

**St Clears Town Council**  
**Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony**  
**held in Bancyfelin Village Hall**  
**on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Councillors Mrs JSV Rees, RG Edwards, CM Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, PJ Rogers, Mrs CM Ingleton L L ap T Davies, Mrs H Witt, K Major, and County Councillor P Hughes

In the Chair – Councillor JSV Rees (Outgoing Mayor)

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Lanc and D R Philips.

**2. Welcome**

The proceedings opened by the retiring Mayor welcoming everyone and Canon Reverend Bryan Witt

**3. Prayers**

Prior the commencement of the Ceremony an invocation was offered by the Mayor's Chaplan Canon Reverend Bryan Witt who also expressed gratitude and blessed all the achievements during the civic year.

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

The Retiring Town Mayor Councillor JSV Rees provided a detailed account of activities during the 2013/14 civic year.

It was noted that the Civic Year had been one of transition; challenge; excitement and pleasure; and achievement. The new Civic Year commenced with coming to terms with the loss of an excellent Town Clerk in Mr Lynn Bowen, and required moving forward in a positive and supportive way. As Chair of Council Councillor JSV Rees remained focussed on the Council business and delighted that Mr Elfyn Williams agreed to assist the Council as a temporary Clerk to appoint a new Clerk, Catrin Bradley, the Council's first female Town Clerk. The new clerk embraced the role with great energy, enthusiasm and determination from ensuring that the Council was financially sound and various events such as the Firework Display, Christmas Lights Switch On and Bwrlwm Beca ran smoothly. The Clerk's role in addition to the extensive administrative duties of council meetings and commitments, would also include a new responsibility in the supervising the new Projects & Events Co-ordinator. It was with sadness that Catrin was unable to continue with the existing role however, the Council was delighted to have appointed Emma Smith. It has been a pleasure to welcome a new Councillor at the start of the Civic year, Cllr Robert Phillips, and later within the year two vacancies have arisen and Council look forward to co-opting two new Councillors in the near future.

The retiring Mayor expressed that it had been an honour and a great privilege to wear the Chain of Office and highlights from the visits to the various

community organisations include the Football & Rugby Festivals, Fireworks & Christmas Switch On at St Clears & Bancyfelin, Time-capsule planting, Easter bonnet parade, Halloween, Party in the Park, Good news & Godly Play summer activities, By-pass opening, Bancyfelin Carnival, Eisteddfod Proclamation, St Clears Show, and special birthdays and anniversaries.

The Civic Year achievements have included activities giving St Clears an identity, assisted by the new Projects & Events Co-ordinator, Helen Williams and by using social media, the Journal, local & national radio and the newly re-vamped website. The St Clears Heritage Trail with its launch “Bwrlwm Beca” project managed by Cllr Phil Rogers, had many community groups involved in different aspects of the memorable day. The forthcoming launch of the Audio Trail will enable the Town to promote the history of the town to local people and attract tourists.

A Mayor’s Special Achievement Award was given in recognition of the achievements of two young people, Tomos Williams for Junior Rugby, and Chloe Weston for Gymnastics. It was also a great pleasure in presenting joint Community Service Awards to Elsa Davies & Carol Lloyd. The Eric Raymond Memorial Award to Dale Evans for Boxing will be presented at a later date as he was unable to attend the Awards Evening. Other achievements include the organisation of two major events; the “Glam & Glitz” and the Blue Eliffant Masked Ball that have been a resounding success. The Llanelli Breast Care Unit & Carmarthenshire Children’s Centre will greatly benefit as the designated Mayor’s Charities.

In closing the Retiring Mayors stated it had been a rewarding year for St Clears and gave deep gratitude for the support she had been given by her Consort Roy Watkins who also wore the Chain of office with pride and dignity and both felt honoured to have served the Town. Councillor JSV Rees thanked fellow Councillors, Canon Reverend Bryan Witt, County Councillor Phillip Hughes, Mayor-elect Cllr & Mrs Graham Edwards, Catrin Bradley, Elfyn Williams and Emma Smith for their great support, energy and enthusiasm during the last Civic year. Best wishes were expressed to the incoming Mayor and Mayoress for the very best of success for their forthcoming Civic year.

## **5. Formal Appointment of Town Mayor**

Councillor Dr W E V J Davies proposed and Councillor H Witt seconded that Councillor R G Edwards be elected Town Mayor for the 2014/15 civic year. The proposition on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously. The Town Mayor made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Office. Mrs Joan Edwards, Mayoress, received her chain of office from the retiring Mayor’s Consort Mr Roy Watkins.

The Town Mayor thanked the Town Council for the honour and privilege bestowed upon him. He thanked the retiring Town Mayor for her commitment and enthusiasm during her term of office and presented gifts to the retiring Town Mayor and Mayor’s Consort.

The Mayor stated that his aim for the 2014/15 Civic Year was to focus on the various community activities and to celebrate all manner of achievements in the area. The role of the council is to ensure that the climate within which we live is developed in a way which is safe and that it is also one which reflects the needs of our citizens. He noted that the Council would be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and as reflection is made on the work of the council over the past 40 years, the positive influence it has had on the development of the town should be recognised and continued. Councillors were thanked for their support and the community given the assurance that the continued success of the council will be a priority.

#### **6. Formal Appointment of Deputy Town Mayor**

Councillor P J Rogers proposed and Councillor K A Major seconded that Councillor C M Davies be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the 2014/15 civic year. The proposition on being put to the meeting was carried unanimously. The Deputy Mayor made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Insignia of Office by the Town Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Members for appointing him as Deputy Mayor. He congratulated the Town Mayor on his appointment and stated that he was offering the Town Mayor his full support. He also thanked the retiring Mayor and Consort for their hard work during their term of office.

#### **7. Vote of Thanks**

Councillor P J Rogers proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, thanking her for being a great ambassador for the Council. It was seconded by Councillor C Ingleton.

The Mayor Cllr RG Edwards presided the remainder of the meeting.

#### **8. Declarations of interest – none were received.**

#### **9. Appointment of membership of the Council's Committees and representatives on other committees, outside bodies**

Councillor L L ap T Davies moved to defer appointments until the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr JSV Rees. Motion carried.

#### **10. Dates of Town Council Meetings**

**RESOLVED** to maintain the usual dates for the Town Council meetings and also drop in sessions for the third Tuesday of every month. The next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at the Gate to have a drop in session at 7pm and the Town Council meeting at 7.30pm.

#### **11. Any other business**

The Mayor noted that the Civic Service would be held on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June at the St Mary Magdalene Church.

#### **12. Civic Reception**

Following the Ceremony the Town Mayor, Councillor RG Edwards invited all present to join in the civic reception.

**Ceremony terminated 20.15pm**