

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL** held in **THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, DRAKE ROAD, TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY 20th MAY, 2025** at **6.30pm**.

PRESENT Councillor P Ward (Retiring Mayor),
Councillors R Edlmann, Ms M Ewings, S Hipsey, Mrs J Hughes, A Hutton, Mrs A Johnson, A Lewis, N Martin, Mrs B Moody, J Moody, G Parker, B Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE Town Clerk, General Manager, Assistant to the Town Clerk

Note – prior to the Meeting there was opportunity for;

- Quiet Reflection, led by Assistant Curate Hazel Butland of St Eustachius' Church, Tavistock; and
- The Mayor to present Mr Alan Wroath from 'The New Tavistock Youth Café' with a cheque for £2,268.30, being the funds raised for the Mayor's chosen Charity during his Mayoral year.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Nominations were invited for the election of Mayor of Tavistock Town Council for the 2025-2026 Civic Year.

A nomination was received in respect of Councillor S Hipsey (proposed by Councillor P Ward and seconded by Councillor Mrs A Johnson).

There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED THAT Councillor S Hipsey be elected Mayor of Tavistock Town Council for the 2025-2026 Civic Year.

The Mayor was invested with the Chain of Office by the Retiring Mayor, Councillor P Ward. The new Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for the opportunity to represent it as Mayor for new term.

The Retiring Mayoress, Mrs Jane Ward, invested the new Mayoress, Mrs Cathy Hipsey, with the Chain of Office.

Councillor S Hipsey gave a tribute to the Retiring Town Mayor, Councillor P Ward.

The Retiring Mayor was presented with a Past Mayor's badge by the new Mayor, and then expressed his appreciation to Councillor colleagues, his Mayoress, Officers and staff for their support and endeavours over the past Civic Year which he had enjoyed immensely.

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Nominations were invited for the election of Deputy Mayor of Tavistock Town Council for the 2025-2026 Civic Year.

A nomination was received in respect of Councillor Mrs A Johnson (proposed by Councillor S Hipsey and seconded by Councillor Ms M Ewings).

There being no other nominations it was:

RESOLVED THAT Councillor Mrs A Johnson be elected Deputy Mayor of Tavistock Town Council for the 2025-2026 Civic Year.

The Deputy Mayor was invested with the Chain of Office by the Retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Hipsey. The new Deputy Mayor signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked the Council for the opportunity to represent it as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors T Munro, R Poppe and A Venning.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were made.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Meeting of Tavistock Town Council held on 22nd April 2025, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (Appendix 1).

6. OTHER MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

a) Order of Business

In order to facilitate the conduct of the Meeting it was:

RESOLVED THAT Standing Orders Nos. 5 (j) (iv) – (vi), and (viii) – (x) and (xiii – xx) be suspended to allow the following business to be transacted.

7. MAYOR'S EXPENSES

The Council considered the treatment of Mayoral expenses arising from which it was:

RESOLVED THAT Tavistock Town Council endorse the payment of an allowance of £2,000 to the Town Mayor to defray the expenses attached to this Office in pursuance of Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Noted That the Mayor Declared an Interest in the above item by virtue of the Office held and left the room during consideration thereof, during which time the Deputy Mayor took the Chair.

8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES & CONSULTATIVE GROUPS

The Council considered the list of proposed appointments of Committees and Consultative Groups (Appendix 2).

RESOLVED THAT the Membership of Committees and other fora as set out in the appended Schedule be endorsed.

9. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

The Council considered a draft Programme of Meetings for the 2025-2026 Civic Year (Appendix 3).

RESOLVED THAT the submitted 2025-2026 Civic Year Programme of Meetings be adopted.

Noted That – it was confirmed that Councillors would, in addition to the schedule in paper and virtual form, receive an electronic diary notification for the Meetings listed.

10. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CHARITIES AND OTHER BODIES

The Council considered the list setting out the proposed appointment of representatives to Charities and Other Bodies (Appendix 4).

RESOLVED THAT representatives be appointed to the Charities and Outside Bodies for the 2025-2026 Civic Year as set out in the list.

11. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

Having met the criteria for eligibility for the General Power of Competence (GPC) relating to the Electoral Mandate (66%), and the relevant training of the Clerk, it was:

RESOLVED THAT Tavistock Town Council re-adopt the General Power of Competence.

12. RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

The record of Councillor Attendances at Meetings during the 2024 – 2025 Civic Year was noted (Appendix 5)

13. RESIGNATION

The recent resignation of former Councillor Ursula Mann was reported.

Noted That thanks were conveyed to the former Councillor for her work and contribution whilst on the Town Council, together with the considerable contribution to the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Tavistock.

The Meeting closed at 7.14pm

Chairman

Date