

**St Clears Town Council**  
**Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony and**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**held in the Gate, St Clears.**  
**on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Councillors T Austin-Brydon, CM Davies, L L ap T Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, RG Edwards, KA Major, I Price, JSV Rees, I Richards.

In the Chair – Councillor JSV Rees (Outgoing Mayor)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Austin-Brydon, I McEwan, PJ Rogers.

**2. Retiring Mayor's Address and Annual Report**

Prior to the Retiring Mayor's speech, Reverend Dr Caroline Jones was invited to offer a prayer.

The Retiring Town Mayor Councillor JSV Rees addressed the meeting with a summary of the 2017/18 Civic Year.

*Mayor-elect, Mayoress-elect, Rev Dr Caroline Jones, fellow Councillors & partners, Ladies & Gentlemen.*

*This has been a very enjoyable year, full of enthusiasm, passion, challenges & opportunities.*

*St Clears & surround has been challenged by its changing environment and role...with the closing of banks, developing of residential areas...where there is a loss there is a gain, an opportunity. My aim, as Mayor, was to try and focus on our town & surround's Identity...and the only way to do that was to get out into our Community and begin to re-establish our role..with help of my Consort, Roy, with the help of the lens, our local press, our website, digital links eg Wifi, CCTV, Social media use....linking with our local villages and towns... establishing closer links with our Community, understanding responses and re-inforcing our dignity with the Community we represent.....this has happened in more ways than one...and we have been able to achieve this as a team...as one democratic voice.....which only could have been enhanced by the strong comittment and coordination ..not always an easy task.. of our Clerk, Emma Smith.*

*Closer links with the Community*

*We have only been able to begin a process of closer links with our Community...and lots more needs to be done as a Community. I was determined to help move our Community on as I found that people were getting tired of their roles, as they had been involved in organisations for many years..as we know..it's the same people who are involved and will be active...and ask a busy person..however, that type of role in Communities is beginning to wain. Communities are more about families coming together,*

however...people still need a place to go to..to meet people..to have a cuppa..to learn something new, keep up with ever changing technology...people will need support.....face to face is best for our well-being. I was delighted that we were able to get off the ground the links with local businesses and organisations..and also others who care about their community...with Continuing Community Conversation..with a very good attendance, enthusiastic people wanting to join and help make a difference...2 meetings have now established priorities to work on and I hope we continue to be part of this new group for a short while and Task & Finish groups will be established for these priorities.

Safe closer links between communities are also being considered in a new project in planning a cycle path..maybe railway links and also establishing our role and our Communities' passion with the use of the Welfare Field...projects that take time to prepare, consult...with sensitive negotiations to be endured...always endeavouring for a win, win situation for our Community.....continued progress to be made.

#### *Civic Service/Awards/meeting all ages*

*I was delighted to see so many able to attend my Civic Service, with a special thankyou to Rev Peter Lewis, my Chaplain and my family for their help & support..with all ages being recognised...with a new award this year for our children to take part in Recycling in the Garden...which was presented at that time. Delighted also that our recent Awards ceremony was a success..where people of all ages being recognised by their achievements in sport eg Freya Evans ( gymnastics) and being community legends Dwyfor Morgan (TROT) & Ray Skip Steele (Scouts).I was delighted to present a special Cultural Community award to YGJ Choir for their high commitment to involving their community.*

*I have been invited to many organisations and events this year ..all unique and precious...2 x Charity Tractor runs, 2 x opening of businesses eg Starbucks, Pethau Olyv, Charity event for Morgan...& 2 x School Council Meetings....but also the traditional ones which are successful in bringing people into the town eg football & rugby festivals, TROT's 10k, Santa's Coming to Town ( St Clears & Bancyfelin), Fireworks Night, Remembrance Service, St Clears Agric Show, Carms Young Farmers, Halloween, Easter Bonnets, Harvest Festivals, Teddy Parachute Jump, mine was called Foxy.. Mother's Union celebs, Scouts Jumble Sale., Senior Citizens Teas x 2, Horticultural Show...and more..other reasons being 2 x Public Meetings and how we are represented and perceived by our Community...these all still achieve a strong voice and when channelled can prove a positive, creative voice for the town & surround....and of course, our comittment to become a Dementia Friendly & Compassionate Town & surround..demonstrated by the attendance recently of the local Community ( incl Councillors).*

*I have achieved attending 77 events as Mayor, not including the meetings I've Chaired , attended on committees, sub comitees, site meetings etc...a humbling and rewarding year.*

#### *Charities*

*My Charities this year have been Bandi Appeal and Marie Curie..and also Cherished Gowns..and delighted that I was able to arrange a couple of same day events Browse & Brunch, Puttin' on the Glitz...raising £750 for each charity and £250 for Cherished Gowns... thanks to those who were able to support during my Civic Year for these great causes.*

*I reflected on what I included in my speech 4 years ago..and that was "to get-together for a plan for our area...and What do we want in St Clears?"...we are moving on..and again opportunities arise..it is time..before new developments of our environment take over..and grasp our heritage roots and make St Clears & surround an area to be proud of.*

*Thanks*

*So yes a very busy & rewarding year. I could not have achieved this without the support of Roy, my Consort, who is now proud to be a resident in St Clears...someone who gives his heart to causes and responds to a welcoming environment...he certainly has demonstrated that since introduced to the area over 10yrs ago...keeping memories alive through the lens and our heritage archives...and also for ourselves of our wonderful, treasured moments wearing our Chains of Office with pride & dignity..of a town we cherish and love.*

*May I also thank my Deputy Mayor, Cllr Dr Edmund Davies for stepping on a couple of occasions. I thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and attendance & especially to Chairs Cllrs Philip Rogers & Cllrs Graham Edwards for their articulate & professional manner they have conducted these productive meetings( and deputies at the ready too!) to County Councillor Philip Hughes for his continued support,& to Emma Smith, our Clerk for her diligence, juggling, and putting up with my passion for detail.. We now wish our incoming Mayor, Cllr Dr Edmund Davies his Mayoress & family the very best of success for their forthcoming Civic Year....Diolch yn fawr/Thanks.....Cllr Jane Rees 14/05/2018.*

**3. To formally appoint the Town Mayor for the civic year 2018/19/**  
Councillor RG Edwards moved that Councillor Dr Edmund Davies be appointed Town Mayor for the civic year 2018/19. The motion was seconded by Councillor Mark Davies. Council were in agreement. **RESOLVED that Councillor Dr Edmund Davies be formally appointed as Town Mayor for the 2018/19 Civic Year.**

Councillor Dr Edmund Davies accepted the appointment and made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Officer by the retiring Town Mayor. Mrs Brenda Davies also received her chain of office from the retiring Consort.

The new Mayor addressed the audience.

The new Mayor expressed his thanks to Reverend Dr Caroline Jones for her words at the start of the evening. Cllr Dr Davies congratulated the retiring Mayor on a wonderful year noting that he had experienced an easy year as Deputy Mayor due to their commitment to the role.

The Mayor noted that the year ahead could present some challenges but that the need to help the local community would be the priority. The Mayor commented on a meeting with the school council earlier in the day noting how pleasing it was to see the young people of the town so switched on.

The Mayor thanked those in attendance for coming.

#### **4. Vote of Thanks**

Councillor Lyn Davies proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor Councillor Jane Rees. Councillor Davies congratulated the outgoing Mayor and Consort on an outstanding year in office. Councillor Davies noted the strength of character shown by the Mayor to lead whilst being sensitive and aware of the needs of others. The retiring Mayor was praised for her handling of difficult times showing strength in times of adversity with her consort Roy by her side.

Councillor Irfon Price seconded the vote of thanks and wished the retiring Mayor and Consort well for the future.

At this point. Councillor KA Major proposed that all remaining business be adjourned until the council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May. Cllr LL ap T Davies seconded the proposal and all members were in agreement. **RESOLVED that the remaining agenda items be referred to the next meeting of council on the 15<sup>th</sup> May.**

#### **5. Civic Reception**

Following the ceremony the Town Mayor, Councillor Dr Edmund Davies invited all present to join in the civic reception.

**Meeting terminated 20:17**