

Minutes of a meeting of Charter Trustees on Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Present Town Mayor Cllr Brian Pearce in the chair

Cllrs. Khalil Ahmed - Zia Ahmed - Mohammed Asif - Andrea Baughan
Harry Bull - Marten Clarke - Ray Farmer - Sebert Graham - Tony Green
Alan Hill - Arif Hussain - Mahboob Hussain - Matt Knight - Rafiq Raja
Sarfaraz Khan Raja - Nigel Teesdale - Julia Wassell

Town Clerk William Reid Mayor's Chaplain Ruth Wooster

- 1) The meeting was opened with prayers delivered by the Mayor's Chaplain Ruth Wooster.
- 2) Apologies were received for Lesley Clarke OBE - Mohammed Hanif
Mohammed Hashmi Maz Hussain
Did not attend Matthew Davy
- 3) Minutes of Charter Trustees meeting on 9th November 2017 were agreed
- 4) Mayor's Report The Mayor reported on the Carol Concert, arranged for December 10th 2017, had been cancelled due to a heavy fall of snow on the day.
He had attended a number of nativities and bazaars
He advised the members of his appeal committee's Burns Night Supper on January 27th advising that they were still taking bookings
He finishes by referring to a Civic Service to be held at Christ the Servant King Church at Booker. He had arranged for cars to be parked at the Cressex Club where Trustees could don their robes before walking in procession to the Church. He confirmed that Lord Lieutenant, High Sherriff, MP and Base Commander at RAF High Wycombe had all confirmed attendance and stated he was looking for a good attendance from CT's to support him
- 5) Precept The Town Clerk had recommended that we request the same Precept as last year at £60,846.72. This will be a reduction of 3.25% for Band D taxpayers. He was asked to ensure that income would exceed expenditure and considered that would be the case. The Trustees were

pleased to see the reduction in rate and agreed with Town Clerks suggestion.

- 6) Freedom Parade The Town Clerk had asked if the Trustees would welcome a Freedom Parade either by RAF High Wycombe or 2 Rifles, who have replaced the former Royal Green Jackets, to whom the Freedom was presented.

A discussion ensued which covered both the above groups and a question about a Freedom Parade for suffragettes whose efforts had determined that certain women would have the right to vote. This year is the centenary of women voting. It is also the centenary of the formation of the RAF.

It was agreed to ask the Standing Committee to discuss the subject and present a report to the next CT meeting.

- 7) The Town Clerk advised the meeting that he had received an email from the previous Town Clerk advising that after wearing the wig at the Remembrance Sunday Parade he developed ring worm. The Town Clerk had identified the manufacturer of the wig and had received confirmation that they may be able to clean it. They are Ede and Ravenscroft in Chancery Lane, London. He also ascertained the cost of a new wig at £300.00. The CT's agreed he should visit the manufacturer and use his discretion about a clean or a new wig.

(At the start of this item the Town Clerk asked that this item be kept within the Chamber. Unfortunately he received an email from the Bucks Free Press stating 'A Councillor had told them that the wig has got an infestation of ring worm' This phrase was not used during the discussion. The Town Clerk wrote back explaining there was no proof that the wig was the source of the ring worm and that he hoped to find out if it was during his trip to the manufacturer. He asked BFP not to publish this as there were no facts pertaining to the cause of the condition. BFP have written back and said they

would publish this article. This article will do nothing positive about the Mayoralty and it is disappointing that a Councillor spoke to BFP)

- 8) Election of Mayor for 2018/19. The Public area was cleared as laid down in the new CT Handbook and Procedural Notes.

The first item discussed was the date of the event this year. The original date clashes with a Royal Wedding and the FA Cup Final. After a discussion about other options it was agreed to stay with the original date of May 19th but ensure we finish the speeches in the Town Hall by 2.00pm

There has been one nomination for Mayor for 2018/19. Tony Green nominated and Ray Farmer seconded the proposal for Cllr Sarfaraz Khan Raja to be Mayor elect.

After following the process outlined in the handbook a vote was taken and all 17 Councillors present voted in favour of Sarfaraz Khan Raja. He therefore became Mayor Elect. He advised the members that Cllr Marten Clarke would be his deputy.

The sub committees for 2018/19 were agreed as follows:

Standing Committee

Khalil Ahmed
Mohammed Asif
Lesley Clarke OBE
Marten Clarke
Ray Farmer
Tony Green
Mohammed Hanif
Sarfaraz Khan Raja

Finance Committee

Khalil Ahmed
Lesley Clarke OBE
Marten Clarke
Tony Green
Brian Pearce
Sarfaraz Khan Raja