

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 13 May 2011 at 7.30pm
in the Parish Church of St Mary St Mary Street Bridgwater

Present:- Councillor W.J. Monteith (Mayor of Bridgwater – in the Chair)

Councillors S.B. Austen, D.L. Baker, A.M. Glassford, G.J. Granter, M.J. Lerry,
D.P. Loveridge, A.J. Moore, Mrs P.M. Morley, P.G.H. Parker, L.P. Redman,
K.F. Richards, Mrs G.J. Slocombe, B.D. Smedley, I.C. Tucker & J. Turner (JP)

Apologies: None

The meeting began with procession from the Tower Room led by the maces.

At the commencement the Mayor announced that some £3,087 had been raised for his chosen Charity – Help for Heroes. He especially thanked Sergeant Sara Jones who had joined him in a Sky-dive, supporters of his Town Hall concert, and Renee Stone author of the Barfordian for their significant contributions. A cheque was due for presentation.

A Medal and Certificate was presented to Air Cadet Sergeant Tim Rawlings who had acted as Mayor's Cadet, with the Mayor commending him upon the exemplary way in which he 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 Reverend Charles Chadwick.

1. MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on 14 May 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2011/12:

Proposed by Councillor Graham Granter
Seconded by Councillor Adrian Moore

RESOLVED: That Councillor Pat Parker be elected Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2012.

The Mayor of Bridgwater (Councillor P.G.H. Parker) in the Chair

The Mayor announced that Mrs Jennie Parker would be his Mayoress and Mrs Parker received the Mayoress' Chain from the retiring Mayoress. He advised that the Reverend Charles Chadwick would be his Chaplain and Lance Corporal Matthew Dyte (Army) the Mayor's Cadet.

The Chaplain then administered the oath of office duly accepted by the Mayor and followed by a short prayer. The changeover of Cadet took place formally in a simple ceremony. A badge of office was handed over.

The Mayor then addressed the Council and invited guests during which he confirmed that the Bridgwater Cultural Olympiad which brought together his major interests in youth, Art and Sport – appropriately in Olympic Year 2012 – would be his charity. Significantly already supported by Barnardoes.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2011/12:

Proposed by Councillor Ken Richards
Seconded by Councillor Dave Loveridge

RESOLVED: That Councillor Graham Granter be elected Deputy Mayor of Bridgwater

for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2012.

4. VOTE OF THANKS:

Proposed by Councillor Gill Slocombe
Seconded by Councillor David Baker

RESOLVED: That the best thanks of the Town Council be given to Councillor Bill Monteith 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 second time; also to Mrs Lynn Bussell 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 second 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 his wife Allison and the key parts they had played in his successful year and the wide variety of events and engagements. He acknowledged the strength of the town captured by the community and particularly young people academically and artistically citing specific examples during a year which had flown by.

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 cultural worth, the influence of the College and the sporting activities of the football, cricket and rugby clubs and the opportunities all presented to the youth of the town.

The Mayor remarked upon the excellent working relationship with Sedgemoor District Council and the growing influence of the town council. He congratulated Councillor Mrs Jane Moreton on her successful term of office as Chairman of the District Council. He also looked forward to a vibrant future for the Town Hall with other services and facilities now the responsibility of the town council.

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

7. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2010/11 – OUT TURN AND GOVERNANCE:

RESOLVED: That the Mayor and Town Clerk (& RFO) be authorised to sign-off and forward the accounts for audit by the due date and confirm the approval of the governance statements subject to confirmatory report to the next meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.15pm - whereupon all present adjourned to the Town Hall for a Civic Reception to honour the newly elected Mayor and Mayoress and were joined by all those present and other guests from the town and surrounding areas.