

**NORTHAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Ashraf (Chair); Councillor Meredith (Deputy Chair); Councillors Ansell, Birch, Duffy, G Eales, T Eales, Flavell, Hallam, Haque, Hibbert, J Hill, Joyce, Lane, B Markham, Marriott, McCutcheon, Russell and Stone.  
In attendance: Mr R Walden (Acting Town Clerk); Mr G Candler, Mr L Gould. Ms M Goodman, (Northampton Borough Council); Dr L Sambrook-Smith (NorthantsCALC)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Smith

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Birch proposed and Councillor Marriott seconded that the report of the Executive Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be received and that the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

(Note: The Chair, Councillor Ashraf, having declared an interest in that part of the Committee's report concerning a proposed Mayoral Allowance, vacated the Chair for this matter which was taken by the Deputy Chair)

Upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED:** The report of the Executive Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted

**5. COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES**

At the invitation of the Chair, Mr John Cade, the independent chairman of the Borough Council's Parish Remuneration Panel, presented the Panel's report and recommendations with regard to councillors' allowances and he answered Members questions thereon. The Chair thanked Mr Cade for the Panel's work and for his presentation.

It was proposed by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Marriott that the Panel's recommendations be adopted.

By way of amendment it was proposed by Councillor G Eales and accepted by the mover of the original motion that where any Councillor declined to receive a proposed allowance then that sum should be added to that Councillor's proposed Community Funding Allowance.

The Acting Town Clerk advised that the precise terms of the operation of the Community Funding Allowance had yet to be determined by the new Community Services Committee. However, under the proposal a ward councillor would be able to recommend which organisations they wished to nominate for the receipt of grant(s) from within their individual allocation. The final decision needed to be taken by the new Grants Sub-Committee as individual town councillors were unable to make executive decisions.

Upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED:** (i) That a basic allowance of £1,200 p.a. be paid to Northampton Town Councillors elected from May 2021.

(ii) That the following travelling allowances be paid as from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011 for agreed approved duties undertaken outside the area of the Town Council:

Car or Van – 45p per mile for the first 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter

Motorcycle – 24p per mile (all miles)

Cycle – 20p per mile (all miles) and

A 5p per mile per passenger supplement for up to 4 passengers.

(iii) That subsistence allowances as detailed below be paid for agreed approved duties undertaken outside the area of the Town Council

Breakfast	£5
One meal (5 hour) rate	£5
Two meal (10 hour) rate	£10
Evening Meal	£15

Overnight stay and train costs to be secured by an appropriate Officer using advance fares and comparison websites to obtain best value.

(iv) That the above allowances be indexed linked to the percentage increases of future staff pay awards approved by the National Joint Council.

(v) That where any Councillor declined to receive a proposed allowance then that sum be added to that Councillor's proposed Community Funding Allowance.

## **6. TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND SERVICES**

Councillor Birch reported on proceedings of a recent meeting of the Borough Council's Cross Party Working Group when concern had been expressed at the progress of the transfer of the historic part of the Guildhall to the Town Council. In order to resolve the issues a meeting was being convened between councillors from West Northants, the Borough and Town Councils and a further report would be presented to the next Town Council meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**RESOLVED:** That the action being taken by the Borough Council be endorsed and a further report be presented to the next meeting of this Council.

## **7. NOTICE OF MOTION- CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Councillor Hallam proposed and Councillor Hill seconded that “This Council notes the previous climate emergency declarations by both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council - as a new Council it is vital that we put the climate emergency at the forefront of any decisions we take, and this Council therefore resolves to declare a Climate Emergency and set 2030 as the date to be Carbon Neutral by and asks that the Council draws up a plan to be reviewed by the end of the year.”

By way of amendment it was proposed by Councillor Joyce and accepted by the mover of the original motion, that additional words be added to the motion.

Upon being put to the vote it was

**RESOLVED:** That this Council notes the previous climate emergency declarations by both Northampton Borough Council and Northamptonshire County Council – as a new Council it is vital that we put the climate emergency at the forefront of any decisions we take and the Council therefore resolves to declare a Climate Emergency and set 2030 as the date to be Carbon Neutral by, and asks that this Council establishes a local community Climate Change Forum to meet quarterly, and annually review targets and progress.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Northampton Town Council would be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 6:00pm.

The meeting concluded at 19:04