



HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL 16 MAY 2023

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Mark Dykes and Councillors Polly Andrews, Sue Boulter, Jacqui Carwardine, Elizabeth Foxton, Alex Griffiths, Debbie Hobbs, Cat Hornsey, Jim Kenyon, Jeremy Milln, Rob Owens, Sam Potts, Dan Powell, Ben Proctor, Paul Stevens, Kevin Tillett, and Diana Toynbee.

Attending: Steve Kerry, Town Clerk and Officers of the City Council.

AMC2023/24.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND MAYOR OF HEREFORD

The Mayor called for nominations for the post of Chair of the City Council and Mayor of Hereford. Councillor Kenyon nominated Councillor Carwardine, and this was seconded by Councillor Tillett.

Councillor Kenyon referred to Councillor Carwardine's military experience in the Women's Royal Army Corps and the Signals and said she had been a trailblazer. She had been a friend for many years, and he knew her well, as someone who had put in years of community work in her ward and beyond. He summed her up as a hard worker, a soldier, a writer and a politician and commended her to Council as a suitable person to be the next Mayor.

Councillor Tillett said it was an enormous pleasure to support Councillor Kenyon's nomination. He too had known her for many years, and they had discovered very early on a shared commitment to animal welfare. He had known her to be a very effective problem solver including when she had brought a blind rescue dog to his home who had settled with the five dogs already there but was now living in happy retirement on the coast. More recently, as soon as she had been re-elected, she had helped to solve a problem with an anti-social behaviour in her ward bringing council enforcement, police, and local people together. He alluded to the family history of Carwardines as Mayors, there have been five, although none more recent than the reign of Queen Anne. It was high time for another one.

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

RESOLVED That Councillor Jacqui Carwardine be elected to the office of Mayor of Hereford and Chair of the City Council for the municipal year 2023-2024.

AMC2023/24.2 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Carwardine made her declaration of acceptance of office in the form stipulated by the Secretary of State, and this was signed by the Town Clerk.

AMC2023/24.3 PRESENTATION OF MAYORAL INSIGNIA

The former Mayor presented the Mayor with the chain of office and the Mayor presented the former Mayor with their badge. The outgoing consort was not present, so the Mayor's Officer presented the incoming Mayoress with her badge.

AMC2023/24.4 MAYOR THANKS THE CITY FOR THE APPOINTMENT

The Mayor, Councillor Carwardine, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked her predecessor Councillor Dykes saying it had been an honour and privilege to work alongside him as Deputy Mayor during the last year. She thanked her family for their support; without which the year would have been impossible, especially Katie who had now become Mayoress. She knew she could rely on continuing support in her year in office. She also thanked council staff Becci, Alyson, Ali, Lesley, Hannah, and John for all the work they had done in the last couple of days to get everything ready for tonight's meeting and meal. She felt very honoured to have become Mayor and said her mum and dad would have been very proud.

AMC2023/24.5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk reported apologies for absence from Councillor Adam Spencer.

AMC2023/24.6 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND DEPUTY MAYOR OF HEREFORD

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Vice Chair and Deputy Mayor. Councillor Owens proposed and Councillor Powell seconded Councillor Tillett.

Councillor Owens said that it was an honour and privilege to nominate Councillor Tillett. He was an accomplished actor, singer and performer and would be well able to perform the role. He would have no difficulty with the ceremonial aspects, but also brings qualities of hard work and a deep and long-standing concern for residents and the local community. He would make an excellent Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Powell added that Councillor Tillett was a dear friend and he had known him since his first days in local politics. He was kind, quick-witted and knowledgeable and he could think of no better person to support the Mayor as Deputy Mayor.

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

RESOLVED That Councillor Kevin Tillett be elected to the office of Deputy Mayor of Hereford and Vice Chair of the City Council.

AMC2023/24.7 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Tillett made his declaration of acceptance of office in the form prescribed by the Secretary of State, and this was signed by the Town Clerk.

AMC2023/24.8 PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA

The Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor with their badge of office.

AMC2023/24.9 DEPUTY MAYOR THANKS THE CITY FOR THE APPOINTMENT

The Deputy Mayor said this was mainly about making a Mayor and he would therefore be brief. It would be his turn to say more next year if things went according to plan. He paid tribute to the remarkable double act of Councillors Dykes and Carwardine that he would be following. Councillor Dykes, having a full-time job, had undertaken many engagements, but inevitably many had fallen to the Deputy, and she had carried them out with enthusiasm. He felt that if he could be as good a Deputy Mayor to her as she had been to Councillor Dykes, then the job would be very well done.

AMC2023/24.10 A MEMBER OF COUNCIL THANKS THE OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor Kenyon said that Councillor Dykes had been quite unsure about accepting the office and had needed quite a lot of persuading, he had been one of the Councillors nudging him to accept it. He had turned out to be a fantastic Mayor, very committed to the role and performing it well. He would like to thank him for twelve months of devoted service to the city.

AMC2023/24.11 FORMER MAYOR THANKS THE CITY

Councillor Dykes said it had been an immense honour and privilege to be chosen as Mayor of Hereford. It was a demanding role but an immensely rewarding one. He recalled some of the high points of the year; the splendid Three Choirs opening, the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands conflict including meeting the Captain of HMS Antelope, the City's adopted ship, and General Sir Michael Rose. Nothing could have prepared for the passing of Her Late Majesty, although, in fact, the preparation had been meticulously led by the Lieutenancy. The arrangements for the Proclamation announcement had also been very well done, with close co-operation between the Lieutenancy, the Cathedral and the Councils. He had been thrilled to meet His Majesty at the Royal National College on one of his first engagements as King. He had chosen Encore as his charity, and they did fantastic work among young people developing their skills and interest in music.

Hereford is a city to be proud of, with a superb record of voluntary service in all areas. He had been happy to meet many voluntary organisations who give so much to the life of the city. The city puts on many events, organised by the staff of the City Council and many other agencies such as the BID and the River Carnival. He named all the staff who had helped with this work throughout the year and the Liveried Team. He also thanked his consort Laura Hall who had been a willing supporter although sometimes complained that he only ever took her to church events. The support of the Mayoral Team had been essential, and he thanked the Junior Mayor Zuzanna for her help and wished her every success in her remaining term. He also thanked the previous Junior Mayor Kyro Hanna whom he had worked with during his term. He sent his best wishes to his friends and colleagues, Councillors Carwardine and Tillett and hoped that they would find their time in office as rewarding as he had.

He concluded that if anyone heard him starting a sentence with "When I was Mayor" they had his permission to reach for a crossbow.

AMC2023/24.12 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHARITIES

The Mayor announced that her charities for the year would be the Hereford branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Livewire - Encore Enterprises.

AMC2023/24.13 ADOPTION OF THE POWER OF GENERAL COMPETENCE

The Clerk explained that this was an umbrella power that replaced many sections of previous Acts going back to 1972. It greatly simplified the work of the Council if it was adopted but had to be formally agreed at the first meeting after the general council elections.

He asked members to approve the use of the power and confirmed that the City Council meets the qualifying requirements.

It was proposed by Councillor Potts, seconded by Councillor Powell and unanimously.

RESOLVED That in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s 1 the City Council adopts the Power of General Competence for the term of office starting May 2023.

There being no further business, the Mayor declared the meeting closed.

Signed

Date