

**Meeting of**  
**DEVIZES TOWN COUNCIL**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Councillors:	Bridewell	Britten	Brown
	Corbett	East	Gay
	Geddes	Giraud-Saunders	Greenwood
	Hopkins	Hoult	Nash
	Oliver	Pennington	Rose
	Stevens	Tanner	Wallis
	Wooldridge		

Officers: Simon Fisher –Town Clerk  
Jan Rendle – Committee Administrator

Members of the Public: One

**475. MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024, having previously been circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**476. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hunter and Ormerod.

**477. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hopkins advised that he would not participate in the discussion and vote under item 486, as the brother of the current internal auditor.

**478. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

There were none.

**479. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 15**

There were none.

**480. MINUTES OF MEETINGS FOR INFORMATION**

The committee noted the list of meetings, whose minutes have been signed and held since the last meeting of the Council.

**481. PROCEDURE: SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO 5**

It was proposed by Councillor Giraud-Saunders, seconded by Councillor Oliver and  
**RESOLVED**

THAT For the purposes of dealing with the remaining items on  
the agenda, Standing Order No 5 (Members to stand  
when speaking) be suspended.

**482. FOR DECISION – CHANGES TO COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS**

There was a long discussion in which some concerns about the smaller Planning Committee were raised, with reassurances were given that all members would retain the right to comment on strategic or controversial proposals under the measures included in the revised Standing Orders. It was noted that, despite the use of the word “chairman”, the intent is always of equality.

Councillor Wallis proposed, seconded by Councillor Nash, with Councillors Brown, Corbett, East, Geddes, Giraud-Saunders, Greenwood, Hault, Nash, Oliver, Pennington, Stevens, Tanner, Wallis and Wooldridge voting in favour and Councillors Bridewell, Britten, Gay, Hopkins and Rose voting against, with no abstentions

THAT the Council agrees the recommendations of the task group set up to overhaul committee arrangements for the Council's governance, as set out in the Agenda report,

**483. FOR DECISION – ANNUAL REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

Councillor Nash suggested several amendments to the proposed wording of Standing Orders, for clarification of the new Committee arrangements. A Standing Order was also required to explain fully the process of delegation of Planning powers to the Chairman and Town Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor Nash and with all in favour bar one abstention it was AGREED

THAT the Council accepts and adopts the Standing Orders as written, with the inclusion of amendments put forward to members, specifically that SO34 should read ‘a *maximum* of six members’; SO89 should read ‘*where possible, every ward should be* represented and this needs to be considered as part of the selection process’ and additionally SO88 would be amended to describe fully the process for the Planning delegation procedures and be brought back separately to Full Council for consideration and approval.

**484. FOR DECISION – AGREEMENT OF CIVIC CALENDAR**

With some amendments to the civic calendar being suggested and accepted by members, it was proposed by Councillor Nash, seconded by Councillor Wallis and AGREED with all in favour

THAT the 2024/2025 civic calendar is agreed with the revisions discussed, being the Christmas Lights switch-on on 29<sup>th</sup> November; an additional Planning meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December; and Forward Planning sessions on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 27<sup>th</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 18<sup>th</sup> February, and 15<sup>th</sup> April – henceforth to be formalised with a set agenda.

**485. FOR DECISION – SELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR NOMINATION FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2024/2025**

Councillor Wallis proposed that Councillor Greenwood be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming civic year, and was seconded by Councillor Oliver.

Councillor Corbett proposed that Councillor Britten be nominated as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming civic year, and was seconded by Councillor Tanner.

Members voted on the two nominations, with Councillor Greenwood receiving 8 votes and Councillor Britten receiving 11 votes. Councillor Britten was duly elected as Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2024/2025.

**486. FOR DECISION – APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR**

It was proposed by Councillor Corbett, seconded by Councillor Giraud-Saunders and AGREED with one abstention

THAT R Hopkins Accountancy & Taxation Services Ltd should be re-appointed to undertake the Council's quarterly internal audits.

**487. TO PASS THE FOLLOWING SEALING RESOLUTION**

THAT the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to or the Town Clerk do sign on behalf of the Council where appropriate any Orders, Deeds or Documents necessary to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports received and adopted at this meeting or other decisions of the Council thereat.

**488. QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**489. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions from the public.

Town Mayor