



# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIPON

## ANNUAL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019 at 11am

### IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL, RIPON

**Present:**

- Cllr P McHardy
- Cllr E Parkin - The Right Worshipful The Mayor Elect
- Cllr J Bate
- Cllr M Chambers
- Cllr S Craggs
- Cllr C Davis
- Cllr C Hardisty
- Cllr S J Hawke
- Cllr P M Horton
- Cllr S A Martin
- Cllr C E Powell
- Cllr A Williams

**In attendance:**

- Mrs P Benson, the Clerk
- Mr J Vauvert, Serjeant at Mace
- Civic Guests

**Prior to the commencement of the formal meeting prayers the Mayor's Chaplain, The Very Reverend The Dean John Dobson said prayers.**

#### **88/19. The Council to elect The Right Worshipful The Mayor**

That Cllr Parkin be elected as Mayor.

Proposer – Councillor Williams  
Seconder – Councillor Horton

Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.

#### **89/19. The Proposer and Seconder then made the Customary Search for the Mayor Elect, who was then conducted to the Council Chamber.**

#### History of the Mayor

*The post of Mayor is relatively young as it only dates back to the 1604 Charter of King James I which created the role from that of the Wakeman. The Wakeman was the oldest post stretching back to the early Middle Ages, and is not to be confused with the Hornblower which was always a separate function and person, always a male. The rules for the Wakeman were fortunately written down in the 'Ripon Towne Book' of 1598 and it is quite clear that "The Wakeman is to arrange for the horn blowing in the market place and for setting the watch until 3 or 4am during which time he is responsible for guarding premises from burglary and shall pay compensation to those who suffer loss". Failure to do any of the tasks set out in the Towne Book resulted in a large fine, and this is alluded to in today's Mayor making ceremony each year when the Mayor elect is 'dragged' into the Council Chamber to be made the Mayor. The fines were specific: - £20 for not providing a supper for fellow Aldermen and their wives between 10th June and 31st August; 20/- for using the common seal of Ripon without the consent of 4 Aldermen; £4 for failing to serve as Wakeman and another expensive fine of £20 was "The Wakeman is not to leave the town in his year of office except because of plague". The plague referred to is bubonic plague and was prevalent in the Middle Ages after 1347 and into the 17th century as the King's Court left*



**101/19. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meetings of the Council on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 the Mayor to sign accordingly.**

Proposer – Councillor Chambers                      Seconder – Councillor Hawke  
Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.

**102/19. To consider the Appointment of Municipal Officers:**

The Sergeant-At-Mace; the Mayors Sergeant; The Hornblowing Team; Bellman and Municipal Officer.

Proposer – Councillor Martin                      Seconder – Councillor Chambers  
Resolved by a unanimous show of hands

**103/19. To agree the dates of future Meetings of the Full Council up to the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council.**

10 June, 15 July, 5 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 November, 9 December, 13 January, 10 February, 9 March, 6 April, 6 May (AGM).

Proposer – Councillor Hardisty                      Seconder – Councillor Craggs  
Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.

**104/19. To appoint Committees of the Council and delegate powers and duties to such committees for the ensuing year in accordance with the Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers as agreed by Council on 05.02.11.**

Staffing Committee; Hugh Ripley Hall Committee; City Plan Committee; Alderman Spence Committee.

Proposer – Councillor McHardy                      Seconder – Councillor Davis  
Resolved by a unanimous show of hands.

With business concluded the meeting was closed at 11:45am.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Paula Benson, Clerk to the City Council.

SIGNED

DATE

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THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE  
MAYOR