

SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Saltash Town Council held in The Guildhall on Monday 22nd October 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors: R Bickford, J Brady - Chairman, G Challen – Vice Chairman, J Dent, S Lennox-Boyd, S Martin, S Miller, M Parker, W Phillips, A Pinckney, J Rance, B Samuels, P Samuels, G Taylor, D Yates.

ALSO PRESENT: 57 Members of the Public, 2 Member of the Press, H Frank, D Holley and S Tamlin – Cornwall Councillors, R Lane - Town Clerk, S Burrows – Office Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors: None.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed those present of the actions required in the event of a fire or emergency.

347/18/19 **RECORDING OF MEETINGS – PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHAIRMAN IF YOU ARE INTENDING TO RECORD THIS MEETING**

Councillors Brady, Challen and members of the public declared that the meeting would be recorded.

348/18/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- a. Declarations from Members of any registerable (5A of the Code of Conduct) and/or non-registerable (5B) interests in matters to be considered at this meeting.
- b. Declarations from Members of Matters of Public Interest regarding matters to be considered at this meeting:

Councillor	Agenda Item	Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary	Reason
Bickford	None		
Brady	None		
Challen	6	Non-Pecuniary	Chamber member
Dent	6	Non-Pecuniary	Member of Saltash Branch RBL & RNA
Lennox-Boyd	6		Member of the Chamber of Commerce

Martin	6		Applied to be a member of Chamber & approached Chamber to support road closure for parade
Miller	6	Non-Pecuniary	Predetermination
Phillips	None		
Pinckney	6		
Rance	6		
Samuel B	6	Non-Pecuniary	Already been agreed
Samuels P	6	Non-Pecuniary	Unable to support further discussion
Taylor	None		
Yates	None		

349/18/19 TO CONSIDER A VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE IN COUNCILLOR BRADY TO CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE THE DUTIES OF CHAIRMAN OF SALTASH TOWN COUNCIL AND MAYOR OF SALTASH. DATED 16TH OCTOBER 2018

Proposal from Councillor Miller and Seconded by Councillor Pinckney:

It was with regret that I submitted the request for an Extraordinary Town Council meeting to consider a vote of no confidence in the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor John Brady. I had become very concerned about the autocracy of contentious decisions being made, the undemocratic way in which they were being implemented, and the increasing amount of time and energy being needed to try and have these reconsidered.

The matter of the use of the Mayoress's chain being proposed to be reinstated without debate of the options was not a good sign back in May, followed by a unilateral decision to deploy wardens as Security Enforcement in Fore Street. He has gratuitously offended many people – including Councillors – with increasing frequency, bringing his integrity into question. He also has a number of unresolved Code of Conduct issues, which doesn't show the ability for conciliation.

I began consulting colleagues for their opinions several weeks ago, although at that time it was felt that there was still hope to resolve the situation internally. The Mayor proposed a "clear the air" meeting which was dogmatically scheduled for a time very inconvenient to many members with a refusal to reconsider the timing – and then we had bunting-gate.

This particularly involved ward members spending significant time in totally unnecessarily preparing and presenting objections and justifications for a change of decision, and eventually where the Chairman of Staffing also felt it necessary to intervene in opposition to the Mayor's directives. Rather than accept an error and apologise for his mistake, he simply resigned as Chairman of Services Committee!

All this wasted effort achieved nothing in terms of addressing the substantial amount of Council business which needs to be undertaken and began significantly impinging on staff time spent investigating legalities. It was also the first incident to directly involve the public-facing aspect of council activities, resulting in a petition from residents, and an awareness of internal problems which were unsustainable, including the Town Clerk and Wardens in particular being severely compromised.

Although my submission for this meeting and vote was originally made on the day that the lack of Remembrance Parade became widely realised, it was purely coincidence and that issue itself is merely a symptom of the situation which has developed from almost that start of Councillor Brady's tenure as Mayor, and I consider untenable.

Although being intelligent and having a good and innovative ideas, Councillor Brady has a history of confrontational actions. Before being elected he was asked of his attitude to Chairmanship of the Council and gave assurances that he would seek to engender a spirit of teamwork and cooperation and participate in community activities in the traditional way. Ultimately actions speak louder than words, and we have had too many undelivered promises about meaningful discussion and consensus for me to believe things will actually change. I thereby submit this motion for consideration by Councillors.

Chairman's response:

Saltash Town Council had been run for a number of years on Custom and Practice with no processes or procedures in place. Since I became Mayor, Saltash Town Council is adopting a new committee structure, reviewing policy and procedures and for the position of Mayor only a protocol document was in place. There was no specific laid down duties for Mayor in Standing Orders. Also, the Business Strategy and Forward Planning committee will be reporting on November 1st.

Following a recorded vote of 13 in favour, 2 against and 0 abstentions:

Councillor:

Bickford	For
Brady	Against
Challen	For
Dent	For
Lennox-Boyd	For
Martin	For
Miller	For
Parker	For
Phillips	Against
Pinckney	For
Rance	For
Samuels B	For
Samuels P	For
Taylor	For
Yates	For

It was **RESOLVED** to note that the motion was carried.

Councillor Rance asked the Chairman a question; please will you now stand down as Mayor of Saltash. Councillors and the People of Saltash have spoken.

All members except Councillor Yates seconded Councillor Rance question.

In response Councillor Brady stated he will not stand down as Chairman of Saltash Town Council and Mayor of Saltash.

Councillors Challen, Dent, Lennox-Boyd, Martin, Miller, Pinckney, Rance, B Samuels, P Samuels, declared an interest in the next agenda item and left the meeting.

Councillors Bickford, Parker and Taylor also left the meeting.

350/18/19 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND PARADE 2018

It was **NOTED** that the Extraordinary meeting of Saltash Town Council is now not quorate, and the agenda item be deferred to the next Full Town Council meeting.

All Councillors were invited to return to the meeting.

Councillors Bickford, Challen, Miller, Parker, Pinckney, Rance, B Samuels, P Samuels, Taylor returned to the meeting.

