

# **BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 15 May 2015 at 7.30pm  
in the Parish Church of St Mary St Mary Street Bridgwater**

**Present:- Councillor D.P. Loveridge (Chair for the Mayor Making Ceremony)**

**Councillors Ms M. Brown, M. Cresswell, A.M. Glassford, G.J. Granter, P. Johnstone,  
Ms L. Leavy, M.J. Lerry, A.J. Moore, Mrs P.M. Morley, Ms K. Pearce, L.P. Redman,  
D. Rodrigues, B.D. Smedley, J. Turner J.P. & Ms S Wilson**

**Apology: Mayor of Bridgwater (Steve Austen)**

***The Town Clerk introduced the evening and explained the change in practice from previous years due to the unavoidable notified absence of the retiring Mayor due to serious illness of the Mayoress.***

**The meeting began with procession from the Tower Room led by the Great Mace.**

***After welcoming all present, Councillor Loveridge relayed the town council's thanks to the Retiring Mayor and Mayoress for their services to the town council, the town and community in general through the many engagements they had undertaken. He wished Mrs Stella Austen a speedy return to full health and fitness; a sentiment endorsed by all members of the council.***

## **1. MINUTES:**

**TAKEN AS READ and RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on 16 May 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.**

## **2. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2015/16:**

**Proposed by Councillor Dave Loveridge  
Seconded by Councillor Adrian Moore**

**RESOLVED: That Councillor Leigh Redman be elected Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2016.**

**There followed the formal dressing of Robes of Office and Chains in the Chantry Chapel accompanied and marked by the ringing of the bells of St Mary's.**

***The Mayor of Bridgwater (Councillor Leigh Redman) in the Chair***

**The Mayor announced that Mrs Tracey Redman would be his Mayoress and presented and placed the Mayoress' Chain with the Mayoress and that Reverend Hannah Alderson of the Holy Trinity Church would be his Chaplain.**

**The Mayor then took the oath of office and Reverend Alderson gave a short prayer at the conclusion of his induction. He briefly addressed the meeting through a speech for Mayor Making and thanked all members for their support in his election. During this he also announced that Lance Corporal Joshua Maquire (Royal Marine Cadet) would be his Mayor's Cadet (who received badge of office) and the changeover of Cadet took place formally completed with the presentation of a medal and certificate to outgoing cadet Lance Corporal Allissa Goddard (Army Cadet Force).**

**He also confirmed that the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and the Firefighters Charity would benefit as his chosen Charities for the year.**

### **3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2015/16:**

**Proposed by Councillor Dave Loveridge  
Seconded by Councillor Graham Granter**

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Alex Glassford be elected Deputy Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2016.

The Deputy Mayor received and addressed the Deputy Mayor's Badge of Office from the Mayor.

### **4. PRESENTATION OF EX-MAYOR'S BADGE AND EX-MAYORESS BADGE:**

The Mayor presented an Ex-Mayor's Badge and an Ex-Mayoress Medal for 2014/15 collected by Councillor Adrian Moore on their behalf.

The Mayor echoed the earlier comments congratulating his predecessors on their term of office.

### **5. MAYORAL ADDRESS:**

The Mayor spoke of his affection for the town and the community spirit engendered and evident in all the events and productions and activities for which it was reknown. He recalled his interest in the fabric of the town, its governmental organisations and those individuals who had fostered and brought that interest into being. In terms of the work of the Town Council and his elected membership, also, of both Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council he looked forward with optimism to continuing progress on behalf of all the people of Bridgwater.

He mentioned those activities in which he would take a special interest and as custodian of the office of Mayor how he hoped to build on the work already in train especially that led by the Town Council. He also looked forward to the continuing resurgence of the town and optimistically to promoting the town centre and regeneration and the real commencement of the Hinkley Point C development. Maintaining civic pride was also high on his agenda and seen as essential to securing harmony and representing the increasingly diverse population and elements all with a part to play in achieving a vibrant economy in Bridgwater. He concluded repeating his appreciation for the attendance of all present.

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

The meeting finished at 8.10pm. whereupon all present, invited guests, adjourned to the Town Hall to be greeted by the Mayor and Mayoress and party for a Civic Reception in their honour.