

**St Clears Town Council**  
**Minutes of the St Clears Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony**  
**held in the Gate, St Clears.**  
**on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

Councillors T Austin-Brydon, L L ap T Davies, Dr WEVJ Davies, RG Edwards, I Price, JSV Rees, PJ Rogers.

In the Chair – Councillor LL ap T Davies (Outgoing Mayor)

**9. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I McEwan, KA Major.

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

The Retiring Town Mayor Councillor LL ap T Davies addressed the meeting with a summary of the 2016/17 Civic Year.

*Cynghorwr Sir; Cyd-Gynghorwyr; Madam Clerc; Caplan y Maer; a gwesteion arbennig. Noswaith dda a chroeso.*

***I'd like to welcome you one and all – and it gives me great pleasure to stand here tonight, on the occasion of St. Clears Town Council Mayor Making ceremony, for the 2017-2018 Civic Year.***

*While it was not intended in the Civic Year 2015-2016, that I would assume the duty and responsibility of **Town Mayor**, yet was it borne upon me and the civic year has flown by.*

*My **Mayor Making** took place at Bancyfelin Village Hall on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 2016. **(Good job I'm not superstitious!)** My Chaplain was the Rev. Rhodri Glyn Thomas. If you look at the records over the last 10-15 years, you will note that he was the only Non-Conformist to hold the office of Mayor's Chaplain. Diolchaf yn ddiwyll iawn iddo am ei waith. Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> came and went. Hardly had I had time to savour my new found status, than on the very next day, I was plunged to carry out two duties-*

- 1. Bore Coffi Capel Bancyfelin at 10.00 a.m.*
- 2. Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers Club Rally at 1.00p.m. **Quite a baptisms of fire!***

*The role of Town Mayor may be split into two-*

- 1. **Firstly the Ambassadorial** role of representing the Town Council as Town Mayor at a **plethora of events, activities and so forth.** During the Civic Year, events included St. Clears YFC Show; The St. Clears RFC Anniversary dinner; Ras yr Iaith; Judging at Bancyfelin Carnival and judging the Fancy Dress competition at Party in the Park; The Royal British Legion Poppy Ball; Coffee mornings and Christmas events and most especially the **Christmas in Verse** exhibition and Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church. **Also at Christmas**, visiting the 6 Residential Homes of St. Clears with Chocolates and Biscuits for the Residents and Staff. And many many more.*

If I were to choose **4 events** which stand out in the memory, I would choose-

- **St. Clears RFC** gaining promotion to a higher level with a 7-0 victory over Cardigan RFC. I was there as a Ball Sponsor for that particular match.
  - **Laugharne's Portreeve Breakfast-Well** at least, as much as I can remember of it!!
  - **Holding a Reception at the Mayor's Parlour** for the Honourable French Consulate with the French Tricolour flying alongside the Welsh Dragon. This was prior to her presenting Mr. David Williams with the Legion d'Honneur medal for his services in Normandy and Dunkirk during the Second World War, at a **very moving** British Legion Veterans Day Service at the Church.
  - **The Awards Evening**-which highlights the outstanding contribution of so many of our notable individuals and businesses for their contributions to the whole community over the period of the Civic Year.
2. And **secondly, Chairmanship of the Council** and its regular committees.

Over the year it is fair to say that as a Council we did not undertake any **specific** large scale Capital Expenditure. We stayed within our 2016-2017 Budget and maintained our Precept for 2017-2018.

We maintained our ambition to keep St. Clears attractive to the eye and nose. We need more foot-fall, not only from the Council area, but also seek to make it more vibrant, lively and welcoming to residents and visitors alike. Rhaid i ni geisio creu ardal mwy **deniadol** i drigolion ac ymwlewyr.

A **disappointment** was the failure to meet our designated number of Councillors. The New Council **still** has 3 vacancies- come on-why don't you join us? Notwithstanding the hard work, commitment, frustration, pressure etc inherent in the office-yet there is much to commend—proactive; the learning and gaining of new skills; the absolute need to be open and transparent; Community-minded and approachable to both colleagues; friends and foe alike, without fear or favour of consequences; but not dictated to by fancy or fortune.

Dewch nawr-dyma gyfle i chi wneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr i'r Gymuned. Come on-I **challenge you all who are eligible**, to come and join us to carry out what I believe is a challenging yes- **but most importantly**- a very **worthwhile** and **rewarding** communal role.

In **October** we undertook- as a Council- a series of **Community Conversations**- Four in total, at different times and venues within our area. Although the turnout was **poor**, yet I believe **much came out of it**. Many forward sounding suggestions as well as the more routine dog-fouling and speeding, were brought to our attention. I thank the Clerk and all my fellow councillors who took part. Dyma'r ffordd ymlaen mae'n siwr, drwy gysylltu a siarad gyda'r gymuned i weld beth yw eu hangenion a cheisio datrys eu gofidiau.

**Much more** could be said –but no I shall refrain....

*All that remains, is for me to thank those, in particular, who have helped me get through this difficult last year.*

*I would like to thank **all the Councillors** for their contributions and support.*

***The Deputy Mayor**, Councillor Jane Rees, for her **support** and her **readiness to assist** and **stand in** for me on vital occasions.*

*Also thanks to the Clerk- Emma Smith- for all her **support, advice, patience** and **lifts** to and from Council meetings. Not only lifts to **meetings**, but also around the St. Clears area in order to judge the Christmas lights decorated premises with the Mayor and Mayoress of Laugharne. And do you remember Emma, when **I gave you a lift** to a site meeting about speeding, and due to **high rainfall** there was flooding at the time, and we nearly became stranded in the flooded Rhyd near Waunbricks. Another car was caught out- fortunately not us or we could have been literally **“up the creek without a paddle!”***

*Now, Emma I would like you to accept this small gift in appreciation of all your work, support and good advice at all times. Diolch o galon i ti Emma, am dy holl waith a chefnogaeth.*

*Lastly, but not least –the Mayoress my P.A. and wife –for all her support in so many ways. Diolch Annalyn.*

*Mae wedi bod yn flwyddyn gofiadawy a diolch i bawb am roi'r cyfle i mi wasanaethu'r ardal fel Maer. Mae wedi bod yn fraint.*

*Diolch yn fawr iawn. Thank you.*

#### **11. To formerly appoint the Town Mayor for the civic year 2017/18.**

Councillor Dr Edmund Davies moved that Councillor Jane Rees be appointed Town Mayor for the civic year 2017/18. The motion was seconded by Councillor Tracy Austin-Brydon. Council were in agreement. **RESOLVED that Councillor Jane Rees be formally appointed as Town Mayor for the 2017/18 Civic Year.**

Councillor Jane Rees 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. Mr Roy Watkins also received his chain of office from the retiring Mayoress.

The new Mayoress greeted the meeting in order to invite the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Peter Lewis to address the audience. Reverend Lewis congratulated the Mayor and Consort on their appointment and offered a prayer for the new Mayor.

The new Mayor addressed the audience.

#### **12. To formally appoint the Deputy Town Mayor for the civic year 2017/18.**

The Mayor called upon Councillor Graham Edwards to propose the Deputy Mayor for 2017/18. Councillor Graham Edwards moved that Councillor Dr Edmund Davies be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the

2017/18 Civic Year. The motion was seconded by Councillor Irfon Price. Council was in agreement.

**RESOLVED that Councillor Dr Edmund Davies be formally appointed as Deputy Town Mayor for the 2017/18 Civic Year.**

Councillor Dr Edmund Davies made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office. The Mayor presented the Deputy Mayor with his Chain of Office.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated the Mayor and Consort on their appointment and thanked Council for nominating him as Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor spoke of his hopes for the year ahead and beyond noting his support for the Town Mayor for the Civic Year ahead.

### **13. Vote of Thanks**

Councillor Philip Rogers proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Town Mayor Councillor Lyn Davies. Councillor Rogers praised the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress for carrying out both roles, the ambassadorial and management of Council roles well and for keeping Council on track during the year.

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

### **14. Civic Reception**

Following the ceremony the Town Mayor, Councillor Jane Rees invited all present to join in the civic reception.