



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

**ANNUAL MEETING & MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY 10TH MAY 2023 at 6PM**

**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE TOWN HALL,
RIPON, HG4 1DD**

Present:

- Cllr S Hawke
- Cllr J Bate
- Cllr B Brodigan
- Cllr C Hardisty
- Cllr E Parkin
- Cllr J Martin Long
- Cllr A Williams
- Cllr P Horton
- Cllr T Duncan
- Cllr S Flatley

The Right Worshipful the Mayor

In Attendance

- Paula Benson
- Chief Officer
- Thirty members of the public.
- Two press representatives.

Prior to the start of the meeting Dean John Dobson said prayers.

In the absence of the retiring Mayor, Cllr Parkin took to the Chair in his position as retiring Deputy Mayor.

- 69/23** The Council to elect The Right Worshipful The Mayor.
That Cllr Hawke be elected as Mayor for the 2023-24 Civic Year.

Proposed – Cllr Williams	Seconded – Cllr Martin Long
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

- 70/23** The Proposer and Seconder to make the Customary Search for the Mayor Elect, who is then conducted to the Council Chamber.
Cllr Parkin read the history of the annual Mayor Making ceremony at this juncture.

- 71/23** The Mayor to make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as required by Local Elections (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) Order 2012 (SI 2012 No 1465), take the Oath of Allegiance; take the Ancient Oath of the Mayor of Ripon; signing accordingly in each case and then to sign The Ancient Roll.
Cllr Hawke undertook the duties above.

- 72/23** The Right Worshipful The Mayor to take the Chair.
Cllr Hawke donned the Mayoral Robe and Hat and assumed his position as Chairman of the meeting.

- 73/23** The Right Worshipful The Mayor to return thanks for his election.
Cllr Hawke gave a short speech thanking members for his (re-) election as Mayor.

- 74/23** The Council to elect the Deputy Mayor to hold office until immediately after the election of the Mayor at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
That Cllr Parkin is elected as Deputy Mayor.

Proposed – Cllr Hawke	Seconded – Cllr Bate
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	



- 75/23** The Deputy Mayor to Make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
Cllr Parkin undertook the duty above.
- 76/23** The Mayor to notify the Appointment of his Chaplain.
That Canon Michael Gisbourne be retained as Mayor's Chaplain.
- 77/23** To request any disclosure of an interest in relation to any matter under consideration at this meeting (financial or otherwise) & to consider any written requests for dispensation.
None
- 78/23** To receive apologies for absence.
Apologies were received from Cllrs Crozier and McHardy. Reasons for absence were not approved.
- 79/23** To agree the dates of future Meetings of Full Council up to the date of the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
That these be approved.
12th June; 10th July; 11th September; 9th October; 13th November; 11th December; 15th January; 5th February; 4th March; 15th April.
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| Proposed – Cllr Parkin | Seconded – Cllr Williams |
| RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands. | |
- 80/23** To review and approve the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Committee Terms of Reference.
That these received and approved.
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| Proposed – Cllr Williams | Seconded – Cllr Parkin |
| RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands. | |
- 81/23** To appoint the positions referenced in Standing Order no. 27. Democratic Arrangements:
- i. Leader of the Council;
That Cllr Williams be appointed to this position.
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| Proposed – Cllr Horton | Seconded – Cllr Bate |
| RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands. | |
- ii. Deputy Leader of the Council.
That Cllr Horton be appointed to this position.
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| Proposed – Cllr Parkin | Seconded – Cllr Duncan |
| RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands. | |
- 82/23** To appoint Committees of the Council, nominate members to those committees 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.
- i. Staffing Committee;
That Cllrs Bate, Crozier, Horton, Martin-Long, Parkin and Williams be appointed to the Staffing Committee.
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| Proposed – Cllr Horton | Seconded – Cllr Parkin |
| RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands. | |
- ii. Hugh Ripley Hall Committee;
That Cllrs Brodigan, Crozier, Duncan, Flatley, Hardisty and Horton be appointed to the Hugh Ripley Hall Committee



Proposed – Cllr Parkin	Seconded – Cllr Horton
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

- iii. Events Committee;
That Cllrs Bate, Duncan, Flatley, Hardisty, Williams and Parkin be appointed to the Events Committee.

Proposed – Cllr Horton	Seconded – Cllr Flatley
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

- iv. Alderman T F Spence Committee.
That Cllrs Martin-Long, Duncan, Flatley, Hardisty, Horton and Parkin be appointed to the Alderman T F Spence Committee.

Proposed – Cllr Horton	Seconded – Cllr Williams
RESOLVED by a unanimous show of hands.	

83/23

To receive a presentation of a specially commissioned book to be used when bestowing the award of Freeman of the City of Ripon from Mr J H Richmond BEM, Freeman.

Mr John Richmond BEM presented a new book to be used when creating Freemen of the City of Ripon to the Mayor who expressed his thanks to him on behalf of the wider council

With business concluded the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:50pm

Signed _____

Cllr S Hawke, The Right Worshipful the Mayor

Date _____



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 London when there was an attack of the plague. Clearly a Wakeman must have left the town at some stage prior to 1598 for this rule to have been written down.