



Council - Annual Meeting

15.30 – 17:00

21 May 2024

Present: Councillor Thomas (Lord Mayor following election), (Sheriff, following election), Councillors Ackroyd, Bolton, Caine, Calvert, Carrington, Catt, Champion, Davis, Driver, Fox, Fulton-McAlister, Galvin, Giles, Hampton, Harper, Haynes, Hoechner, Huntley, Jones, Kendrick, Kidman, Lubbock, Maguire, Oliver, Osborn, Packer, Padda, Price, Prinsley, Sands (M), Sands (S), Schmierer, Smith, Stonard, Wright

Apologies: Councillors Carrington, Francis, Haynes, Osborn, Worley and Young

1. Lord Mayor's Announcements

The Lord Mayor said a few words of welcome to councillors, guests and officers and detailed the practical arrangements for the meeting.

In accordance with tradition at council meetings, the Lord Mayor highlighted some of the events he had attended over the last two months, as follows:

- He had the privilege of joining the Three Dads, advocates for suicide prevention following their own tragic losses, in the last couple of miles of their 500-mile suicide prevention walk.
- A precedent had been set for future Lord Mayors, as he had attended the 5am May Day celebrations at St James Hill with Kemps Men, and later at the cathedral.
- He had the honour of previewing the new entrance to Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery.
- He had attended the Nourishing Norwich Award ceremony and commended the young people at Norwich City College for their stellar catering, hospitality, and entertaining skills that had contributed to this event.
- Accompanied by the Sheriff, he had celebrated his last evening as Lord Mayor and appropriately as "Admiral of the Wensum", with a trip on the River Wensum hosted by the Sea Cadets.

2. Election of Lord Mayor

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Schmierer seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED, unanimously, to elect Councillor Thomas to the office of Lord Mayor of Norwich for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

Councillor Vivien Thomas read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and acknowledged the honour conferred on her. She would be attended by Vaughan Thomas, as Lord Mayor's Consort.

(The Lord Mayor (Councillor Thomas) in the chair.)

3. Appointment of Sheriff

Councillor Hampton moved, and Councillor Wright seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED, unanimously, to appoint Sirajul Islam to the office of Sheriff of Norwich for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

Sirajul Islam then made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and acknowledged the honour conferred on him. He would be attended by Sadia Islam, as the Sheriff's Consort.

The Sheriff named Ms Jane Mary Anderson as the Under-Sheriff.

4. Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Lord Mayor and the Outgoing Sheriff

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Ackroyd seconded the vote of thanks, and it was:

RESOLVED, unanimously, to express the council's appreciation of the valuable service rendered to the city by:

- (1) Councillor James Wright as Lord Mayor and by the Lady Mayoress Kate Atkins and the other Lord Mayor's Consorts during the past year and, on behalf of the citizens of Norwich, records its warmest thanks.
- (2) Dr Janet Sheldon, as Sheriff, and Jo Gillies-Wheatly, as Sheriff's consort, during the past year and, on behalf of the citizens of Norwich, records its warmest thanks.

The outgoing Lord Mayor and Sheriff then returned thanks.

5. Election of Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillor Ackroyd moved, and Councillor Jones seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED, unanimously, to elect Councillor Wright, as Deputy Lord Mayor for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

6. Appointment of Honorary Recorder

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded the motion, and it was

RESOLVED, unanimously, to appoint Her Honour Judge, Alice Robinson, as the Honorary Recorder for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

7. Declarations of Interest

(No declarations of interest were received.)

8. Political Proportionality of Norwich City Council 2024-25

Councillor Kendrick moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded, the recommendations as detailed in the report, and it was:

RESOLVED, unanimously, to approve:

- (1) the political proportionality for the 2024-25 Civic Year;
- (2) that the Interim Head of Legal and Procurement, in consultation with the leaders of the political groups, be authorised to make the appointment of members to committees, joint committees and other working parties/panels of the Council, in accordance with the political balance rules.

9. Election of Leader of the Council

Councillor Hampton moved and Councillor Jones seconded the motion.

Councillors Catt and Davis addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED, with 21 members voting in favour and 12 members voting against, to elect Councillor Stonard as the Leader of the Council for the 2024-2025 Civic Year.

10. Leader's Cabinet Appointments

The Lord Mayor called on the Council, having elected Councillor Stonard as Leader of the Council, to note his Cabinet appointments, as detailed in the supplementary agenda as follows:

Councillor Hampton (Deputy Leader)
Councillor Giles
Councillor Jones
Councillor Kendrick
Councillor Kidman
Councillor Packer

(Details of individual portfolios will be published in due course.)

11. Election of the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Wright as chair of the Scrutiny Committee for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

12. Election of the Chair of the Audit Committee

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Price as chair of the Audit Committee for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

13. Election of the Chair of Planning Applications Committee

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Driver as chair of the Planning Applications Committee for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

14. Election of the Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committees

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded the motion, and it was:

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Huntley as chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committees for the 2024-25 Civic Year.

15. Schedule of Meetings 2024-25

Councillor Stonard moved, and Councillor Hampton seconded the revised schedule of meetings for 2024-25 as detailed in the supplementary agenda.

Councillor Wright moved, and Councillor Lubbock seconded, the following amendment to the schedule of meetings:

“That the issue of holding a council meeting in the school holidays in July had been addressed in the revised schedule (as detailed in the supplementary agenda), and to ask council to agree to move the Budget Council from Wednesday 19 February to Wednesday 12 February 2025, to avoid the school half-term holiday.”

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried and became part of the substantive item.

RESOLVED to approve the schedule of meetings for 2024-25 as amended.

16. APPOINTMENT OF A STATUTORY OFFICER

(This item was withdrawn.)

LORD MAYOR