

Minutes of a meeting of the
Worthing Council
23 May 2023
at 6.30 pm

The Mayor, Councillor Henna Chowdhury
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jon Roser

Councillor Helen Abrahams	*Councillor Heather Mercer
Councillor Noel Atkins	Councillor Nigel Morgan
Councillor Mike Barrett	Councillor Richard Mulholland
Councillor Caroline Baxter	Councillor Richard Nowak
Councillor Ödül Bozkurt	*Councillor Dale Overton
Councillor Ibsha Choudhury	*Councillor Hilary Schan
Councillor Russ Cochran	Councillor Dawn Smith
Councillor Dr Beccy Cooper	Councillor Elizabeth Sparkes
Councillor Sophie Cox	Councillor Emma Taylor
*Councillor Dan Coxhill	Councillor Sam Theodoridi
Councillor Rita Garner	Councillor Hazel Thorpe
Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies	Councillor John Turley
Councillor Dan Hermitage	*Councillor Steve Waight
Councillor Margaret Howard	*Councillor Carl Walker
Councillor Daniel Humphreys	Councillor Vicki Wells
*Councillor Claire Hunt	Councillor Andy Whight
*Councillor Charles James	Councillor Rosey Whorlow
Councillor Kevin Jenkins	

*=absent

(The Mayor, Councillor Henna Chowdhury in the Chair)

C/1/23-24 Apologies for Absence

The Mayor received apologies for absence from Councillors Coxhill, Hunt, James, Mercer, Overton, Schan, Waight and Walker.

C/2/23-24 Election of the Mayor

It was proposed by Councillor Dan Hermitage and seconded by Councillor Dr Beccy Cooper that Councillor Jon Roser be elected to serve as Mayor for the coming year.

Resolved that Councillor Jon Roser be elected Mayor of the Borough of Worthing for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

There was an adjournment whilst the newly elected Mayor received the Insignia.

Councillor Jon Roser returned to the Chamber and made his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and then addressed the Council.

(The Mayor, Councillor Jon Roser, in the Chair)

C/3/23-24 Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor proposed that Councillor Ibsha Choudhury be appointed to serve as Deputy Mayor in 2023/24, the proposal was seconded by Councillor Hazel Thorpe.

Resolved that Councillor Ibsha Choudhury be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

C/4/23-24 Returning Officer's Return of Persons Elected

The Council noted the Returning Officer's return of persons elected in the Borough Elections held on 4 May 2023.

C/5/23-24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

C/6/23-24 Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2023 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Mayor.

C/7/23-24 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor and presentation of past Mayor and Consort Insignia

A vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Kevin Jenkins and it was unanimously

Resolved that the Council placed on record its sincere thanks to Councillor Henna Chowdhury for the fine manner in which she upheld the tradition of the Office of Mayor of the Borough, for her service to the community of Worthing, for the fair business like way in which she presided over the meetings of the Council and that the Council also expressed its sincere thanks to Millad Chowdhury for the dedicated and friendly manner in which he carried out the duties of Consort.

The Mayor presented the outgoing Mayor with her Past Mayor insignia and Millad Chowdhury with the past Consort insignia.

C/8/23-24 Items raised under Urgency Provisions

There were no urgent items.

C/9/23-24 Announcements by the Mayor and / or Head of Paid Service

There were no announcements from the Mayor or the Head of Paid Service.

The Mayor used his discretion to allow the Leader to welcome the newly elected councillors following the local elections on the 4th May.

C/10/23-24 Political proportionality and allocation of committee seats

Before the Council was a report by the Director for Sustainability and Resources, copies of which had been distributed to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 10.

The report outlined a number of decisions required by Council to ensure that the decision making structure for 2023/24 was determined according to the Council's Constitution.

It was noted that an updated Appendix B had been circulated in advance of the meeting detailing the nominations for Committee Memberships from each of the political groups and the chair and vice-chair nominations.

The recommendations outlined in the report, were proposed by Councillor Dr Beccy Cooper and seconded by Councillor Cathy Glynn-Davies.

Council unanimously approved the recommendations following a vote.

Resolved

That the Council

- i) noted the decision making structure of the Council and the political balance of the Council as detailed in paragraphs 4.1, 4.2 and Appendix A;
- ii) appointed to the Committees in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups on the Council, as detailed in Appendix B (attached);
- iii) agreed that the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees, as detailed in Appendix B (attached), be appointed until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2024;
- iv) in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 38, the Council noted the appointment of the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council, as the Leader of the Main Opposition.

C/11/23-24 Youth Mayor

Council noted that Alba Braham would be the Youth Mayor in 2023/24.

The Mayor announced that he was looking forward to their support during his mayoral year.

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.28pm.