



To the Members of the Borough Council

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council, to be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL on Thursday, 17th May, 2018 at 7.00 pm.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T W Mortimer'.

T W Mortimer
Corporate Director (Law and Governance)

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DS
9 May 2018

Queries concerning this agenda? Please contact Danny Sheppard Telephone (01233) 330349 Email danny.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk
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**ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING 17TH MAY 2018
ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS**

1. Election of Mayor

- (a) The Retiring Mayor enters the Council Chamber wearing robes and Chain and takes the Chair.
- (b) Prayer.
- (c) Retiring Mayor calls for nominations.
- (d) Nomination moved by Councillor Galpin
- (e) Nomination seconded by Councillor Shorter
- (f) Retiring Mayor declares the result of the election (even where one nomination only it must be put to the vote).

2. Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Mayor

- (a) The Chief Executive will read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the new Mayor signs the Declaration after signifying acceptance.
- (b) The Robing Party then retires from the Council Chamber in the following order:-

Mace Bearer
Retiring Mayor
Chief Executive
New Mayor
Chaplain

NOTE: It is essential that the Retiring Mayoress and the New Chaplain are present in the Council Chamber from the commencement of the Annual Meeting, and she should leave the Council Chamber at the rear of the Robing Party. On return, in advance of the return of the newly elected Mayor, the Retiring Mayoress and Retiring Chaplain should be escorted along with the Retiring Mayor, into the Council Chamber and take their seats.

- (c) The Robing Party then returns to the Council Chamber in the following order:-

Mace Bearer
Mayor
Chief Executive
Chaplain

3. Appointment of Mayor's Chaplain

- (a) Prayer.

4. Vote of thanks by the Mayor for her Election

5. **Vote of thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress**
 - (a) Moved by Councillor Ovenden
 - (b) Seconded by Councillor Clarkson
 - (c) Presentation of Badges by the Mayor to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress.
 - (d) Presentation of a gift by the new Mayor to the Retiring Mayoress.
6. **Response by the Retiring Mayor**
 - (a) Presentation of gift by the Retiring Mayoress to the new Mayor.
7. **Election and Appointment of Deputy Mayor**
 - (a) Mayor calls for nominations.
 - (b) Proposed by Councillor Clarkson
 - (c) Seconded by Councillor Clokie
 - (d) Following election, Mayor declares result of the vote.
8. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Deputy Mayor**
 - (a) The Chief Executive will read out the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Deputy Mayor signs the Declaration after signifying acceptance.
 - (b) Deputy Mayor invested with Chain of Office by the Mayor and presented with a gift by the Mayor.
 - (c) Deputy Mayor's Consort invested with Chain of Office by the Mayor.
9. **Apologies for Absence**
10. **Declarations of Interest**
11. **Minutes**

To consider the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 19th April 2018.
12. **Announcements**

To receive any announcements from the Mayor.
13. **Confirmation of Cabinet Arrangements for 2018/19 by the Leader of the Council.**
14. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held on the 1st May 2018.
15. To consider the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 10th May 2018.

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **19th April 2018**.

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Cllr. W R Michael (Chairman);

Cllrs. Barrett, Bartlett, Mrs Bell, Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Bradford, Buchanan, Burgess, Chilton, Clarkson, Clokie, Farrell, Feacey, Galpin, Heyes, Mrs Heyes, Hicks, W Howard, Howard-Smith, Koowaree, Krause, Link, Macpherson, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Ovenden, Pickering, Shorter, Sims, Suddards, Mrs Webb, Wedgbury, White.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Director of Law and Governance, Director of Finance and Economy, Director of Place and Space, Head of Legal and Democracy, Senior Member Services Officer.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Members remained standing in respect of the late Deryck Garth Weatherall who was the Member for the Ashford Twelve Acres Ward between 1976 and 1999, Mayor in 1987/1988 and Leader of the Council from 1995 to 1999. The Reverend John Mackenzie then said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Adby, Dehnel, Murphy, Smith, Waters.

417 Exempt or Confidential Information

The Mayor asked whether any items should be dealt with in private because of the likely disclosure of exempt or confidential information. The Director of Law and Governance advised that there were none.

418 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Clarkson	Made a Declaration that he was a Director of A Better Choice for Property Limited.	421(b)

419 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 22nd February 2018 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

420 Announcements

(a) The Mayor

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He advised that the numerous rewarding and inspiring engagements over the past weeks had given him the privilege to meet many wonderful people who were doing incredible things for both the community and humanity. This had provided him with an insight in to Ashford's communities and their challenges. He and the Mayoress had also attended Civic functions, given support to local Mayors, delivered a number of speeches and received many thanks for the inspiration they gave. They had endeavoured to show Ashford in the best possible light.

He said the winter months had brought involvement with looking after the homeless and he was pleased to report that his call to house everyone when the extreme cold weather came in was magnificently answered by Ashford Borough Council Officers and Porchlight. The outcome was a shining example of what focussed partnership could achieve in a couple of hours. On behalf of the homeless he thanked everyone involved. He said that Members would be pleased to know that he knew, from talking with Mayors from Kent and the Boroughs surrounding London, that Ashford was probably the only town to achieve full housing for the homeless during the cold weather. He said he was passionate about doing everything possible to get the homeless back on their feet as quickly as possible, so he was looking at what they had told him they needed. Homeless people did not want handouts, but work and having to move around from church to church for night shelter and being out on the streets during the day, offered them little hope of being able to achieve this because of a lack of cleaning facilities and a postal address. He hoped something could be achieved before the winter of 2018 and he was passionate about doing all he could to realise this.

Today saw many young people struggle at school because education was highly focussed towards academia, with a consequence that some dropped out of school or achieved little. Apprenticeships were a passion of his because they had always offered the less able work without paper qualifications. Training was through working alongside skilled craftsmen and paper qualifications could be obtained downstream if desired. He considered that a stigma was still attached to apprenticeships and this was completely wrong. When opening a Trades Apprenticeships Centre recently he had told Apprentices to hold their heads high because what they were doing for four years was on a par with a university degree, if not higher, because of the practical, on-the-job experience they gained throughout the apprenticeship and the security of a job. A young girl had told him that two and a half years in to her electrical apprenticeship, the self-worth and self-esteem it had given her was invaluable and it had allowed her to help her Dad with the rent and afford a small car. With an internationally recognised certificate at the end of four years, she could go on to earn more money than some graduates. The present way of funding higher education in schools could lead them to not acting in the best interests of young people. Six months in to higher education this particular girl had realised that it was not for her and had fortunately come across her present apprenticeship scheme and the world was now her oyster! He was an ambassador for apprenticeship schemes and the organisation he had met had asked him to come back and help. He was therefore currently looking at the best way to leverage the hidden talent Ashford had through this apprenticeship provider which already had some 6500 apprentices under work based training through a network of 3000 businesses. If Ashford was to attract

businesses it would be necessary to demonstrate that it had the programmes to deliver the skilled workforce.

The Mayor said that given his passion for young people he never refused any of the many invitations received. On a recent visit to a farm who educated young people in to animal husbandry, irrespective of their personal circumstances, he was pleased to witness first-hand the difference working with animals made, not only to their quality of life, but also their learning and he was impressed with the skill they demonstrated. Animals had such a therapeutic effect on people with health issues and it was easy to see why people came alive and into their own. A young girl with Downs Syndrome had completely captured his thoughts as she had won two rosettes for her sheep at the Kent Show and this had revealed to him the incredible opportunities available to those with health difficulties through animal husbandry. All of the young people with special needs that he had met had blossomed through working with animals, and this would not necessarily had been the case with other vocations. He thought would it not be wonderful for these people to take up a career in livestock farming because it would lead to them becoming self-sustaining. When he thought about how architectural land was continually being gobbled up for development he asked why some of this could not be given out as small farm holdings in a similar way to the thinking behind affordable housing. A number of today's farmers were very fortunate in that they had come by their land through inheritance or purchased it at a time when land prices were affordable. When he had raised these thoughts with a senior person within Kent Young Farmers, he was taken aback when he was asked who would compensate her for the difference in price between agricultural and development land. He considered that current Government policy to open up farmland for housing did nothing for young people wishing to branch out in to farming and would result in a lost opportunity for farming for current and future generations of young people. He believed the country needed to become self-sufficient in terms of food production, and with Brexit on the horizon this became an even more urgent requirement.

Showing a genuine interest in a young person completely changed their mood, so the more everyone did this, the better the outcome would be. This was most clearly demonstrated when he was asked by children at Stanhope to prepare, cook and eat a meal with them. While the food was cooking they played football, hop-scotch and many other games. The day went without incident and the young people left with a positive attitude and wonderful memories. He was sure that the day was reflected in their classrooms through positive behaviour.

The Mayor said that he had joined Ashford United Football Club recently for their fun day and big game against Faversham Town, and this had been a refreshing experience. There were plenty of young children present and it was great to see the club doing so much for the Borough's young people. He considered that as Ashford grew the Club should be at the heart of the Borough and its communities and an important component of Ashford's growth agenda. Having been once, he had already been back for a second visit and he looked forward to attending more games in the future because AUFC brought together people of all ages for sheer joy, laughter and camaraderie, irrespective of winning or losing.

His recent Sunday Lunch Opera Carvery had been a huge success and much talked about in the circles of local Mayors and those who attended. Jo Appleby, the soprano who performed at the last night of the Proms ended the afternoon with a run of songs from the Proms and for a while everyone became a "promenader", singing

and waving Union Jacks. He considered there was nothing like stirring Proms music to bring the best of Britishness out in everyone and to remind them that this was still the greatest nation on Earth and they would survive anything, including Brexit.

Finally, the Mayor said that earlier that day four young people, along with him, had sky-dived from 15,000 feet, experiencing a 60 second, 125mph free-fall from that height. They had plummeted 10,000 feet before releasing their parachutes. This would never be forgotten and they all had something to remember that would be a life-changing experience and an inspiring event for the rest of their lives. The purpose of the sky-dive was to raise money to provide a bus for Wyvern School and he was pleased to report that, incredibly, this had been achieved. He wished to acknowledge donations from his family, friends, businesses, work colleagues, Councillors Bartlett, Mrs Webb, White, Martin and Ovenden and all others both from the UK and overseas who had donated and to thank everyone who had identified with his passion to help all young people regardless of their personal circumstances.

(b) Leader of the Council

The Leader said that as spring finally appeared to have arrived, he would like to update colleagues on a number of recent developments, and mention a few things that they all had to look forward to over the coming months. Before doing so, he wanted to congratulate the Mayor on his safe arrival back in Ashford after his rather high level adventure! He said the Mayor was certainly having a very full and exciting year.

He advised that the works on the £90 million expansion of the McArthurGlen Designer Outlet were well underway. This expansion would create 500 new jobs for the area, add 50 new premium retail brands, and would be a significant boost to Ashford's economy. The improvements to local roads and pedestrian walkways surrounding the Centre were part of a long-term project to make roads safer and improve traffic flows. There would unfortunately be some serious disruption, and he knew that the Chairman of the Joint Transportation Board, Cllr Bernard Heyes, was looking into this and was seeing what could be done to ease the disruption. The works had also caused problems for the train operators and the bus company, because the access to the station was limited from the eastern end of Newtown Road and this presented some problems for access to the International side of the station. This Council had been swift to respond to Southeastern and Stagecoach with help to provide temporary "Layovers" for the Double Decker Buses, where the taxis used to stand, until the works were completed. This did not interfere with the Council's programme of works in that area. They had also asked KCC Highways to look at what could be done to ease disruption during these roadworks. McArthurGlen had committed £1.5 million to the local community as part of the expansion, this contribution would include: - a completely re-landscaped access route from the Designer Outlet to the Ashford International Station and the town centre on Newtown Road to improve safety and access; and the introduction of a shuttle bus from the Designer Outlet to the town centre.

The Leader advised that the Elwick Place development had reached its highest point of construction as the scheme moved towards completion. A 'topping out' ceremony for the scheme, being developed by Stanhope PLC, had been held the previous Thursday and had been attended by Ashford Borough Council, and Stanhope's main contractors, Lendlease. The development was due to open this December. The two-hectare development would see a derelict brownfield site that had stood idle for

years, transformed into a vibrant new leisure quarter for the town with a six screen picturehouse cinema, hotel, new restaurants and cafes and 282 parking spaces. The development had been funded by the Council on land that it owned, and would provide a return to the residents of this Borough.

When mentioning returns on the Council's investments, the Leader said he wanted to advise colleagues that current yields on International House, Ellingham Way Industrial Estate, Stanhope Shops and Wilko Store were running from 8.8% to 12.6%. By any measure in the current economic climate, that was very good business indeed.

What was very clear was that there were a host of new physical developments occurring in and around the Town Centre of Ashford and there was a need to revisit and rebuild the masterplanning that was last undertaken over a decade ago. The Council needed a cohesive approach to the planning for its Town Centre and he had therefore decided to form the Ashford Town Centre Place Making Board. The Board would evaluate the various options being advanced and weld them into a cohesive and deliverable matrix, creating a vision for Ashford as a vibrant, exciting and unique location. The Board would oversee the short, medium and long term delivery of this major place making project – much as the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board had done with the 'Big 8' strategic projects. Feeding into the above Board would be four operational work streams with Officers and Members. These operational work-streams would work up clear plans, explaining the anticipated outcomes they were hoping to achieve and giving options where appropriate. One of these teams would be tasked to consult a wide range of people and organisations. All Members of the Authority would be invited to contribute as they moved forward. These plans would be proposed and advanced to the Ashford Town Centre Place Making Board. The Board would be made up of Lead Officers and Lead Members from each work-stream, together with the Leader as Chair and the Chief Executive, who would also have an over-seeing role in monitoring the Working Groups. There would also be Member and Officer advisers from Finance and Legal and external advice where necessary. Over the last few days the Council had been visited by a Corporate Peer Review Team of seven senior Members and Officers appointed by the Local Government Association to critically examine the Council's corporate approach, right across all functions and responsibilities. The Council had encouraged everyone to be open and honest because they welcomed constructive and helpful criticism and would welcome their report and recommendations.

The Leader advised that the Council was introducing a Borough-wide residents' magazine, called Ashford For You, on a trial basis of four issues. The first edition was being delivered directly to residents' doors next week. The 24 page, quarterly magazine would be distributed to all households in the Borough and would cover what was going on in the Borough, profiling services, people and places. They wanted to ensure the Council was communicating with all its residents and keeping them abreast of what was happening across the Borough. Whilst he knew many residents used digital methods of communication, such as the Council's website and social media channels, they do not reach every household in this way so the Council was introducing a Borough-wide magazine to complement the other ways they reached the community. It was hoped that the magazine would prove to be a success and would ensure that residents were well informed about what was happening across the Borough.

Finally, the Leader said he wanted to remind colleagues that Ashford and the City of London would be launching the Fields of Battle - Lands of Peace Photographic Exhibition on the 30th April at the Guildhall, London where it would stay for one month and then be transferred to Ashford for the month of June. This was an Exhibition that would be seen thereafter across the country and indeed overseas.

421 Cabinet – 8th March and 12th April 2018

The report of the Director of Law and Governance, which had been tabled, clarified the procedure for consideration of the Cabinet Minutes.

(a) Cabinet – 8th March 2018

Resolved:

- That (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 8th March 2018 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 367 and 372.**
- (ii) Minute Nos. 367 and 372 be approved and adopted.**

(b) Cabinet – 12th April 2018

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 12th April 2018 may be called in, i.e. 25th April 2018: -

- (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 12th April 2018 be received and noted with the exception of Minute Nos. 409 and 410.**
- (ii) Minute Nos. 409 and 410 be approved and adopted.**

422 Audit Committee – 20th March 2018

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit Committee held on the 20th March 2018 be received and noted.

(DS)

Selection & Constitutional Review Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Selection & Constitutional Review Committee held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **1st May 2018**

Present:

Cllr. Clarkson (Chairman);
 Cllrs. Barrett, Mrs Bell, Bennett, Burgess, Clokie, Galpin, Hicks, Murphy, Shorter.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillor Mrs Bell attended as Substitute Member for Councillor Bell.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Bell, Chilton, Ovenden.

Also Present:

Senior Member Services Officer.

436 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Clarkson	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he was a Director of the 'A Better Choice for Property Company'.	438
Shorter	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he was a Director of Kent Play Clubs and the 'A Better Choice for Building Consultancy Company'.	438

437 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Committee held on the 13th July 2017 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

438 Background and Principles of Political Balance and Administrative Structure

The Senior Member Services Officer introduced the report which presented the Political Balance for the Authority and sought to agree a number of other constitutional matters which needed to be recommended to the Annual Meeting of the Council on the 17th May 2018. The agreed Political Balance is contained at Appendix A to these Minutes. He also drew the Committee's attention to the tabled

paper which included some additions to the report which had occurred following the publication of the Agenda and an additional recommendation regarding the re-appointment of the Council's Independent Person.

The Chairman advised of his intention to constitute a new Ashford Town Centre Place Making Board, which would operate in a similar way to the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board, and deal with masterplanning for the town centre.

In response to a question the Senior Member Services Officer advised that Mrs Vant had indicated that she was happy to be re-appointed as the Independent Person for a further period.

The Chairman ran through the membership of Committees, Groups and Forums one by one. With input from Members, the membership for 2018/19 was completed including the nominations for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. This is contained at Appendix B to these Minutes.

Recommended:

That (i) **the Political Balance of the Authority as contained at Appendix A to these Minutes be adopted, subject to the Council agreeing that the requirements of the Political Balance Regulations be not applied to the Membership of the Joint Transportation Board, Appeals Panels, Standards Committee, the Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (and its Panels) and the Sub-Committee of the Licensing and Health and Safety Committee established under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005.**

(ii) **the following Committees be constituted for the Municipal Year as detailed in Part 3 of the Constitution:**

**Audit
Appointments
Appeals
Investigation and Disciplinary
Joint Arrangements – Joint Transportation Board
Licensing and Health and Safety
Overview and Scrutiny
Planning
Selection and Constitutional Review
Standards**

NB: Details of Members appointed to Membership of each Committee etc by Group Leaders is shown at Appendix B to these Minutes. Note: This may be subject to amendments from Group Leaders.

(iii) **seats on the following Committees be allocated to the Members indicated: -**

**Appointments Committee – Ashford Independent Group
Licensing and Health and Safety Committee – Labour Group
Planning Committee – Councillor Macpherson
Selection & Constitutional Review Committee – Cllr Koowaree**

- (iv) the revised title for the Community Safety and Wellbeing Portfolio be received and noted.**
- (v) the changes in respect of Task Groups, Boards and Advisory Committees as outlined in Section 5 of the report be noted.**
- (vi) the Council re-appoints Mrs Carol Vant as the Independent Person for a further period to the end of the next Council in May 2023.**

439 Constitutional Amendments

The Senior Member Services Officer introduced the report which recommended an amendment to the Responsibility for Functions in the Constitution – Delegations to the Head of Corporate Property and Projects in order to clarify a previously added provision and a change to the Terms of Reference of the Community Grants Panel.

The Portfolio Holder confirmed that he was satisfied that the financial level proposed in the report at which consultation over new leases would be required, was sufficient.

Recommended:

That the changes in the Constitution as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report be made.

440 Representatives on Outside Bodies/Organisations

The report gave details of those organisations or outside bodies to which the Council appointed or nominated representatives, and the names of the Members of the Council who currently served in this capacity. The Senior Member Services Officer directed the Committee's attention to the tabled paper which included some additions to attendance figures.

The Committee asked if Minutes of meetings could be requested from the organisations directly throughout the year, so that full attendance figures could be obtained, even if the organisations failed to respond to the annual request for information.

Members pointed out a couple of organisations that did not currently appear in the schedule and it was agreed to add the Romney Marsh Partnership and Singleton Spaces to the list going forward.

Resolved:

That the names of the persons to be appointed or nominated as Members or Substitute Members (as the case may be) to the organisations listed in Appendix C to these Minutes be agreed.

441 Annual Meeting – Order of Proceedings

The Committee considered the Order of Proceedings for the Annual Meeting of the Council including the movers and seconders of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor.

Resolved:

That the Director of Law and Governance prepare the Order of Proceedings for the Annual Meeting of the Council on the basis of the advice of this Committee.

DS

APPENDIX A
(Minute No. 438/5/18 refers)

THE POLITICAL BALANCE CALCULATION
MAY 2018

A All Committees to which balance applies

	Committee	Seats/Committee		Total Seats
1 x 12	Overview and Scrutiny	12	=	12
1 x 17	Planning	17	=	17
1 x 13	Licensing and Health & Safety	13	=	13
1 x 12	Selection	12	=	12
1 x 8	Audit	8	=	8
1 x 5	Appointments	5	=	5
			Total	<u>67</u>

B. Percentage of group in relation to total membership of the authority

43 members =		%
34 Conservative	=	81.39534
3 Ashford Independent	=	6.97674
3 Labour	=	6.97674
<u>Note:</u>		
1 Foundation	=	2.32558
1 Liberal Democrat	=	2.32558
1 UKIP	=	2.32558
		<hr/>
		99.99998
		<hr/>

C.1 Allocation of Seats on Committees in proportion to Group strength

Committee	Con	AI	Lab	To Be Allocated	Total
1 x 12 O&S	9	1	1	1* **	12
1 x 17 Planning	13	1	1	2 * **	17
1 x 12 Selection	9	1	1	1 ***	12
1 x 13 Licensing, Health & Safety	10	1	1	1 ***	13
1 x 8 Audit	6	1	1		8
1 x 5 Appointments	4	0	0	1***	5
Totals	51* (52.977)	5 (4.604)	3 (3.116)	6	67

1. *Under the draft calculation for Conservative Group has been allocated 51 seats but their overall entitlement across all Committees is 53 and therefore, there still remains the need for the Conservative Group to be allocated two additional seats. Under the calculation there are six seats that remain to be allocated. The Leader of the Conservative Group wishes to take a seat on the Planning Committee and a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to achieve overall balance.
2. **The Conservative Group wish to give one of their seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Labour Group.
3. ***After the Conservative Group had been allocated their two seats (referred to in 1* above), under the draft calculation all Groups had received their allocations on the above Committees, and when taken collectively their overall entitlement to seats across all Committees. However, four seats remain to be allocated. Group Leaders recommend that these seats be allocated as follows: - Appointments Committee – Ashford Independent Group; Licensing and Health and Safety Committee – Labour Group; Planning Committee – Cllr Macpherson; Selection & Constitutional Review Committee – Cllr Koowaree.

C.2 Allocation of seats on all ordinary Committees to achieve overall proportionality

Political Group entitlement in relation to all seats: 65

Conservative	52.977	=	53
Ashford Independent	4.674	=	6
Labour	4.674	=	6
			65
1 Foundation			2
1 Liberal Democrat		=	2
	Total		67

D. Committees etc. to which balance cannot apply or will not apply either as a direct result of joint arrangements or the Council agreeing, i.e. no member votes against this arrangement, on each occasion the Council adopts a revised political balance for the Authority.

*1 x 3	Appeals (3 Member Panels)	3 Members per meeting drawn on rota from a Panel of 15 Members (which does not meet as a Committee)	=	3
x 1 x 7	Joint Transportation Board		=	7
1 x 3	Licensing Sub-Committee (3 Member Panels)	3 Members per meeting drawn on rota from a Panel of 13 Members (which does meet as a Committee so is itself balanced)	=	3
1 x 3	Investigation & Disciplinary Committee	3 Members to meet as a Committee from an overall membership of 15	=	3

** Standards – broadly politically balanced as part of membership based on posts.

x Due to the Joint Arrangements and the manner in which seats are allocated by the Kent County Council, it is impossible to have an overall balanced allocation of seats.

Committee	Con	AI	Lab	Total
*1 x 15 Appeals	13	1	1	15
1 x 15 Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	13	Plus Group Leaders and Chair of O&S		15
*1 x 7 Joint Transportation	6^{xx}	1^{xx}	0^{xx}	7
** Standards	6	Plus Chair and Vice-Chair of O&S		8

** Standards – broadly politically balanced as part of membership based on posts.

SELECTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

1ST MAY 2018

**MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES, GROUPS AND FORUMS,
INCLUDING CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN**

On the basis of the draft Political Balance Calculation agreed with Group Leaders the entitlement to seats is set out below.

The Committee may wish to propose the identity of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of each Committee, for appointment in accordance with the Constitution, by the Full Council.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (12 Members)

Members of the Cabinet may not be appointed to this Committee

Conservative (9)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (2*)	
Bartlett	Michael (VCh)	Chilton (Ch)	
Buchanan		Farrell	
Burgess			
Dehnel			
Feacey			
Krause			
Knowles			
Miss Martin			
Mrs Martin			

* Seat gifted by the Conservative Group

Audit Committee (8 Members)

Conservative (6)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Barrett (VCh)	Smith	Suddards	
Mrs Dyer			
Hicks			
Link			
Shorter			
Waters (Ch)			

Planning Committee (17 Members) (plus 1 ex officio)

Conservative (14)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	Foundation (1)
Bennett	Ovenden	Chilton	Macpherson
Bradford			
Buchanan			
Burgess (Ch)			
Clarkson (EO)			
Clokie			
Dehnel			
Galpin			
Heyes			
Hicks			
Knowles			
Krause			
Link (VCh)			
Waters			
Wedgbury			

Selection & Constitutional Review Committee (12 Members)

Conservative (9)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Barrett	Ovenden	Chilton	Koowaree
Bell (VCh)			
Bennett			
Bradford			
Burgess			
Clarkson (Ch)			
Clokie			
Galpin			
Hicks			

Licensing and Health and Safety Committee (13 Members)

Group Leaders are reminded of the importance of nominating Members who are available to attend day-time hearings of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Conservative (10)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (2)	
Adby	Smith	Farrell	
Bennett		Suddards	
Bradford			
Mrs Dyer (VCh)			
Feacey (Ch)			
Krause			
Pickering			
Shorter			
Sims			
White			

Appointments Committee (5 Members)

Conservative (4)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (0)	
Clarkson (Ch)	Ovenden		
Mrs Bell			
Clokie (VCh)			
Pickering			

Appeals (15 Members – 3 Members to be drawn per meeting)

Members should not be a Member of the Cabinet. Group Leaders are reminded of the importance of nominating Members who are available to attend day-time meetings.

Conservative (13)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Adby	Michael	Farrell	
Buchanan			
Heyes			
Mrs Heyes			
Hicks			
A Howard			
W Howard			
Knowles			
Krause			
Link			
Sims			
Waters			
Wedgbury			

Investigation & Disciplinary Committee (15 Members – 3 Members to be drawn per meeting)

To include at least one Member of the Cabinet, Group Leaders and the Chairmen of the Overview & Scrutiny and Audit Committees

Conservative (13)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Barrett	Ovenden	Chilton	
Bartlett			
Bell			
Mrs Bell			
Bradford			
Burgess			
Clarkson			
Dehnel			
Mrs Dyer			
Knowles			
Pickering			
Waters			
White			

Standards Committee (8 Members)

Based on 6 Conservative Members (including at least one Member of the Cabinet) plus the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Conservative (6)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Mrs Bell (VCh)	Michael	Chilton	
Dehnel (Ch)			
Knowles			
Link			
Pickering			
White			

Joint Transportation Board (7 Members)

Conservative (6)	Ashford Independent (1*)	Labour (0)	
Bradford	Michael		
Buchanan			
Feacey			
Heyes (VCh)			
Howard-Smith			
Mrs Martin			

*One seat to be allocated to an Opposition Group

Community Grants Panel (7 Members including the Portfolio Holder for Culture)

Conservative (6)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (0)	
Barrett	Smith		
Bennett (PH)			
Burgess			
Mrs Dyer			
Link (Ch)			
Mrs Webb (VCh)			

Joint Consultative Committee (6 Members) – At least one Member from each Group – the remainder from the administration.

Membership is to include the Leader and/or appropriate Portfolio Holder.

Conservative (4)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Feacey	Smith	Suddards	
Krause			
Pickering (Ch)			
Shorter			

Member Training Panel (8 Members)

Conservative (6)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Mrs Bell (VCh)	Smith	Farrell	
Feacey (Ch)			
A Howard			
W Howard			
Krause			
Link			

Local Government and Polling Districts Task Group (10 Members)

Conservative (8)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Adby (VCh)	Michael	Farrell	
Bell (Ch)			
Clokie			
Heyes			
W Howard			
Howard-Smith			
Wedgbury			
White			

Local Plan & Planning Policy Task Group (10 Members)

Conservative (8)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Mrs Bell	Michael	Suddards	
Burgess			
Clarkson (Ch)			
Clokie (VCh)			
Mrs Dyer			
Galpin			
Heyes			
White			

Trading and Enterprise Board (4 Members and 1 Observer)

Conservative (4)
Bell (Ch)
Bradford
Clokie
Galpin

* Councillor Ovenden to be appointed as Observer.

** Councillor Bell (as Chairman) to be the Shareholder Representative under the Articles of Association of the Trading Companies.

**MEMBERSHIP OF CABINET BOARDS, STEERING GROUPS AND TASK
GROUPS FOR 2018/19**

The following are set out for information only.

Boards

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (1 Member)

Conservative
(1)
Bradford

Ashford Strategic Delivery Board (3 Members)

Conservative
(3)
Clarkson (Ch)
Clokie
Galpin

Ashford Town Centre Place Making Board (8 Members)

Conservative	Ashford Independent	Labour	
(7)	(1)	(0)	
Bell	Ovenden		
Mrs Bell			
Bennett			
Clarkson (Ch)			
Clokie			
Galpin (VCh)			
Shorter			

Economic Regeneration & Investment Board (4 Members)

Conservative (3)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (0)	
Clarkson (Ch)	Ovenden		
Galpin			
Shorter			

Compliance & Enforcement Board (5 Members) (plus 1 ex-officio)

Conservative (4)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (0)	
Bell (EO)	Ovenden		
Mrs Bell			
Bradford			
Dehnel (Ch)			
White			

Advisory Committees

Bockhanger, Bybrook and Ashford South Advisory Committee (5 Members)

Conservative (3)	Ashford Independent (0)	Labour (1)	
Barrett		Farrell	
Buchanan (Ch)			
Howard-Smith			
Mrs Webb			

Land Management Advisory Committee (4 Members)

Conservative (3)	Ashford Independent (0)	Labour (0)	UKIP (1)
Barrett			Murphy
Mrs Dyer (Ch)			
Hicks			

IT and Digital Transformation Advisory Committee (4 Members) (plus 1 ex-officio)

Conservative (3)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (0)	
Bell (EO)	Ovenden		
Knowles (Ch)			
Pickering			
Shorter			

Victoria Park and Conningbrook Park Advisory Committee (5 Members)

Conservative (4)	Ashford Independent (0)	Labour (0)	Liberal Democrat (1)
Bennett			Koowaree
Buchanan (Ch)			
Galpin			
Mrs Martin			

Task Groups

Borough History, Heritage and Commemoration Task Group (6 Members)

Conservative (4)	Ashford Independent (1)	Labour (1)	
Bennett (Ch)	Smith	Suddards	
Buchanan (VCh)			
Dehnel			
Mrs Webb			

Strategic Transport Group (4 Members)

Conservative (3)	Ashford Independent (0)	Labour (1)	
Feacey (Ch)		Farrell	
Heyes			
Pickering			

Council Tax & Welfare Reform Task Group (4 Members)

Conservative (3)	Ashford Independent (0)	Labour (0)	Foundation (1)
Hicks			Macpherson
Shorter (Ch)			
White			

ASHFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPOINTMENT/NOMINATION TO OUTSIDE BODIES/ORGANISATIONS

**Appendix 1
Liaison Member Appointments**

The following Liaison Member appointments are made to the following charities.

Name of Organisation	New Representative for 2018/19
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	Cllr Burgess
Ashford Volunteer Centre	Cllr Feacey
Sandyacres Trust	Cllr Michael
Singleton Spaces	Cllr Barrett
Tenterden Leisure Trust	Cllr Knowles
Wye Rural Museum Trust	Cllr W Howard

**Appendix 2
Trustee Appointments**

The following Trustee appointments are made to the following charities.

Name of Organisation	New Representative for 2018/19
Ashford Almshouses and Parochial Charities	Cllr Heyes Cllr Krause Cllr Suddards
Kennington Parochial Charities	Cllr Buchanan Cllr Sims
Chilmington Green Community Trust	Cllr Shorter Shadow: Cllr Mrs Blanford
Repton Community Trust	Cllr Feacey
St Mary's Arts Trust	Cllr Smith

**Appendix 3
Representative Appointments to Committees of Outside Bodies**

The following Representative appointments are made to the following committees of outside bodies.

Name of Organisation	New Representative for 2018/19
Ashford College Business Advisory Council	Cllr Clokie

Ashford Community Safety Partnership	Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Wellbeing
Ashford Mediation Service	Cllr Krause
Ashford Museum Committee	Cllr Bennett
Ashford Youth Forum Trustees	Cllr Chilton Cllr W Howard
Chilmington Green CMO Partnership Working Group	Cllr Shorter Shadow: Cllr Mrs Blanford
Citizens' Advice Bureau Ashford Branch Management Committee	Cllr Clokie Cllr Hicks
Dungeness Power Station Site Stakeholder Group	Cllr Burgess
Headcorn Aerodrome Consultative Committee	Member for Weald North Ward
High Weald (AONB) Joint Advisory Group	Cllr Pickering
Home-Start, Ashford: Management Committee	Cllr Mrs Webb
Kent & Medway Police & Crime Panel	Cllr Bradford
Kent Downs and Marshes Leader Project	Cllr Burgess
Kent Invicta Chamber – Ashford Economic Development Group	Cllr Galpin
River Stour Internal Drainage Board	Cllr Burgess Cllr Hicks Cllr Mrs Martin Cllr Sims Cllr Smith
Romney Marsh Partnership	Cllr Burgess
Romney Marshes Area Internal Drainage Board	Cllr Burgess
SWAN Site Management Committee	Cllr Smith
Tenterden Folk Day Trust	Cllr Link
Tenterden Town Council – Tourism & Business Committee	Portfolio Holder for Culture

OTHER COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS FOR INFORMATION

Councillor	Organisation
KCC Superannuation Fund Committee	Cllr Clokie (Conservative Rep for Kent Districts)
Kent Flood Risk Management Committee	Cllr Hicks Shadow: Cllr Mrs Blanford

MEMBER CHAMPIONS

TOPIC	NEW REPRESENTATIVE/NOMINEE
Media	Cllr Bennett
Military Covenant & Ceremonial Liaison	Cllr Dehnel
Safeguarding	Cllr Mrs Dyer
Twinning	Cllr Bennett

Ashford Borough Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ashford Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **17th May 2018**.

Present:

His Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor W R Michael (Chairman);

Cllrs. Adby, Mrs Bell, Bennett, Mrs Blanford, Bradford, Buchanan, Clarkson, Clokie, Dehnel, Mrs Dyer, Farrell, Galpin, Heyes, Mrs Heyes, Howard-Smith, Knowles, Koowaree, Krause, Link, Macpherson, Michael, Murphy, Ovenden, Pickering, Shorter, Sims, Suddards, Waters, Mrs Webb, Wedgbury, White.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Reverend John Mackenzie said prayers.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Barrett, Burgess, Chilton, Feacey, Hicks, Miss Martin, Mrs Martin, Smith.

Also Present:

Chief Executive, Director of Law & Governance, Director of Place and Space, Director of Finance and Economy, Head of Environment and Land Management, Head of Legal and Democracy, Special Projects Manager, Senior Communications Officer, Communications Apprentice, Senior Member Services Officer.

1 Election of Mayor

Councillor Galpin nominated Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford for election as Mayor of Ashford Borough Council for the forthcoming municipal year.

This was seconded by Councillor Shorter.

Councillor Galpin said he first wanted to congratulate the Mayor on a successful, busy and remarkably vigorous Mayoralty and considered that his would be a hard act to follow. However he wanted to speak for someone who hoped to at least match those endeavours as the Mayor in the coming Municipal Year – the remarkable Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford. She may not jump out of any planes, but she could certainly fly one, having learned it at school between double maths and science lessons!

He said that listening to Jessamy's dulcet tones it would come as no surprise to most that she was privately educated. She had said that her school's plan was to turn out "nice young ladies" and he believed that in Jessamy they had succeeded and had someone to be proud of. They all recognised her affinity with rural life and the environment and she was their 'Jiminy Cricket' on the Planning Committee, declaring her interest in the WKPS, of which she was once Chairman, and the CPRE and asking whether they had considered the AONB etc. This was probably nurtured at school because as well as the flying skills that she acquired there, he had learned that she could milk a cow and prune apple trees. He said that his own apple trees currently looked a bit dodgy so when she had a moment...

Councillor Galpin said that a remarkable fact was that Jessamy was one of the last debutantes to be presented to the Queen and Prince Philip at Buckingham Palace. He was sure that having met Jessamy, HRH had felt she could not improve the offer and terminated the whole presentation malarkey! Amongst that coming-out year, flurry of balls, lunches, tea parties, Ascot etc, she had told him of a ball she particularly remembered at the Dorchester Hotel when she spent most of the evening with the Grandson of the Nizam of Hyderabad who had been at Harrow (not the pub up on the Downs!) Jessamy's pedigree was further underscored because she claimed that the Nizam himself had been a pal of her own Grandfather when he had been responsible for designing and delivering the railway system in Hyderabad state earlier in the century.

He said that despite her regal connections, after school she had to get a job, initially in publishing with a literary agent. She obviously had to give those up when moving from London to civilisation in Kent as there was not a 38 minute rail connection in those days! In 1965 she moved to Rolvenden, now in the Ashford Borough, with her husband Christopher whom she had married the previous year. Since then she had also lived in Pluckley and Smarden and could now certainly be classed as a Wealden Maid! Whether she had milked any cows here he did not know, but her affection for the natural environment appeared to have been enhanced, hence her connections with the Weald of Kent Protection Society and the Campaign to Protect Rural England. Her husband Christopher was a crack shot and owned many guns, a dangerous environment one may think, however she survived the experience and they had two sons; Nicholas, a writer now living in the Middle East and Dr Simon, an academic "across the pond." She had six Grandchildren and visited them all regularly. Sadly, Jessamy lost Christopher in 1991.

Councillor Galpin said that at this point, Jessamy was already back at work, having joined PPF (now Givaudan), in 1984. During the 22 years she worked there she had a variety of roles. Notably, she had organised a celebratory weekend in Paris in 1989 to mark Quest's entry into the fine fragrance market. The star turn was Placido Domingo, who with some of his friends gave a concert for the great and the good in the Theatre Royale at Versailles. Politically, Jessamy had won her seat on the Council in 2007 and despite the 'slings and arrows' of local development had retained it since. She had made a considerable contribution as a Cabinet Member and chaired or been a Member of many important Committees, often with an environmental flavour. He had already mentioned her role on Planning Committee as the conscience of the Committee and the champion of the Great Crested Newt! She had been a vital Member of the Council throughout her service.

Councillor Galpin said that it was clear that her credentials for the role of the First Citizen of the Borough were unquestionable. He said he therefore had the honour and privilege to propose Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford as Mayor for the upcoming civic year.

Councillor Shorter said he first wanted to congratulate the Mayor on a very successful year. He said he was pleased to second the nomination of Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford be elected Mayor of the Borough of Ashford for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

2 Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Mayor

Councillor Mrs Blanford made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The retiring Mayor, the Chief Executive, the newly elected Mayor and the Mayor's Chaplain then left the meeting. Upon their return, having been invested with her chains of office Her Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Jessamy Blanford assumed the Chair.

3 Appointment of Mayor's Chaplain

Her Worshipful the Mayor said that her Chaplain for the coming year would be the Reverend Tim Wilson. The Reverend Wilson then said prayers.

4 Vote of Thanks by the Mayor for Her Election

Her Worshipful the Mayor began by saying that she was deeply honoured to be elected as Mayor of Ashford and thanked everyone present very much for their support. She also wanted to congratulate Councillor Michael for completing his successful year in office.

Some present may be aware, but she had been rather reluctant to take on the role initially bearing in mind the amount of time and commitment involved. She really considered her natural character to be more of a second-in-command type, rather than a leader. However, over the last year as Deputy Mayor, she had realised how respected the role of Mayor of Ashford was in the Borough and she had also felt touched by some of the events she had already attended. Two that stood out were firstly the first event she ever went to as Deputy Mayor which was a sports day at Sandyacres. It was extremely informal – no track, no start, no finish and she wondered why they needed a Mayor, but then she was told that all the competitors were on the autistic spectrum and it began to make sense. She enjoyed starting the race - although she was nearly bowled over in the rush to get going! - and handing out the certificates afterwards. The other event had been the Young Black Achievers' Awards, an evening event run on the Oscars format. To be truthful it was a complete shambles! However it had been really warm and purposeful and the winners were thrilled to win their awards, turning up with their families and wearing their best clothes. They were all so enthusiastic that she thought Councillor Bennett and her would still be there listening to the speeches if they hadn't stood up at 11pm and said their goodbyes!

She said that 2018 would be an important year in the Borough and she was looking forward to taking part in many events. The first major one would be the Civic Service on 3rd June at St Mary's Church, Great Chart. Along with her Chaplain, they were busy selecting the hymns and readings. There would be a reception at Great Chart Village Hall after the service, and all were welcome to come. The Civic Service was followed in the afternoon by the unveiling of the Fields of Battle Lands of Peace photographic exhibition in the Memorial Gardens. This was a major exhibition undertaken by the City of London and opened at Guildhall a couple of weeks ago. When it came to Ashford, the exhibition would include three additional panels showing Ashford at War. The Borough Council had put funding into this exhibition to

enable it to take place. It would be on show in the Memorial Gardens for a month and she urged everyone to see it - It was excellent. The Leader's Civic Awards ceremony would take place on the 5th July at Chart Hills Golf Club. She hoped all Councillors had submitted people who were doing good work in their Wards to receive these awards. On the 9th August there would be the unveiling of the paving stone in Charing to commemorate the posthumous winning of the Victoria Cross by a resident, Frederick George Coppins. In September they would have the arrival of those strange creatures, the Snowdogs which she thought would show Ashford's sense of humour and fun side. She was really looking forward to this as it was something she supported when Portfolio Holder for Culture. She believed that 30 had already been purchased and the large white dogs would be decorated and placed around Ashford providing an interesting trail around the town from dog to dog. At the end of the year they would be auctioned off for the Willesborough Hospice charity. September would also see the arrival of guests from Ashford's two Twin towns, Fougères and Bad Münstereifel. Last September they were invited to Fougères and she looked forward to welcoming their hosts back. Food and drink – a Kentish specialism – was the theme for the visit. If anyone would like to be a host for this visit, which started on the 13th September, they were encouraged to let her know. Remembrance Sunday on 11th November would be a very special occasion as it commemorated the end of the First World War. Many villages would be holding their own memorial services including her own Ward – Great Chart with Singleton North - where a spectacular show was in hand. This year she would be attending the service in the Memorial Gardens and in the evening of the same day they would be lighting Ashford's new Beacon in North Park, surrounded by the poppies which members of the public could buy. In between those events there would be others organised by the Mayoral team including a ball at the London Beach Hotel on the 8th September and a Family Christmas Party at Chart Hills in early December. Details of these events and others would be sent out during the year.

The Mayor advised that the theme for her year was the environment. Everyone was too well aware that Ashford, Tenterden and the villages were having to take a great number of houses under the national house building policy. She wanted to reassure the Borough's residents that the Council was just as determined to enhance and protect rural areas and the open spaces. After all, they still lived in the Garden of England and it was important that they did not lose their beautiful environment to excessive development. This was the reason why she had chosen the Kent Wildlife Trust as one of her charities. The KWT had worked with the Council over a number of years on projects such as the Hothfield Heathlands, the Warren with its rare acid grassland, Conningbrook Lakes Country Park, the new Kingsnorth Country Park and the Singleton Community Woodland – the highland cattle when they grazed this area were a very popular feature. They had some new projects in mind starting with an Environmental Forum involving local schools at the Civic Centre on Friday, 8th June. Her second charity was the Paula Carr Trust which was a Kent based charity dedicated to supporting people who were living with diabetes. Paula Carr was a child who died following a hypoglycaemic episode as she slept, two months before her 13th birthday. Working with the Paula Carr Trust were the Hypo Hounds - dogs, such as spaniels, that were trained to detect changes in blood sugar levels and to alert the patient or their parents to the need for prompt action. Her husband suffered from Type 2 diabetes which made her more sympathetic to this problem. Many present probably already knew Gary Fagg who ran this charity – once met never forgotten! – and she hoped that he would organise a Charity Race Night in the

autumn.

Finally, the Mayor advised that one of the reasons she was uncertain about taking on the role of Mayor of Ashford was that she did not have a consort to attend events with her. However, the Leader had said that this wasn't a problem and immediately signed up Councillor Bennett to accompany her whenever he was available. This had now expanded so that there was a small group of Councillors who had offered to escort her. She was very grateful to them as it would make all the difference to her enjoyment of such things as balls and dinners and she hoped they would enjoy them too.

5 Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress

Councillor Ovenden began his speech by congratulating Councillor Mrs Blanford on her election as Mayor. He was sure she would do an excellent job.

Councillor Ovenden said it was his pleasure to propose a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Winston Michael and his Mayoress Doreen.

When he nominated Winston a year ago he was positive that he would excel in this challenging role and he had most certainly done just that. With tireless devotion to the tasks at hand, (writing those speeches for Council meetings for example which exhausted him just listening!), and his passion for helping people of all ages and abilities, he had used his best assets to maximum advantage. With Doreen by his side, as she had been for 50 years, Winston had done himself and the Borough proud, attending well over 200 engagements, organising and promoting the Kent Challenger Games, holding numerous social events, raising a huge amount for his two chosen charities and to top it all, he jumped out of a plane! To their delight of course, the parachute had opened!

Councillor Ovenden concluded by saying that all that was left to do was to say thank you to Winston and Doreen for being two super people and ambassadors for Ashford.

Councillor Clarkson said it gave him great pleasure to second the motion of a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress. He said he had known Winston and Doreen for a number of years as they had previously resided in Charing. When they had initially spoken about him taking on the role of First Citizen of the Borough he knew they would all have to stand by for fireworks and this had certainly been the case! He probably could have jumped out of the plane without the parachute to be honest with the amount of energy he had! He marvelled at how Doreen kept up with him at times! When looking at some of the things that Winston had done this past year and the sincerity of his approach, particularly with young people, he considered this was to be held in high regard. The Kent Challenger Games alone were an example of this. When he had first told him what he had planned it had sounded like a mini Olympics and the way he had marshalled that resulted in a fantastic Games. This should really have come as no surprise to anyone. Members had listened to his updates throughout the year, and at times he had even taken the opportunity to give them all a bit of a lecture in the bargain! Councillor Clarkson said it had been a wonderful year and he wanted to thank both Winston and Doreen. Being the First Citizen was a 'full-on' role and it needed that support which Doreen had offered so well. He hoped they would look back fondly on their experiences for many years, they had certainly been great ambassadors for the Borough and they had achieved a remarkable amount this year.

6 Response by the Retiring Mayor

Councillor Michael said he first wanted to thank Councillors Ovenden and Clarkson for their very generous comments. He also wanted to congratulate the new Mayor on her appointment and wished her every success for the coming year and for her Civic Service which he would unfortunately be overseas for and not able to attend.

Councillor Michael said it had been an honour and a privilege for Doreen and himself to serve and represent Ashford over the past twelve months. He thanked Members and his Ward residents for giving them that opportunity. They had strived to be the best they could possibly be, representing Ashford and its residents, extolling the virtues of the town and the considerable inward investment it was attracting and pointing out the change to Ashford conversations. The talk was no longer about what Ashford was, but what Ashford could be.

He said he did not want to cite the number of events and activities undertaken because it was not about numbers but about qualitative engagement. He and Doreen hoped that all those they had touched had enjoyed their presence and they had in some way inspired them to see what was possible for them and their organisations. Working alongside volunteers, he was always inspired by their dedication and commitment and if it were not for them, many things would come grinding to a halt. On taking office he had introduced a Mayor's Award for achievement and excellence and the few that received it had been overcome with the recognition because they knew it came from deep within his heart. Making the Mayor tangible for ordinary people had been his aim and whilst understandably much of the focus had been on the 'bricks and mortar' aspects of Ashford's growth, the most consequential thing for residents was quality of life. Therefore, his attention on behalf of the Council had always been towards the heart and soul of their communities and their people, regardless of personal circumstances. He had endeavoured to bring tangible benefits for them and show them that he cared.

Throughout the year a number of events had taken place to raise money for his two charities – The Wyvern School Foundation and Uprising. These two charities delivered exceptional and incredible love and care to all young people and practiced the ethos that 'every child mattered'. To date, an unbelievable sum of money had been raised and he could not have done this without the support of so many amazing people and he wanted to thank them all from the bottom of his heart. He had identified two key projects – a second hand bus for Wyvern School and a panna football cage for Uprising. Unbelievably the Mayor's sky dive had raised thousands of pounds for Wyvern, so instead a brand new bus was now possible. The bus and panna football cage were already ordered as the children had expressed a wish to enjoy these over the summer school term and summer holidays.

Members knew that he had a passion for helping young people as he believed that every young person, regardless of who they were, should have the opportunity to enjoy their lives, reach their full potential and be able to make a good transition in to the parents and citizens of tomorrow. He was driven by a desire to reveal their true inner strengths to each and every one of them, to let them see that anything was possible, to give them self-belief and self-worth and to encourage them to pursue their goals and never give up. In raising money for his charities he had been overwhelmed by the incredible generosity of a few particular people, and overcome

to think that they believed in what he did and wanted to support him. He hoped that whatever he did in life would leave young people with a treasure trove of memories and with the knowledge that they could count on him to give a lifetime of care and love to each and every one of them. He said he was similarly passionate about helping those in need such as the homeless and had made it his mission to respond to what they told him they wanted. If he was a rich man he would not think twice about giving most of it away as there was only so much you needed to live a decent life.

Councillor Michael said his success as Mayor was down to an outstanding team who had given Doreen and himself exemplary service. His life seemed to have been particularly dominated by exceptional women, both at home and in working life. He had often asked himself was it men that needed to be emancipated, not women! In business he had believed in empowering people and allowing them to do their jobs unfettered and had always thought it did not make sense to employ smart people and tell them what to do – you should employ smart people so they could tell you what you should do! In Donna and Sandra he had had two very smart people who also had a great inner beauty and quality about them. Sandra had looked after Ashford's Mayors for a number of years and over the year with Sandra and Doreen, the three of them had had such great fun. Sandra was the 'real deal' and he wanted to give her a huge hug and a thank you from himself and Doreen and to let her know that they considered her not only a treasured friend, but also a member of their family. He had operated without a PA for the first few months, but then in September Donna had entered his life and boy what a difference it had made! Donna hit the ground running and had had a huge bearing on realising his aspirations. He and Doreen also wanted to give her a huge hug and a thank you – she was also the 'real deal' and also a much treasured friend and member of their family. He also wanted to thank Colin Leek, the Mace Bearer, for his help and guidance at the events he attended and making both himself and Ashford the best they could be. He also wished to thank John Mackenzie for acting as his Chaplain, for the wonderful words he had given at the start of each Council meeting and for joining him at Civic occasions. He wished John and his churches every success for the future and he assured him that he would once again find time to ring the bells at St Mary's every week! Finally he wanted to thank Council Officers for their kindness and generous support throughout the year. Ashford was blessed to have a team of such hard-working and dedicated Council Officers who were visionary and second to none.

He said that whatever he had achieved in life was down to Doreen. She had supported him throughout many years of community work. Everyone experienced highs and lows in what they did, but he was blessed as he had Doreen to always pick him up when the going got rough. He wanted to thank his wife for being an incredible and exceptional Mayoress by his side this year. Without exception he thought she was a favoured person amongst the local Mayors and Mayoress' and all those they had met because of her humour and warm friendly nature. She had displayed panache at every engagement and received so many compliments that he had lost count. At Canterbury Cathedral the Dean had made a point of coming to her as they processed out and complimenting her on her dress style and thanking her. His love for Doreen knew no bounds, but fortunately his credit card did!

He thought it was a testament to the year that all Mayors were making a point of getting together privately as everyone wanted to hang on to the great friendships made. The past twelve months had seen many great things come his way and he felt quite emotional about the support he had received from people from all walks of life. He hoped they had given the people they had touched some good memories, as

they had given Doreen and himself an unforgettable closet full. There were people and places that they would remember for the rest of their lives. Every engagement had been a highlight for them but there were a few that stuck in their minds: – The Kent Challenger Games; the celebration of 50 years since he asked Doreen to ‘come fly with him’; the Twinning meeting in Fougères, France; the Remembrance Service at the Royal Albert Hall which they had attended as special guests of the Royal British Legion; Goat Lees Primary School celebrating his Mayoral year; all the things they had done with many schools across Ashford; entering the Guinness Book of World Records with Wyvern School; his sky dive with four young people; and meeting homeless people, providing them with food and getting them housed when the cold spell set in. For this he had to thank Officers and Porchlight for their two hour response to his call which was magnificent and unique in the county. He was ending his term of office today on his 75th birthday which was a perfect finale to his year and with all the many unbelievable things that had come his way people may well ask if anything could top that, but there was one thing. At the beginning of April he had received a personal invitation to the Royal Wedding in recognition of his community work, so in two days’ time he and Doreen would be going to Windsor Castle to witness the ceremony. It was well known that Prince Harry was not inviting dignitaries but instead 1200 normal members of the UK public. It was unbelievable and incredibly emotional to think that he was one of those 1200 people. All young people in Ashford should know that their presence was for them.

Finally, Councillor Michael said Members may recall that he ended his inauguration speech with a phrase from the Lion King – “Ashford, *Hakuna Matata*” which meant, “*Ashford, no worries, we’re doing alright*” and he honestly thought that was still the case. He ended his term of office by saying that he would continue his one vision and goal – to act for those in their community who were disadvantaged in some way and would always do his best to fulfil the dreams of young people and others regardless. He said he was a dreamer and always held tight to his dreams – he quoted “The Greatest Showman” - “*Every night when I lie in bed, the brightest colours fill my head and a million dreams keep me awake. I think of what we all can be, a vision of the one I see. A million dreams is all it’s going to take me.*”

7 Election and Appointment of Deputy Mayor

Councillor Clarkson proposed that “Councillor Mrs Jenny Webb be elected Deputy Mayor for the Borough of Ashford for the ensuing year”.

This was seconded by Councillor Clokie.

There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

That Councillor Mrs Jenny Webb be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Ashford for the Municipal Year 2018/2019.

8 Declaration of Acceptance of Office by the Deputy Mayor

Councillor Mrs Webb made her Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Deputy Mayor was then invested with her chains of office.

9 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 19th April 2018 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

10 Announcements

The Leader of the Council said that he knew it was not customary to have Leader's Announcements at this particular Mayor Making Council Meeting, however as the incoming Mayor had asked that he do so as they enter the last year of this Administration, he was happy to give an update of Ashford's progress and a snapshot of what would be happening in her Mayoral year.

The New College was looking good with the road works and tree planting completed. M20 Junction 10A, a major nationally significant infrastructure project, was well underway. The first new office block in the Commercial Quarter would open in the next few weeks. The Elwick Place development, incorporating the new Picture House Cinema, hotel and seven restaurants was on target to open before Christmas and would provide a revenue income to the Council. The Council had been approached by the Romanian Embassy to have a commemorative statue here in Ashford, in memory of the Granddaughter of Queen Victoria - born in Ashford and who was Queen Marie of Romania during the First World War. It had been suggested that this development be the site for this statue with it overlooking Victoria Park. The expansion of the Designer Outlet was now well underway, albeit that there would be a significant degree of disruption for some time, caused by the roadworks. Perhaps they should say "there's no gain, without pain", but he understood that the delays were very tiring at the moment for those that drove in the area. The new Chapel Down Brewery and Visitor Centre was currently under construction as was the Aldi Supermarket, both due to open early next year.

The Leader said he could also announce that evening that Ashford would have a new 120 bedroom Hilton Hotel Ashford, located opposite the new Brewery and Visitor Centre. Since buying the 34 shops that constituted Park Mall, they were all now fully occupied and thriving with quality independent operators. Three weeks ago the Minister responsible for Town Centres visited Ashford to see for himself just how the town centre was being revitalised. The Minister said "What is unusual about the Ashford approach is the absolute dedication to creating a partnership between the local Council and new and existing traders to drive the town centre forward." Ashford Borough had now received nearly three quarters of a billion pounds of inward investment. This quantum of inward investment was unparalleled in Kent, and had been achieved by the Council's successful creativity and entrepreneurial approach. There was a planning application in to virtually double the number of places available at Ashford's overnight HGV Truck Stop. As all would know Ashford was the first in the UK to pilot the new scheme for enforcement against inappropriate on and off road

HGV parking. Ashford, for the third consecutive year, had been the best recycling authority in Kent and one of the best in the country. The Council had been delivering very good services, whilst still remaining the lowest council taxing authority in Kent and one of the lowest in the country.

As they looked forward, there was still much to do. The Council's "AshfordFor" campaign was raising awareness that they were beginning to transform Ashford, however progress had been a bit fragmented as they had taken advantage of the investment and development opportunities as they arose, predominately in and around the Town Centre and the slightly wider urban area. He believed this needed to change and he was therefore setting up the "Ashford Town Centre Place Making Board". This new Board would evaluate all of the various options being advanced and would weld them into a cohesive and deliverable matrix that would create a new look Ashford, as a vibrant, exciting and unique location. The Board would oversee the short, medium and long term delivery of this place making project – much as the Ashford Strategic Delivery Board had done with the 'Big 8' strategic projects.

The Leader said, as had already been mentioned, 2018 was a very Special Year. Not because it was the last year of this Administration, but it was the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War – a war that saw so many people killed and so many giving their lives fighting for our freedom and democracy. To ensure Ashford marked this very significant anniversary with due dignity, some of the events this year would be commemorative to honour the fallen and the lives of those affected by that conflict. Other events would be born out of our freedom to do so. During June, in the Memorial Gardens, Aspire would be re-creating an image of soldiers going "over the top", from the mound adjacent to the College. They would also be having a Photographic Exhibition called "The Fields of Battle – Lands of Peace" which would open on the 3rd June and would be a very moving and poignant exhibition that would be in place until the end of June. In Vicarage Lane, Aspire would have a "3D flower tank", to replace the "coffee pot" locomotive, The flower tank would have an adjacent flower badge of the tank regiment, alongside a commemorative plaque, explaining the significance of the historic First World War Tank to Ashford. In July the Council would host the Civic Awards to recognise and honour those in its Borough who selflessly helped others in a quiet unassuming way. Twelve local businesses had already kindly agreed to sponsor the Awards. In August, there would be the laying of the paving stone in Charing, commemorating the birth place of Fred Coppins - the only recipient in Ashford of a First World War Victoria Cross. In September they would be launching "*Snowdogs Discover Ashford*", which was already developing into a magical project where local partners, businesses, schools, artists and members of the public were already starting to embrace the Snowdogs coming to Ashford. The Snow Trail would be in place until the 18th November as they led into the switching on of the festive lights ready for Christmas. In November, on the 100th Anniversary Remembrance Weekend, Sunday 11th would see the usual morning National Services of Remembrance, and that evening Ashford would hold a Drum Head Service on North Park, where Ashford's new Beacon would be lit and they would hold an all-night vigil around a small Field of Poppies.

The Leader concluded by saying that there could be little doubt that the momentum to promote Ashford, as a vibrant and interesting place to live, work and play continued at a pace. He also know that the new Mayor would be facing a very full programme of Mayoral Events and he hoped all would embrace and enjoy the rest of this interesting and exciting year and take pride in their Borough.

11 Confirmation of Cabinet Arrangements for 2018/19 by the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Clarkson, advised that his Cabinet would remain unchanged at this time.

12 Selection and Constitutional Review Committee – 1st May 2018

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Selection and Constitutional Review Committee held on the 1st May 2018 be approved and adopted.

13 Cabinet – 10th May 2018

Resolved:

That subject to the expiry of the period by which decisions arising from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 10th May 2018 may be called in, i.e. 23rd May 2018: -

- (i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cabinet held on the 10th May 2018 be received and noted with the exception of Minute No. 462.**
- (ii) Minute No. 462 be approved and adopted.**

(DS)
MINS:

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