

CHIPPENHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, High Street, Chippenham on Wednesday 11 May 2011 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs SE Oakes (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs LK André, TC Bate, MC Coates, PR Darby,
WJ Douglas, Mrs MM Fallon, Mrs SA Gibson, R Jones, Mrs MF Lloyd,
ACG Noblet, MAC Packard, BS Patterson, JA Phillips, Mrs NM Phillips,
Mrs M Pile, DLB Powell, RHP Purdon, JR Scragg, Mrs ME Stickland,
Ms S Veitch, Mrs JM Wood, WA Wood

OFFICERS

PRESENT: Mrs S Wilthew (Clerk & Chief Executive)
Mr CNA Williams (Head of Support Services)
Mr A Jones (Head of Service Delivery)
Mrs MA Barnett (Heritage Centre Manager/Curator)
Mrs A Chard (Office Manager)
Mrs V Lowkis (Halls Co-ordinator)
Mrs C Rigby (Administrative Officer)

Prior to the start of the meeting the Mayor's Chaplain addressed the Chamber and led a prayer for the work of the Town Council and for the community of Chippenham.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR 2011/12

(i) Election

A nomination of the Town Mayor-Elect, Councillor DLB Powell, for the Office of Town Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal Year was formally proposed by Councillor Mrs SE Oakes and seconded by Councillor RHP Purdon.

On taking a vote which was unanimous

RESOLVED that Councillor DLB Powell, Town Mayor-Elect, be elected Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/12.

The Town Mayor, having been formally invested, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by both the Proposer and Secunder of the nomination and the Clerk & Chief Executive.

(ii) Robing of New Town Mayor

The Macebearer, Clerk & Clerk Executive, retiring Mayor and the newly appointed Town Mayor retired to the Mayor's Parlour for the formal robing and subsequently returned to the Chamber.

Councillor DLB Powell, Town Mayor, in the Chair

(iii) Review

At the invitation of the Chairman, the retiring Mayor looked back on a busy year which had passed very quickly and during which she had attended many diverse events.

Particular highlights had been the Twinning visit to La Fleche, which had been reciprocated very recently, and the visit from Friedberg which due to be returned in August 2011.

It had also been a year of change as both the Town Clerk and the Heritage Centre Manager/Curator had retired and the Head of Service Delivery had left to take up another post. Mrs Susan Wilthew had been appointed to the re-designated post of Clerk & Chief Executive and Mrs Melissa Barnett and Adrian Jones to the other two posts.

George Langley had retired from the post of Macebearer and Brian Pratt, the Deputy Macebearer, had been promoted to it.

The Town Council continued to provide high profile services to the community, examples being the floral displays at John Coles Park as part of the centenary celebrations for the British Red Cross and the exhibition at the Heritage Centre about World War I.

It was particularly pleasing that the work of the volunteers at the Heritage Centre had been recognised by an award from the Area Board for voluntary service.

Citizenship Ceremonies had been attended on a regular basis and invitations accepted to RAF Lyneham, Buckley Barracks and TS Tiger (Sea Cadets).

Thanks were recorded and a presentation given to Mike Oakes for his support as Consort during the year, and also to Councillor DLB Powell for his support as Deputy Mayor. It was clear that he would rise to the challenge of his election as Town Mayor.

Particular thanks and a presentation were given to the Mayor's Secretary for her professionalism and thanks recorded to all the staff the Mayor had contact with for their courtesy and loyalty to the Town Council.

A cheque was presented to St Nicholas Appeal for a Hydrotherapy Pool ("SNAP"), the nominated charity for the year, which was accepted by Mr Eric Sambell on behalf of the project. It was noted that in total £700,000 had been raised since 2004.

In conclusion the retiring Mayor said her year of Office had shown once again what an active and caring community there was in Chippenham.

(iv) Vote of Thanks to Retiring Town Mayor

A formal vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor R Jones and on being seconded a vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED that the unanimous thanks of the Town Council be recorded to Councillor Mrs SE Oakes who would be remembered for being both hard working and setting a high benchmark for those who followed.

Mementos of the year were presented to the retiring Mayor.

(v) Town Mayor's Announcements and Investiture of Consort

The Town Mayor said how honoured he was to be appointed and he would serve the Town to the best of his ability. In particular he was looking forward to continuing to work with young people on projects such as the Children's Parliament.

Mrs Gill Powell was named as the Mayor's Consort and duly invested with the Insignia of Office.

2. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

A nomination of Councillor JA Phillips for the Office of Deputy Town Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal Year was proposed by Councillor JR Scragg and seconded by Councillor ACG Noblet.

On taking a vote which was unanimous

RESOLVED that Councillor JA Phillips be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2011/12.

The Deputy Mayor received his Chain of Office and responded to his appointment with humility.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs DB Allen, Mrs EA Kennedy and Mrs LS Roberts-Rance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest as defined by the Code of Conduct in the current approved Standing Orders was received.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no written or verbal questions from any member of the public.

6. PRESS RELEASE

RESOLVED that no specific Press Release be issued, and the minutes made available in the usual way.

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.