

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2021 AT 7.00PM AT ALTON PUBLIC GARDENS**

Present: **Councillor Matthew Bayliss**
 Ginny Boxall
 Suzie Burns
 Paul Crossley
 Gideon Cristofoli
 Sharon Cullen
 Amanda Durley
 Graham Hill
 Pam Jones
 Christopher Lawrence
 Richard Platt
 Graham Titterington

In attendance: **Leah Coney** - **Town Clerk**
 Patricia Harris - **Finance & Admin Manager**
 Samantha Brown - **Admin Officer**

13 Members of the public and 1 press

The Rev. Phillip Simkins said payers at the start of the meeting.

1 Election of Town Mayor

The current Town Mayor Councillor Titterington asked for any nominations for the position of Town Mayor.

Councillor Graham Titterington nominated Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall.

Councillor Graham Hill nominated Councillor Matthew Bayliss, seconded by Councillor Gideon Cristofoli.

On a show of hands, 8 councillors voted in favour of the nomination for Councillor Pam Jones with 4 councillors voting in favour of the nomination for Councillor Matthew Bayliss and therefore:

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Pam Jones be elected Town Mayor for the coming year.

2 To receive the Town Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor Pam Jones read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 **Presentations by the outgoing Town Mayor including the David Whitmarsh Young Hero Award**

Councillor Graham Titterington stated that while it is always an honour to serve the people of Alton as Mayor, it had been a particular honour to do so during a challenging period such as this. He thanked everyone in Alton Town Council, its officers, ground staff and fellow councillors, for their diligent and unstinting hard work throughout this time.

He thanked his wife Diane for her support and the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Christopher Lawrence for all of his support and presented his wife with a small gift.

Councillor Graham Titterington then undertook his last formal duty in presenting the David Whitmarsh Young Hero Award.

“We are delighted to welcome the family of David Whitmarsh who are joining us this evening. The Town Council was approached earlier this year by former Town Mayor Peter Whitmarsh, looking to make an award in honour of his late son David; a young Altonian who became ill with a rare Leukaemia as a child. David’s life was full and active. Despite a bone marrow transplant aged 12, stem cell transplant and a lung transplant, he helped his father Peter with his council work, travelled to Australia on his own aged 16, volunteered on the Alton Youth Council and went to University in Southampton. He enjoyed sailing and appeared on TV several times including a mini documentary on a trip to the USA and gave interviews to the Herald. As a result, he showed that despite such terrible effects he suffered you can carry on and be inspirational. In this case David inspired his sister to become a doctor.

So, the David Whitmarsh Young Hero award is given for those who, either by the example of courage, endurance or hope in adversity have inspired other members of the Alton and Holybourne communities or those whose service to the communities of Alton and Holybourne has been outstanding.

This year’s inaugural recipient has been a consistent and dedicated member of the 2nd Alton Girls’ Brigade from as early as she could, aged 5. Since then, she has worked her way through the company and now holds the post of “Young Leader” and is preparing to complete the training for a leadership position.

At the while she has had her own medical condition to deal with which culminated in a significant operation that has compromised her immune system. Despite this and restrictions with Covid-19, she has given as much as she can to 2nd Alton Girls’ Brigade leading and supporting their zoom and face to face meetings. Demonstrating courage and endurance beyond her years this year’s inaugural recipient of the David Whitmarsh Young Hero award is Libby Bentley.”

4 **Presentations to outgoing Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor in presenting gifts to the past Mayor, Councillor Graham Titterington and his wife Diane, paid the following tribute:

“When Graham became Mayor in 2019 little did any of us suspect he was to be in post for 2 years, least of all him and what a challenging 2 years it has been. I believe we could not have had a better person at the helm during this time of pandemic his calm, thoughtful and

measured approach in all matters has been a godsend. He has always been there to offer advice and support and to fight for Alton and its community; we will be forever grateful for his diligence and service.

We must also thank Diane who has supported Graham during his Mayoral term of office you know what they say about 'behind every good man' so we'd like to present these tokens of our thanks to them both. I'm just sorry it's not a trip of a lifetime on the Orient Express".

Gifts were presented to the outgoing Town Mayor and his Mayoress by the Town Mayor, Councillor Pam Jones together with presenting a Past Mayor badge and in accepting his gifts the outgoing Mayor thanked all Councillors.

The Town Mayor also presented a gift to the outgoing Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Christopher Lawrence:

"It's not usual to present a gift to the Deputy Mayor, but as Councillor Lawrence wasn't able to take up the role of Mayor this time, we felt a gift was in order. Like Councillor Graham Titterington, Councillor Christopher Lawrence has been in post for 2 years and been called upon to represent the town on countless occasions including appearing on TV, he has always done Alton proud. Thank you Councillor Lawrence".

5 **Town Mayor's Mayoress/Consort, Chaplain and Charities**

1. The Town Mayor made the following statement:

Thank you for electing me as Town Mayor. I am honoured to serve such a caring community. When I was a teacher, I always asked my pupils to do their best I shall try to follow my own advice; none of us is perfect, so I can only do my best. I am mindful of a song which says 'We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road; we are here to help each other, walk the mile and bear the load". I look forward to us all working together as a team for the benefit of our community here in Alton. Thank you."

- 2, The Town Mayor invited the Rev Phillip Simkins, Minister of Alton Methodist Church to act as his Chaplain.
3. The Town Mayor announced that her charity for the mayoral year will be The Kings Arms.
4. The Town Mayor announced that her husband, John, would be her Consort.

6 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pam Bradford.

7 **To elect the Deputy Town Mayor**

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Amanda Durley, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Ginny Boxall be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for the ensuing year

Councillor Ginny Boxall in accepting, stated that she looked forward to supporting the Town Mayor for the coming year and thanked her fellow colleagues for nominating her

8 **To elect the Leader of the Council**

On the proposal of Councillor Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Graham Titterington be elected Leader of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

9 **To elect the Deputy Leader of the Council**

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Titterington, seconded by Councillor Richard Platt, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor Suzie Burns be elected Deputy Leader of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

10 **To receive notification of the Leader of the Opposition**

The Leader of the Opposition is Councillor Graham Hill.

11 **To appoint members to Committees and Sub Committees**

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Pam Jones, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill, it was

RESOLVED

That the following councillors would sit on the committees as detailed below:

Policy & Resources Committee: (7)

Councillor Graham Titterington (Chair)
Councillor Suzie Burns (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor Christopher Lawrence
Councillor Gideon Cristofoli
Councillor Graham Hill
Councillor Matthew Bayliss

Open Spaces Committee (7)

Councillor Suzie Burns (Chair)
Councillor Graham Hill (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Ginny Boxall
Councillor Sharon Cullen
Councillor Pam Bradford
Councillor Paul Crossley
Councillor Gideon Cristofoli

Planning & Transport (8)

Councillor Graham Titterington (Chair)
Councillor Paul Crossley (Deputy Chair)

Councillor Christopher Lawrence
Councillor Richard Platt
Councillor Amanda Durley
Councillor Sharon Cullen
Councillor Matthew Bayliss
1 Vacancy

Community (8)

Councillor Ginny Boxall (Chair)
Councillor Gideon Cristofoli (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Richard Platt
Councillor Amanda Durley
Councillor Pam Bradford
Councillor Graham Titterington
Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor Matthew Bayliss

Allotments Sub Committee (2)

Councillor Pam Bradford (Chair)
Councillor Pam Jones

Staffing Sub Committee (4)

Councillor Suzie Burns (Chair)
Councillor Matthew Bayliss (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Pam Jones
Councillor Amanda Durley

The meeting finished at 7.24 pm.