



# Skipton Town Council

## FULL COUNCIL

15/01

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Councillors Dawson (Chair), Bell, C Clark, Mrs W Clark, Dow, Harbron, Mrs Heseltine, R G Heseltine, Hickman, Jaquin, Madeley, Mrs McIntyre, Paton, Rankine and Whitaker.

Dave Parker (Chief Officer), Brett Butler (Town Centre Manager), Jill Peacock (Administration & Finance Officer), Wendy Allsopp (Administration Assistant) and Elaine Rushworth (Administration Assistant).

5 members of the public were present.

1. To elect the new Town Mayor (Chairman of the Council) and to witness the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Gordon Bell as Chairman and Town Mayor of Skipton Town Council for the 2015-16 Civic Year.

2. To note Mayoral engagements undertaken from March - May 2015 and to receive any remarks from the outgoing Mayor.

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor John Dawson, asked Members to **NOTE** engagements which he had attended over the last couple of months.

Councillor Dawson was disappointed that, due to illness, he had been unable to attend the presentation of the 'Ushakov' medal to Navy veterans who served on the Arctic Convoys during World War 2. However, he would be meeting with the local Royal Naval Association branch to present a book he had written about his father's time in the Navy.

With the generous support of Skipton Building Society and other local businesses and organisations the outgoing Mayor had raised £4,300 for his chosen charities, The Principle Trust and Craven Volunteer Centre.

Councillor Dawson thanked his Consorts and staff for their assistance and wished Councillor Bell all the best for the future.

3. To receive the incoming Mayor's remarks.

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor John Dawson was presented with a 'Past Mayor' badge.

Councillor Bell thanked Members for electing him as Town Mayor. His Consort for his Civic year would be his wife, Mrs Mary Bell.

4. To accept representations from the Public between 7.15 pm and 7.30 pm.

None.

5. To accept apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor Emmerson.

6. To record declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in items on the agenda.

Councillor Hickman declared a non-pecuniary interest with regard to agenda item 16 as he is a member of the Skipton Fairtrade Initiative (Fairtrade Steering Group).

7. To consider the recommendations of the Chief Officer relating to requests for dispensations to Members on items requiring a declaration of pecuniary and non pecuniary interests.

None.

8. To elect the new Deputy Mayor (Vice-Chairman of the Council).

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Martin Emmerson to be Deputy Mayor of Skipton Town Council for the 2015-16 Civic Year.

9. To approve the minutes from the Full Council meetings held on 16 April & 5 May 2015.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 16 April & 5 May 2015 as a true and accurate record of what transpired at those meetings.

10. To report and receive information arising from the minutes of items not on the agenda from members and the Chief Officer.

None.

11. To receive and consider minutes, recommendations and reports of the Environment & Planning Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Environment & Planning Committee meetings held on 26 March & 13 April 2015, as a true and accurate record of what transpired at those meetings.

12. To receive and consider minutes, recommendations and reports of the Public Services Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Public Services Committee meeting held on 2 April 2015 as a true and accurate record of what transpired at that meetings.

13. To appoint the Leader, Deputy Leader and Shadow Leader of the Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to elect the following Members to positions on Skipton Town Council for the 2015-16 Civic Year:

Leader – Councillor Chris Harbron  
 Deputy Leader – Councillor Robert G Heseltine  
 Shadow Leader – Councillor Andrew Rankine

14. To appoint the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members of the Council's Standing Committees, Management and Working Groups.

Councillor Jaquin raised concerns relating to the status of the Independent Members. He recommended that the 'Respecting and Protecting Our Skipton' Councillors should all consider signing a joint declaration admitting themselves to one political affiliation.

Councillor R G Heseltine advised that the Independent Councillors did not officially meet as one political group and, as such, he believed there was no requirement for the Independent Members to register themselves as one registered political party.

The Chief Officer advised that, in any case, the requirement to declare which political party a Council Member belonged to did not apply to Parish Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** to elect the following Members to positions on Skipton Town Council for the 2015-16 Civic Year:

Chairman of Finance & Policy – Councillor Chris Harbron  
 Vice Chairman of Finance & Policy – Councillor Karen McIntyre

Chairman of Public Services – Councillor Robert G Heseltine  
 Vice Chairman of Public Services – Councillor John Dawson

Chairman of Audit & Scrutiny – Councillor Peter Madeley  
 Vice Chairman of Audit & Scrutiny – Councillor Wendy Clark

Chairman of Environment & Planning – Councillor Paul Whitaker  
 Vice Chairman of Environment & Planning – Councillor Alan Hickman

Members **noted** the proposal from the Chief Officer and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation for Committee Appointments.

It was further **RESOLVED** to give the Environment & Planning Committee delegated authority to decide the format, remit, membership and meeting schedule for the Planning Applications Working Group.

15. To agree the programme of meetings for 2015-2016.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the proposed Programme of Meetings 2015-2016.

16. To appoint Member representatives to Outside Bodies.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the following Councillors to Outside Bodies to fill the current vacancies:-

John Rimmington Trust

Councillor Wendy Clark

Craven Museum

Councillor Robert G Heseltine  
Councillor James Paton

Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Councillor Chris Harbron

Skipton-Simbach Association

Councillor Pam Heseltine

S.T.A.N.D.

Councillor Alan Hickman

Rural Action Yorkshire

Councillor R G Heseltine

S.E.L.R.A.P.

Councillor Andrew Rankine

Members noted that the Citizens Advice Bureau group no longer met and therefore did not require a Town Council representative.

17. To adopt the Council's Standing Orders and associated Financial Regulations.

Members approved the adoption of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for the 2015-2016 civic year.

18. To note the attendance of Councillors at meetings for 2014-15.

Noted.

19. To note the legal position of the Council in relation to the sale of land at North Parade Skipton

Members noted that there is little scope for the Council to withdraw from the agreement with Keyhaven Homes – and the existing agreement should be allowed to continue to completion should final planning consent be given.

20. To receive notification of matters that members would like including on a future agenda.

Reduction in rural bus services.

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm