

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Minute 15 and Resolution of the Borough Council of Wellingborough Full Council Meeting held on 23 March 2021.**

#### **15. MAYORAL CHAINS OF OFFICE, INSIGNIA AND OTHER ARTEFACTS**

The circulated report of the executive director was received to petition for North Northamptonshire Council to consider passing some of the Borough Council of Wellingborough's (BCW) mayoral chains of office, insignia and artefacts to Wellingborough Town Council (WTC) in the future.

The report detailed the establishment of a working group made up of the Deputy Leader, Councillor Partridge-Underwood, Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Scarborough, the Mayor, Councillor Carr, Councillor Harrington and Councillor Emerson.

Councillor Partridge-Underwood in presenting the report to council explained that items which currently belonged to BCW, would automatically vest in North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) from 1 April 2021. The working group considered that some items currently in the ownership of BCW would be better placed with WTC if the town council wished to have them. This would be subject to the town council deciding what it wished to do regarding the appointment of a town chairman or town mayor and the proposals within the report were suggestions with the final decision needing to be made by NNC.

The working group had sought the assistance of the Senior Democratic Services Officer (Civic) who had compiled a list, along with photographic evidence, of items held by BCW. Members thanked her for her assistance with this.

It was therefore suggested that, subject to WTC appointing a town chairman or town mayor, that NNC be petitioned to agree that the following items be placed with WTC:

- the current BCW Mayor's chain of office (chain only) be offered to WTC;
- the former Wellingborough Urban District Council's badge of office also be offered to WTC for use, if appropriate with the BCW's Mayor's chain of office (originally used by the Wellingborough Urban District Council);
- the current BCW Mayoress' chain of office and badge of office be offered to WTC;
- the BCW Mace be offered to WTC, on the proviso that the BCW Coat of Arms on the crown, would not be used in its current form;
- the BCW Mayoral Robes be offered to WTC;
- the former Wellingborough Urban District Council's chairman's occasional chain and badge (with neck ribbon), the chairman's consort pin badge and chairman's consort occasional badge (with neck ribbon), past chairman's lady's badge and the chairman's consort chain and badge be offered to WTC.

The report also detailed that WTC could, if in receipt of the Wellingborough Urban District Council's insignia, apply to the Herald of Arms for permission to adopt/re-use the former Wellingborough Urban District Council's Coat of Arms, as this was created

to depict the urban area of the town of Wellingborough and would therefore remain relevant to the newly formed WTC.

It was noted that some of the badges of office, would not be able to be worn with the chains of office, due to their insignia.

Should WTC not appoint a town mayor, the items proposed to be offered would remain the property of NNC, until such time as a town mayor is appointed.

The report also recommended that the following items be offered to WTC:

- The silver flagon and base presented to the Northamptonshire Rifle Volunteers Corp by the Town of Wellingborough. Further details of which were contained within the report.
- Distinguished Visitors' Book (formerly belonging to Wellingborough Urban District Council and used by the Borough Council of Wellingborough);
- All furniture and items currently located in the Mayor's Parlour and Members Room at Swanspool House, but not paintings and pictures;
- Seals of the former Wellingborough Urban District Council;
- Items currently on loan to Wellingborough Museum from the Borough Council of Wellingborough;
- The Town Twinning Charters with Niort and Wittlich, together with any twinning awards, certificates and gifts relating to the twin towns or friendships with towns that have been established;
- The furniture in the council chamber, together with the clock, gavel, Standards and Royal photographs, when no longer in use by NNC. It is anticipated that items referenced within the report would remain in situ whilst discussions about the future of NNC buildings is decided;
- All miscellaneous silverware/plate and commemorative items should be given to WTC, who in turn could loan such items to Wellingborough museum for public display.
- The Mayoral gallery of photographs in Swanspool House would remain in situ and vest in NNC unless WTC wished to have them. It is recommended that the portraits remain as a complete set and it is proposed to digitise these and place within an album to be deposited with Northamptonshire Records Officer, together with the Mayoral Album, Honorary Freeman Album and photographs of Wellingborough Rural District Council and Northamptonshire County Council.

The BCW's Mayor's badge of office will vest in NNC, as will the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress' chains and badges of office. The former Wellingborough Rural District Council's chairman's chain and badge and chairman's consort chain and badge will also vest in NNC.

Any insignia transferred to NNC will become an asset, though it will not be able to be used by NNC.

The charters of the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Wellingborough Urban District Council and Wellingborough Rural Council, the Past Mayor's Roll of Honour Board, the Honorary Freeman Roll of Honour Board and The Royal Anglian Regiment framed plate will become the property of North Northamptonshire Council.

Two other notable items include a silver Georgian snuffbox presented to BCW by a former employee of the council in 1993 which it was felt should be retained by NNC; and a George Medal awarded in 1941 to Arthur John Rycroft which, it was considered, should be deposited with the National Railway Museum in York as the medal was awarded for action during the blitz on the railway in Birmingham.

BCW also owns over 100 pieces of artwork located throughout the council premises, those of Wellingborough Norse, Nene Valley Crematorium and Wrenn School. These items will vest in NNC and it is suggested that they be deposited with the Alfred East Art Gallery in Kettering for future public display in North Northamptonshire.

The report also proposed that custodian arrangements be established to oversee the wishes of BCW in liaison with NNC. The liaison officer will be the current Senior Democratic Services Officer (Civic) along with Councillor Carr, Honorary Freeman Dholakia and Partridge-Underwood and Mr D Smith (Independent Person for NNC).

Councillors, many of whom had undertaken the mayoral role, spoke about the items referenced in the report and considered that some were of great importance and part of the town's heritage. Many councillors had received the honour of wearing the chains and of seeing the memorabilia. It was noted that items would vest in NNC and that members could petition for some of the items to be returned or retained by the town council, should it wish to do so.

Councillor Partridge-Underwood moved the proposal within the report, and this was seconded by Councillor Emerson and on being put to the vote declared carried with one abstention.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) North Northamptonshire Council consider the wishes of the Borough Council of Wellingborough to transfer to Wellingborough Town Council, some of the Mayoral chains of office, insignia and artefacts, as detailed within the report;
- (ii) the Senior Democratic Services Officer (Civic), act as liaison officer to deliver such wishes.