



**POCKLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL
MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY**

Friday 18th May 2016 at 7.15pm at Pocklington Arts Centre

The annual meeting of the council was held at 7.15pm on Friday 18th May 2016 at The Pocklington Arts Centre, Market Place, Pocklington.

Present: Councillors Cooper, Green, Hodgson, Hutchinson, Jones, Perry, Ratcliffe, Sinton, Sykes, West and Winterton. Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and 125 invited guests and members of the public attended.

The Town Crier before the meeting commenced welcomed the guests and member of the public to the meeting

The retiring Mayor, Councillor David Sykes welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Receive nominations for and appoint Town Mayor

Cllr Dean Hodgson was nominated by Cllr Martin Cooper to be the Mayor of Pocklington. Cllr Cooper commended Cllr Hodgson on firstly his election to the Council in November 2016 and since joining has become the chair of the events sub-committee and running the successful events programme for the Council.

Secunder for the proposal was Cllr Paul West which was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Hodgson was duly elected to the post of Mayor of Pocklington.

The new Mayor received the chains of office from retiring Mayor Cllr David Sykes. Mrs R. Hodgson received the Mayoress chains of office from Mrs L. Sykes.

The declaration was said and signed by the new Mayor Cllr Dean Hodgson.

2. Acceptance speech by the new Mayor of Pocklington

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for voting and entrusting me with the roll of Mayor of Pocklington. After being elected to join the Council 18

months ago, this is a great privilege I for one did not expect and I look forward to another year working with all my fellow town councillors.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank Councillor Sykes and his wife for the last 2 years of dedication and hard work, and thank my wife Ruth for all her hard work, organising the events and gathering volunteers to help us.

I have every intention in continuing with the positivity and passion I have. In the following year I would like us as a Council and a town, working with ERYC, to be as environmental friendly as possible, including gathering as much help and advice to aid us all as a community to become as plastic free as we can. Also to push the need for affordable housing, 2 bed properties and bungalows. All three of which are very much needed by many.

I wish to build upon the relationship with all local businesses to strengthen the town even further giving us a stronger work ethic to help with whatever the future may bring in these days of online shopping as well as the further developments we have and are still ongoing.

We also want to garner more interest and involvement with everyone in the town and are going to be looking at having members of the public on some of the Council's committees, that may help decision making and get more points of view in that can shed even more light on some subjects. It may also help some understand more about how we as a Town Council work, and lead to more involvement and an interest in local politics.

Last year I became chair of the events committee, and I'm delighted to continue in that role so that we still have the wonderful events that help promote the community spirit that makes Pocklington the wonderful town it is. The Christmas Tree Festival with All Saints Church that Cllr Sykes started last year, is going to continue as it was an excellent addition to the events list. We are hoping to get more businesses and local groups involved. I'm looking forward to another year of great events.

After much thought I will be having two Mayor charities this year, the first is Mires Beck Nursery a garden nursery that has approximately 90 learning difficulty people of varying ages and degrees enjoying horticultural work and education and art and crafts.

My second choice is Wolds Wonders Theatre Group based here in the Arts Centre, it's a group run by volunteers. Wolds Wonders is an accessible theatre group for learning disability adults that put on truly wonderful productions.

The Mayor thanked everyone for listening.

3. Receive any apologies for absence

Cllr Sharpe

- 4. Receive any declarations of interest in relation to any agenda item.**
Councillors were asked to identify the agenda item and type of interest being declared. Cllr Hodgson declared an interest in Item 9, Mayor's expenses allocation.

5. Receive nominations for Deputy Mayor

Cllr Peter Wintertob proposed Cllr Terry Jones to be Deputy Mayor. Cllr Jo Green seconded that proposal which was then agreed unanimously.

The new Deputy Mayor then received the chain of office from Cllr D. Hodgson. Mrs S. Jones received the deputy Mayoress chain from Mrs R. Hodgson.

The declaration of office was said and signed by the new Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Terry Jones.

6. Appoint Chaplain to the Council for the forthcoming year

Cllr Terry Jones proposed Revd Anne Cox and Revd Neville Simpson from Pocklington Methodist Church, for this appointment. Cllr Martin Ratcliffe seconded the proposal which was then agreed unanimously.

Revd Anne Cox gave an acceptance speech and led the meeting in prayer

7. Speech by the Mayor of Pocklington David Sykes.

Cllr David Sykes then gave a resume of his year in office which he had enjoyed immensely.

The highlights for the year are as follows.

New outdoor gym equipment has been installed on West Green.

A new town bus service has started operating the first date of travel was Tuesday 8th May. The service will be reviewed in 6 months.

Improvements have been made to the Cemetery driveways and a missing piece of footpath has been installed. The new footpath allows access from Amos Drive to the town centre without the need to walk down West Green. Two new benches have been installed in the churchyard, a replacement notice board has been installed on Market Street and new bins on the corner of Wold Road/Burnby Lane and London Street opposite Target Lane.

There have been successful events including the being on the route of the Tour de Yorkshire for a second year. This year both the Women's and Men's races came through the town.

Last year we held a Yorkshire Day celebration on Tuesday 1st August.

Summer Fair and Bonfire Night were successful and raised significant funds for the Mayor's charity.

The first Christmas Tree Festival was held in conjunction with All Saints Church. Carols with the Mayor took place in All Saints as a climax to the festival.

The Christmas Festival was well attended.

The Council supported East Riding of Yorkshire Council in appealing against the Gladman Development on The Balk.

The group working on the Neighbourhood Plan for Pocklington have presented their draft ideas on policies to the Council. A survey will be sent to every house in Pocklington shortly.

The Town Council have continued to work with other agencies to reduce the risk of flooding. The Town Council with the Friends of Pocklington Green Spaces have controlled the vegetation growing in the Beck to improve the flow.

Pocklington Arts Centre has successfully been granted National Portfolio Status by Arts Council England. This funding will be used to employ two more members of staff. The Marketing and Audience Development Officer has started work.

The front of Pocklington Arts Centre has been redecorated and the signage renewed.

Cllr David Sykes then proceeded to present the following.

The Mayors Award for Long Term Outstanding Achievement in the Community was presented to Grahame Hicks (Chairman of Pocklington and District Gateway and campaigner to improve safety and access on to the A1079). Grahame has chaired Gateway for over 10 years. Gateway has been successful in campaigning for better Broadband for the area, setting up the Pilgrimage of Grace (Walking route), supporting walking, cycling and tourism projects in the town.

The Mayor's Charities for the year were each presented with a cheque for £3,500. The charities were Wold Haven Day Care Centre and Pocklington Relief in Need.

The Mayor's Sports Award was presented to Pocklington Runners along with a cheque for £500.

Cllr Sykes then thanked his wife for supporting him in her role as Mayoress and attending the many enjoyable functions during their year.

8. Consider the donations to be given to charities and groups in this financial year.

Cllr Paul West proposed that £2,000 be allocated to charities and groups as agreed at the full council meeting on 9th May 2018. Seconded by Cllr Martin Cooper and agreed unanimously.

10. Consider the Mayor's expenses allocation

Deputy Mayor Cllr Terry Jones took the chair for this item. Cllr Martin Ratcliffe proposed that £2,000 be allocated for the Mayor's expenses as agreed at the full council meeting on 9th May 2018 (No increase on last year). Cllr Peter Winterton seconded the proposal. Councillors agreed unanimously.

11. Consider the appointment of an internal auditor for the council

Cllr Jo Green proposed that Richard Dixon be re-appointed for the forthcoming year. Cllr Paul West seconded the proposal which was then agreed unanimously.

12. Close of meeting

Cllr Dean Hodgson then introduced the evening's entertainment, Wold's Wonders.

The town crier officially closed the meeting.

Refreshments were then served in the bar area of the Arts Centre.

The meeting closed at 7.56 pm.