

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 14 May 2010 at 7.30pm
in the Charter Hall Town Hall High Street Bridgwater

Present:- Councillor K.F. Richards (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair)

Councillors M.D. Cresswell, A.S. Downes, G.J. Granter,
D.P. Loveridge, W.J. Monteith, J.R. Munn, P.G. Parker,
P. Smeed and J. Turner J.P.

Apologies:- Councillors Baker, Busby, Hall, Preece, Ms Raven & Mrs Slocombe

At the commencement of the meeting the Mayor announced that just over £1,000 had been raised for his Charity - League of Friends at Bridgwater Hospital. He presented a cheque to finalise the amount to Judith Allen, Chairman of the League.

A Medal, Certificate and Badge were presented to Cadet Beau Bussell who had acted as Mayor's Cadet, commending her upon the exemplary way in which she had carried out the duties. He thanked the Town Clerk and Mayor's Secretary/PA for their support and hard work throughout the year. He also thanked the Mace-Bearer Mr Chris Hocking for his services during the year and his Chaplain Rev. Charles Chadwick.

1. MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on 15 May 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the correction of initials of Councillor P G Parker in the attendance list.

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2010/11:

Proposed by Councillor Pat Parker
Seconded by Councillor John Turner

RESOLVED: That Councillor Bill Monteith be elected Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2011.

The Mayor of Bridgwater (Councillor Bill Monteith) in the Chair

The Mayor announced that Mrs Lynn Bussell would be his Mayoress and that the Reverend Charles Chadwick would be his Chaplain. Mrs Bussell received the Mayoress' Chain from the retiring Mayoress.

The Mayor then took the oath of office and addressed the meeting during which he also announced that Air Cadet Sergeant Tim Rawlings would be the Mayor's Cadet and the changeover of Cadet took place formally. A badge to mark the office was presented to Tim.

There followed a short prayer by Rev. Chadwick.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2010/11:

Proposed by Councillor Dave Loveridge
Seconded by Councillor Adrian Downes

RESOLVED: That Councillor Pat Parker be elected Deputy Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2011.

4. VOTE OF THANKS:

Proposed by Councillor Dave Loveridge

Seconded by Councillor John Turner

RESOLVED: That the best thanks of the Town Council be given to Councillor Ken Richards for the services which he has efficiently and zealously rendered to the Town of Bridgwater during his term of office as Mayor and the exceptional manner in which he has graced the office for the fifth time; also to Mrs Margo Richards in her capacity as Mayoress.

The retiring Mayor duly thanked Members of the Town Council for their support during the year and acknowledged his gratitude at having been offered the opportunity and the honour to be Mayor of the Town for a fifth term. He remarked upon what an enjoyable experience it had been and the memories that he would hold. He made particular mention of the help and support he had received from the Mayoress and the key part she had played in this successful year.

5. PRESENTATION OF EX-MAYOR'S BADGE AND EX-MAYORESS BADGE:

The Mayor presented an Ex-Mayor's Badge and Bar to Councillor Richards and the Ex-Mayoress Badge and Bar newly engraved to Margo Richards.

6. MAYORAL ADDRESS:

Earlier in the meeting, the Mayor had spoken briefly on his pleasure at being elected to the office for the second time as a proud resident of the town, although born elsewhere. He looked forward to an excellent year and to contributing to the civic pride evident in so many ways. He was particularly keen to promote and work with the many organisations in the town, to the benefit of all no matter what their sphere of activity and interest. In this regard, he made particular mention of the sporting activities of the football, cricket and rugby clubs and the opportunities presented to the youth of the town.

He announced that his charity for the year would be 'Help For Heroes' and in this connection he would be undertaking a Mayoral challenge in the form of a sky-dive. He hoped that those present, and people in the town would readily support this venture. He also mentioned a forthcoming visit on the 18 May 2010 by former Sapper Doug Hamilton-Cox, who was undertaking a 200 mile sponsored walk from Dartmoor to Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham.

The Mayor referred also to plans for Armed Forces Day to be held on Saturday 26 June with a service in St Mary's Church, followed by a band concert led by the Yeovil Town Band.

The Mayor remarked upon the future of the Town Hall and commended the work to the exterior currently nearing completion. Arising from this he was delighted to mention the finding in the BTC meeting room of original 'cruck' beam construction identified to the 15/16th century, which it was hoped would become a major feature once revealed.

The Mayor made presentations of flowers in acknowledgement of the occasion.

The meeting finished at 8.13pm - whereupon all present adjourned into the Town Hall for a Civic Reception to honour the newly elected Mayor and Mayoress and were joined by guests from the town and surrounding areas.