cities, both economical and in terms of civic pride and profile. Councillor's heard how Northampton met all the criteria with the addition of a university and really was 'a city at heart'.

Proposing the motion, Cllr Birch stated that giving Northampton city status would enhance its profile and add prestige. Cllr Birch highlighted Northampton's assets stating 'we have good transport links, 800 years of civic history and heritage, and some very fine

architecture. We also have wonderful parks and open spaces, a vibrant multicultural community, thriving cultural offer in theatres, museums, independent cinemas, arts and music centres, and three professional sports teams. City status could attract more tourism and visitors and enhance a sense of pride from Northamptonians'.

Seconding the proposal to back the city bid Cllr Mike Hallam said he saw this as an opportunity to talk up all that is great about our town of Northampton. Cllr Hallam said 'It gives us a fantastic opportunity to showcase all the wonderful organisations, businesses, clubs, sports teams that are here in Northampton. Many people don't know what amazing work these people do in our town and this bid will highlight that, not just locally but to the nation as a whole'. Cllr Hallam added that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, was a fantastic occasion for Her Majesty, and could also be a wonderful occasion for Northampton.

The Council as a whole stated that this bid was not just about the rich history, but also about the future, and that we as a Town Council on behalf of Northampton wanted to be ambitious, forward thinking, and aspirational. The Town Council also wanted to enhance the lives of our residents and that city status could act as a springboard.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Rufia Ashraf, expressed her pride that she was in the Mayor's seat when this proposal was debated.

RESOLVED: That the Northampton Town Council approves the motion as detailed and unanimously supports the city status bid being submitted by West Northamptonshire Council.

The meeting concluded at 18.45.

Cllr R Ashraf
Town Mayor