



# FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL

# A

## Minutes Council

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### Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

### Place

The Council Chamber, South Street, Farnham

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#### Councillors

- \* Patrick Blagden CBE (Mayor of Farnham - items 1-4)
- \* Jeremy Ricketts (Mayor of Farnham items 5 onwards)
- \* David Attfield
- \* David Beaman
- \* Carole Cockburn
- \* Pat Frost
- \* Carlo Genziani
- \* Jill Hargreaves (Deputy Mayor - item 8 onwards)
- \* Stephen Hill
- A Jennifer O'Grady
- A Stephen O'Grady
- \* Sam Hollins-Owen
- \* Graham Parlett
- A Dr Jessica Parry
- \* Julia Potts
- A Susan Redfern
- \* Roger Steel
- \* John Ward
  
- \* Present
- A Apologies for absence

#### Officers Present:

Iain Lynch (Town Clerk)  
Rachel Aves (Team Leader Corporate Governance)  
Kevin Taitt (Team Leader, Outside Services)

Mr Jonathan Jones – Honorary Town Crier

There were 20 members of the public in attendance.

- C001/14 **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies were received from Cllr J O’Grady, S O’Grady, Parry and Redfern.
- C002/14 **Minutes**  
The Minutes of the Farnham Town Council Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- C003/14 **Declarations of interests**  
There were no disclosures of interest relating to items on the agenda.
- C004/14 **Election of Mayor of Farnham**  
Cllr Ward proposed, and Cllr Steel seconded, that Cllr Jeremy Ricketts be elected Mayor of Farnham for the Municipal Year 2014/2015. There were no other nominations.
- RESOLVED nem con that: Cllr Jeremy Ricketts be elected Mayor of Farnham for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.**
- C005/14 Cllr Blagden invested Cllr Ricketts with the Mayoral Chain and Badge of Office.
- C006/14 **The Mayor of Farnham’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office**  
Having been invested with the Chain and Badge of Office, Cllr Jeremy Ricketts made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and commenced his duties as Mayor.
- C007/14 **The Mayor’s speech of acceptance**  
Cllr Ricketts thanked his fellow councillors, saying he was honoured and humbled to represent Farnham as Mayor. He was looking forward to working with each councillor and the staff for the betterment of Farnham and its villages.
- Cllr Ricketts quoted the Dalai Lama who said “Too often we are entangled in short-sightedness. We need to adopt a more far-reaching view. We forget our basic human values. If we want to live in a better world, who do you think is going to bring it about? Only we human beings. Such change won’t come about as a result of government or UN action, but at the initiative of individuals. What we need is confidence and determination.” Cllr Ricketts knew from his year as Deputy Mayor that Farnham people have this confidence and determination and he hoped to use this force to tackle Farnham’s problems for the benefit of all.
- With a severely autistic Godson, the Mayor had chosen the Post 19 Group as his Mayoral charity for 2014-15. Post 19 helps local educationally challenged youngsters after school leaving age. They have formed a practical link with Farnham Town Council in horticultural activities and working with the community group of Farnham in Bloom and he hoped to help with funding towards a minibus to transport the group to different activities.
- C008/14 **Presentation of the Mayoress’ badge**  
The Mayor presented Mrs Debbie Ricketts with the Mayoress’ badge and chain.
- C009/14 **Election of Deputy Town Mayor**  
Cllr Cockburn proposed and Cllr Hollins-Owen seconded that Cllr Jill Hargreaves be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2014/15. There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED *nem con* that: Cllr Gillian Hargreaves be elected Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.**

C010/14 Cllr Jeremy Ricketts, the Mayor of Farnham, invested Cllr Hargreaves with the Badge of Office of Deputy Mayor of Farnham.

C011/14 **The Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Having received the Badge of Office, Cllr Hargreaves made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for her appointment. She looked forward to working with the new Mayor and serving the people of Farnham in the year ahead

C012/14 **Vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor**

Cllr Cockburn proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Paddy Blagden, which was seconded by Cllr Ward. Cllr Cockburn said she felt she had undersold Paddy Blagden when proposing him as Mayor. She had spoken of his exemplary service record, his long career advising foreign governments and his diplomacy but she had omitted his tireless enthusiasm, and boundless charm with which he had embraced his role as Mayor.

He had carried out his duties in a delightful way, and there was not a single organisation in the town that had not benefitted from his good humour and genuine interest in its work. He had the support of an equally terrific Mayoress at his side throughout his successful year, and the strength of the partnership had been there for all to see. Paddy and Ann had always gone the extra mile, said Cllr Cockburn, and deserved the Council's thanks for what they had done for Farnham, for being fun and making the mayoral year one that will be remembered with affection.

In response, Cllr Blagden said it was difficult to respond to such a flattering vote of thanks. Being Mayor was a difficult job to do without a lot of help and he thanked his fellow councillors for guidance and had a depth of gratitude to the Town Clerk and his staff colleagues for answering questions with tact and diplomacy and supporting him throughout his year of office. Cllr Blagden paid tribute to Farnham as an amazing town, and to its army of unpaid volunteers who do so much to make it that. He had been enormously grateful for the support of his wife Ann as Mayoress and thanked her for her contribution to Farnham.

In concluding, Cllr Blagden wished the new Mayor and Mayoress every success in their special year.

C014/14 **Presentation of Past Town Mayor's badge and Past Mayoress' Badge**

The Mayor presented Cllr Paddy Blagden with a Past Mayor's Badge and the Mayoress Mrs Ann Blagden with a Past Mayoress' badge and bouquet of flowers.

**Part I – Items for Decision**

C015/14 **Appointment of Lead Member or Spokesperson for the council**

Cllr Steel proposed that a Lead Member or Leader of the Council be appointed. Previously, a specific Spokesperson for the Council had not been thought necessary and in recent years Cllr Ward had very ably carried out the role as Lead Member of Strategy and Finance. However, there were some key decisions ahead, not least of which was the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan, and the Council needed an

identified leader. Cllr Steel therefore proposed, seconded by Cllr Hill, that Cllr Ward be appointed Leader/Spokesperson.

Cllr Attfield proposed, seconded by Cllr Frost that Cllr Frost, that Cllr Steel be appointed Leader. Cllr Steel declined to accept the nomination, and there being no other nominations it was

**RESOLVED *nem con* that: Cllr Ward be appointed as Leader/Spokesperson of the Council for 2014/15.**

**Part 2 – Items Noted**

C016/14     **Date of next meeting**  
Members noted that the next Council Meeting would take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June.

The Town Mayor closed the meeting at 7.49 pm

Date

Chairman