

**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING 9 May 2022**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Present:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Paul Stevens, and Councillors Andrews, Carwardine, Dykes, Foxton, Hey, Hornsey, Kenyon, Milln, Oliver, Owens, Powell, Stevens, Tillett, Toynbee, Tyler, Wilcox, Williams

**Attending:** Steve Kerry Town Clerk and Officers of the Council with civic guests and friends and family of the Mayor, the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor

**AMC2022/23.1                    ELECTION OF MAYOR OF HEREFORD AND CHAIR OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Mayor called upon members of the City Council to nominate one of their number to serve as Mayor of the City and Chair of the City Council for the municipal year 2022/2023.

Councillor Hey proposed, and Councillor Kenyon seconded, the Deputy Mayor Councillor Mark Dykes. There were no other nominations.

Councillor Hey reminded members that Councillor Dykes had been born in 1970 in the City and attended local primary and secondary schools. After a brief time working at what was then Sun Valley he joined the Royal Artillery and was based in Germany with 39 Heavy Regiment. After three years serving in Germany, he attended the All Arms Commando Course where he successfully passed and earned the coveted green beret and joined 29 Commando Regt Royal Artillery which is part of 3 Commando Brigade. In this role he continued to serve for the remainder of his military career and left the Army in June 2010 as a senior non-commissioned officer. He then became a fitness instructor and coach at HALO before being elected to the City Council for Newton Farm in 2015 and was subsequently re-elected in 2019.

He was quite a reluctant politician and did not wish to be in the limelight; she wished him luck with that in the role of Mayor! Different types of people put their stamp on the Mayoralty and every year is different, which is one of its great strengths. It can be very daunting and overwhelming at first but with the support of family and friends, officers and fellow Councillors you can simply go for it and make it a success. She felt that with his commitment to his ward and valued service on the Council and its Committees, Councillor Dykes would make an excellent Mayor and was happy to propose him today.

Councillor Kenyon added that he and Councillor Dykes had grown up together in Hereford and he had been instrumental in persuading him to stand for Council as he thought he would be a very good councillor. He had been proved right. He also noted Councillor Dykes' skill in selecting plum jobs during his Army service, notably an assignment as a canoeing instructor in Cyprus, although there was some debate as to how long he had held this posting. It is a great honour to be Mayor and he knew Councillor Dykes had thought long and hard before accepting it, that was the right approach and confirmed that he was the right man for the job this year.

There being no other nominations the Mayor put the matter to the vote and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED That Councillor Mark Dykes be elected to serve as Mayor of Hereford and Chair of the City Council for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.**

### **AMCC2022/23.2            INSTALLATION OF THE NEW MAYOR**

Councillor Dykes took and signed the oath of acceptance of office, counter-signed by the Town Clerk. Councillor Stevens then placed the Mayor's chain on Councillor Dykes, who took the Chair and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Council for electing him to the role and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to wish him well. He was especially pleased his best friend from Manchester had been able to attend. He thanked the former Mayor who has had a difficult year to contend with and had been a great help in introducing him to civic life during his year as deputy mayor. He did not take the role on lightly, as the 640<sup>th</sup> Mayor he is the keeper of a tradition which will be passed on in a year's time and it is each Mayor's responsibility to make sure it is passed on in good order. He would be very happy to have Councillor Carwardine as his Deputy, he knows her well, indeed he is her instructor at HALO. Having been born and raised in the City and gone away he was happy to be back and very proud to be elected.

The Mayor presented the former Mayor Councillor Paul Stevens with his Former Mayor's badge.

As Councillor Dykes had not appointed a consort the Town Clerk collected the Consort's Badge from Miss Jasmine Stevens and presented her with her Former Consort's Broach.

### **AMC2022/23.3            APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Clerk reported apologies had been received from Councillor Boulter who is on holiday.

### **AMC2022/23.4            ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR OF HEREFORD AND VICE CHAIR OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

The Mayor called upon members of the Council to elect one of their number as Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of the City Council for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

Councillor Tillett proposed, and Councillor Kenyon seconded, Councillor Jacqui Carwardine. There were no other nominations.

Councillor Tillett said he had known Jacqui Carwardine for over twenty years, initially through her work at the garage where he took his car for servicing and repairs. They discovered a shared passion for animal welfare, especially dogs, and she is a foster carer with Hereford and Worcester Dog Rescue and had delivered a sick dog to him on one occasion as he is a member of the RSPCA, which is typical of her hands on approach to solving problems. She has lately discovered a real flare for writing for theatre and radio, and has had pieces performed at the Courtyard. She is helping a friend to learn English and as a quid pro quo is learning Arabic. She has lived in the City since childhood, her father worked at Wiggins and her grandfather was responsible for winding the Butter Market clock.

There have been five Carwardines who have served as Mayor before, the first in the reign of Queen Mary and the last in the reign of Queen Anne, so it is high time for another one. He was also pleased that both the Mayor and Deputy represented Newton Farm and it was good to have the Mayoralty back south of the river after nine years away. The order of Mayoralty is based on seniority, and few have taken as long as Jacqui Carwardine to reach that point having been first elected in 2003, then losing the seat, then re-elected in a by-election in 2014, then losing the seat to be re-elected in 2021. In 2019 she was defeated by just one vote, after a recount, so every vote really does count. He wondered if with Councillor Dykes as a fitness

instructor, and Councillor Carwardine (not Dykes) as a client, pre-meeting prayers might be replaced by an aerobic work-out.

Councillor Kenyon had also been a client of Eign Bridge Motors and had always wanted a special deal, but Councillor Carwardine had been immovable. He spoke of her service with the Women's Royal Army Corps and said that they had blazed a trail for women's equality in the forces which had come to full fruition now, with women in every role. He was happy to nominate her as Deputy Mayor concluding simply "you deserve it".

There being no other nominations the Mayor put the matter to the vote and it was unanimously

**RESOLVED That Councillor Jacqui Carwardine be elected Deputy Mayor of Hereford and Vice Chair of the City Council.**

#### **AMC2022/23.5                    INSTALLATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Councillor Carwardine took and signed their oath of acceptance of office, counter-signed by the Town Clerk. The Mayor presented Councillor Carwardine with the badge of office of the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Carwardine took her place on the dais.

Councillor Carwardine briefly thanked the members of the City Council for electing her to the role.

#### **AMC2022/23.6                    THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR**

Councillor Tillett confirmed how nice it was to be back to normal, for the first time since May 2019. Who could have seen what was coming then? While Councillor Hey will be seen as the Mayor who got us through COVID-19, Councillor Stevens will be seen as the Mayor who brought us out of it. It had not been a conventional year, but then Councillor Stevens had not been a conventional Mayor. Indeed, he recalled when he first came onto the Council, Councillor Stevens had shown no interest at all in civic matters, said he was not interested in the Mayoralty and did not stay for prayers at the start of meetings, as is his right. Things have changed somewhat since then.

After a quiet start, because of the ongoing pandemic restrictions, the diary had exploded recently, and everyone was desperate to get going. Unusually the Mayor had continued to chair one of the main committees, seeing the new Policy and Resources Committee settled into its role, and had also been Chair of the Business Improvement District. Not something that would have been possible in a fully busy Mayoral year perhaps. Council should be grateful to the Mayor's office staff for coping with a constantly changing diary, especially as we came some way out of lockdown only to go back on, again and again.

Three things will be remembered. Firstly, the excellent work Councillor Stevens did forging links with the Fijian community, with the very moving celebration of their national day and the marvellous curry night. Secondly, a great plan for a cider celebration which will finally happen this year. Thirdly the extraordinary innovation of getting a nearly extinct perry cider variety (Holmer) grafted onto healthy saplings and planted across the City. The many pear trees would be a lasting legacy of this particular mayoral year.

Finally, Councillor Tillett advised the Mayor to take some "me" time – it has been a very gruelling year and he has steered the Council well through choppy waters.

**AMC2022/23.7**

**OUTGOING MAYOR’S THANKS TO THE CITY**

Councillor Stevens thanked his children, brother and mother for their support throughout the year, and also the Deputy Mayor and former the mayors who had stood in for him when he had been unable to attend events. Apart from the duties of Mayor and other roles he had performed in the last year he had also survived prostate cancer and was pleased to report that he had now been given the all clear. It had been an honour to forge links with the new Bishop and Dean, with NMiTE colleges and schools and with cider makers in and around the City. He also thanked the Town Clerk and all the Council staff for their support through a difficult and varied year and concluded with lines from “I did it my way”.

**AMC2022/23.8**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYOR’S CHARITIES**

The Mayor announced that his charity this year would be Encore Enterprises who develop and encourage live musical performance skills among young people and adults. He would also champion military and veteran groups throughout his year in office.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting and invited guests to join him in the parlour.

Signed .....

Date .....