

# FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Newly elected Chairman pays tribute to Fenland's coronavirus response at virtual meeting**

Councillor Alex Miscandlon paid tribute to the district's heartwarming response to the coronavirus crisis, as he was elected to the role of Fenland District Council Chairman today.

At a virtual Annual Council meeting, the district councillor for Benwick, Coates and Eastrea said he had been "humbled" by the tireless efforts of NHS staff, care and key workers, and volunteers helping the vulnerable through the pandemic.

Cllr Miscandlon, who has been a district councillor for nine years, was unanimously elected for the 2020/21 civic year – taking over from the Council's longest serving Chairman, Cllr Mrs Kay Mayor, who served three terms of office.

Welcoming his appointment, he said: "It is a real honour to have been chosen for this role and I will be delighted to wear the chain of office knowing my fellow councillors have put their faith in me.

"My civic duties will look somewhat different this year as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, but I will continue to do my utmost to represent the Council and promote our fantastic district. Over recent weeks we have all pulled together for the good of our communities which is something Fenland can be rightly proud of.

"With this in mind I'd like to issue a heartfelt thank you to all those who have provided vital support and assistance to local residents, as well as NHS staff, carers, Council staff and other keyworkers working on the frontline to keep us safe and the country running.

"I would also like to thank Cllr Mrs Mayor for her hard work during the past three years in office and offer my congratulations for raising over £3,800 for her chosen charity, Macmillan Cancer Support, during that time."

District councillor for March West, Cllr Rob Skoulding, was elected as Vice-Chairman for the year.

Cllr Mrs Mayor told Members: "Thank you all for putting your trust in me; it was totally unexpected that I was asked to do a third term as Chairman.

"It has truly been an honour and privilege to have served as both Vice-Chairman and Chairman over the last five years and to have had the opportunity to represent Fenland through attending and supporting other authorities and organisations at their civic functions and charity fundraising events. I have met some truly inspirational people and made some good friends along the way.

"Sadly the coronavirus pandemic has caused life as we knew it to change dramatically. Gatherings have been cancelled or postponed and our meetings held virtually. Civic life has been brought to a very abrupt end and all planned events sadly cancelled."

In her speech Cllr Mrs Mayor also said she missed her good friends, fellow Whittlesey councillor Alan Bristow and former district councillor and Mayor of March, Kit Owen, both of whom have passed away in recent months.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226**