

# Ashford Borough Council

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

## **Present:**

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

Cllrs. Aaby, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> September, they were encouraged to let her know. Remembrance Sunday on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> November as they led into the switching on of the festive lights ready for Christmas. In November, on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Weekend, Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 knew 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

**Resolved:**

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

## **13 Cabinet – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**Resolved:**

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

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

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(DS)  
MINS: