

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Friday 11 May 2018 at 7.30pm
in the Bridgwater Room (Old Council Chamber) Town Hall Bridgwater

Present:- Councillor G.J. Granter (Mayor of Bridgwater - in the Chair)

Councillors M. Cresswell, A.M. Glassford T. Heywood, P. Johnstone, L. Leavy,
M. Lerry, D.P. Loveridge, K. Pearce, L.P. Redman, D. Rodrigues, B.D. Smedley
& S. Wilson

Apologies: Councillors Moore, Morley & Turner JP

The meeting began with a procession from the main doorway led by the Great Mace. All stood and the Mace Bearer and Mayor's Cadets, outgoing and incoming, laid the Maces.

After welcoming all present, the Mayor announced that after a successful year in office he and the Mayoress would be presenting a cheque in due course to the RSPCA SW. He thanked all those who had supported him locally, and so generously given to the charity effort.

The Mayor commended his Cadet, Able Cadet Sam Williams, on the exemplary way he had carried out duties throughout the year, later presenting a medal to mark the term. He thanked the Town Clerk and the Mayor's Secretary/PA for their support and hard work through the year. He also thanked the Mace-Bearer Mr Chris Hocking for his services and his Chaplain Rev. Trish Olive.

1. MINUTES:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bridgwater Town Council held on 12 May 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

2. ELECTION OF MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2018/19:

Proposed by Councillor Mick Lerry
Seconded by Councillor Brian Smedley

RESOLVED: That Councillor Diogo Rodrigues be elected Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2019.

There followed congratulations and retirement for the formal dressing of Robes of Office and Chains in the anteroom and return march led by the maces via entrance lobby and main doorway.

The Mayor of Bridgwater (Councillor Diogo Rodrigues) in the Chair

The Mayor announced that his partner Mr Nathan Slate would be his Consort and Nathan received the Consort Badge and ribbon from the retiring Mayoress, and that on this occasion he would not be nominating a Chaplain.

The Mayor then took the oath of office. He briefly addressed the meeting through a speech for Mayor Making and thanked all members for their support in his election. During this commentary he also announced that Cadet Dylan Parker-Stephenson would be his Mayor's Cadet (who received the badge of office) and the nominal changeover of Cadet took place. He also confirmed that the Youth of Bridgwater would benefit from charitable efforts rather than a specific chosen Charity.

The Portuguese Consulate representative addressed the meeting congratulating Diogo on his selection and appointment as the first Portuguese national to become Mayor of a British town.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIDGWATER for 2018/19:

Proposed by Councillor Liz Leavy
Seconded by Councillor Dave Loveridge

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tony Heywood be elected Deputy Mayor of Bridgwater for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Town Council in the year 2019.

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

4. VOTE of THANKS:

Proposed by Councillor Kathy Pearce
Seconded by Councillor Leigh Redman

RESOLVED: That the best thanks of the Town Council be given to Councillor Graham Granter for the outstanding services which he has efficiently and zealously rendered to the Town of Bridgwater during his third term of office as Mayor; also to Mrs Kay Granter for her not insignificant contribution in her capacity as Mayoress.

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

The Mayor presented an Ex-Mayor's Badge and an Ex-Mayoress Medal for the 2017/18 year to the retiring Mayor and Mayoress.

The retiring Mayor duly thanked members of the Town Council for their support, and acknowledged his gratitude at having been offered the opportunity and honour to be Mayor of the Town for the third time. He remarked again upon what an enjoyable experience it had been for both him and the Mayoress and the memories they would hold. His Mayoress had been truly supportive in all they had achieved. He followed with a brief resume of the year and the large number of engagements, some 200, and the many outstanding moments. He 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 the many charitable events they had attended, and the wealth of local people they had met who contributed massively to this support of the range of charities. The pressures from the EDF HPC development had brought many challenges as well as benefits. Employment opportunities were varied. Interest in the fabric of the town remained high and he looked forward with optimism to continuing progress on behalf of all the people of Bridgwater. Maintaining civic pride continued high on the Town Council agenda and was seen as essential to securing harmony and representing the increasingly diverse population which the new Mayor partly represented and all with a part to play in achieving a vibrant economy in Bridgwater.

6. MAYORAL ADDRESS:

The Mayor spoke briefly on the continuing work of the Town Council since it's creation in 2003. He acknowledged the significant contribution to the life of the town, now so obvious in so many different ways, and all those current activities, events and key issues which took huge commitment from all involved in the work of the various political and public institutions. He was known for a particular interest in Youth and Youth Development, and was instrumental in plans for a Youth Forum and possibly Youth Council. He looked forward to an enjoyable year building on what others had achieved in the role before him, determined to share in taking Bridgwater forward. He concluded repeating his appreciation for the attendance of all present, and the extra honour of election to the office of Mayor as the first Portugese national and youngest ever Mayor.

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

The meeting finished at 8.15pm. whereupon all present adjourned downstairs to the main Town Hall (Theatre) led by the Maces and where then greeted by the Mayor and Consort and party, all present and other invited guests took their part in a Civic Reception with entertainment in their honour.