

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Assembly Room, Kendal Town Hall, on Thursday, 21st May 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT Councillors G. Archibald, A. Blackman, P. Bramham, J. Brook, T. Clare, S. Coleman, G. Cook, S. Emmott, D. Evans, S. Evans, C. Feeney-Johnson, C. Hardy, C. Hogg, R. Hogg, K. Hurst-Jones, L. Oldham, J. McCreesh, J. Robinson, M. Severn, R. Sutton, K. Teasdale, G. Tirvengadam, J. Veevers, G. Vincent, P. Walker,

APOLOGIES Councillors A. Robinson, A. Finch and K. Bracey

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), Jack Jones (Town Treasurer), Carolyn Moffat (Administrative Assistant), Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk), and Nicky Blackwood (Secretary).

Also in attendance were invited dignitaries and guests.

001/15/16 INTRODUCTION

The Town Mayor (Councillor Clare) welcomed the Assembly to the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony of Kendal Town Council. The safety announcement was then given.

002/15/16 THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL SUMMARY

The Mayor began his Annual Summary by saying that it had not been a quiet year. There had been various art previews, garden parties and events organised by other Mayors, Torchlight, Bonfire Night, Christmas lights switch on, the Church Service for Judges in Carlisle Cathedral and the Installation of the new High Sheriff which, for the first time ever, occurred in Kendal.

Added to these were support for the Gymnastics Club, Sea Cadets and Air Cadets, attendance at an Interfaith Prayer Meeting, celebration of a Buddhist Festival, Installation of several Church Ministers, a reading at Nine Lessons and Carols, Women's Day of Prayer and a walk over Bridges for Christian Aid week plus opening The Star Walk for Cancer Care, Derrian House and two events for Hearing Impaired.

The Mayor had also been pleased to be invited to and attend the openings of various activities and businesses. One of the most memorable being the opening of facilities for people with learning disabilities and the refurbished Gateway Inn, where he pulled a pint for the first time in his life!

The Mayor mentioned that he had also opened Kendal Wool Gathering where he had seen some portraits created from individual strands of wool by artist Jill Harrison. Given that the year had also seen the recreation of the famous Hardman photograph of a flock of sheep being driven down Allhallows Lane opposite the Town Hall, the Mayor had commissioned Jill Harrison to recreate the image in her own medium. He had gifted the picture to the Town Council and it was available for groups to borrow and display.

The Mayor commented that he had been reminded of the richness of music being performed within the town, ranging from the choirs which came together to perform Britten's War Requiem, Radio Cumbria's Carol Concert from the Parish Church and performances of Oliver, Pirates of Penzance, the Amabile Choir, Man Band and the Achapellos from QKS, not to mention Dance Attik, the Riversiders, Kendal Concert Band, K Shoes Male Voice Choir and others.

The Mayor said he had been pleased to take the lead in moving the town towards the goal of being recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as a Dementia Friendly Town and thanked all those involved in forming the Kendal Dementia Action Alliance.

The commemoration of the centenary of the start of the 1st World War saw concerts by Westmorland Youth Orchestra and The Lake District Music Festival and the Mayor's own "Kendal Remembers" concert. Schools had also commemorated the event, with Heron Hill performing a play "A letter from the trenches" and the production "Kendal Pals" by pupils and staff from Queen Katherine School. The Mayor thanked Councillor Paul Bramham for the local historical research work he undertook.

The Mayor was honoured to announce that the Kendal Peace Garden had officially been opened that afternoon by himself and the Mayors of the twin towns of Rinteln in Germany and Killarney in the Republic of Ireland.

During his time as Mayor he had been keen to promote Kendal as a centre for walking and extended his thanks to the Civic Society and Local Ramblers Association for developing this idea into leaflets. He hoped that Kendal could achieve "Walkers are Welcome" Status from the national Ramblers Association.

The year had seen a number of significant anniversaries: 40th of the Lions Club, of Heron Hill Primary School and Cumbria Girl Guiding and the 50th anniversaries of Abbot Hall Social Club and Kendal Concert Band. The Lads and Girls Club used its 49th anniversary to announce plans for its 50th anniversary in 2015 and there was also the 90th anniversary of Kendal Rotary International.

The Mayor thanked all those who helped raise money for the Mayor's charities; The King's Food Bank, Manna House and Kendal Relief in Need. He gave special thanks to the Salvation Army Brass Band, Kendal Concert Band, Office Staff and Councillor Feeney Johnson who organised the Mayor's Charity Dinner which raised £2,292 on the night for the Mayor's charities. He acknowledged the support from Barclays Bank who added £1,500 to the monies raised and invited their representative, Craig Hine, to present a cheque for that amount.

In addition to those monies the concert Kendal Remembers raised more than £1,200 for the charity Help for Heroes whilst the Sea Cadets, who served refreshments to the audience, collected more than £400 for their cause.

The Mayor extended his thanks to officers of the Town Council, and Town Hall and in particular Peter Canon, who was retiring as Mayor's Attendant after 27 years. He concluded by saying he was honoured to be Mayor for a second time and hoped he had lived up to expectations.

Councillor Clare then opened the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY

003/15/16 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR 2015 – 2016

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor of Kendal 2015 -2016. It was proposed by Councillor Emmott, and seconded by Councillor Feeney-Johnson, that Councillor C Hogg be elected as Town Mayor for 2015 - 2016. This was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor C Hogg be elected as Town Mayor for 2015 - 2016.

004/15/16 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF MAYOR

Councillor C Hogg accepted the office of Town Mayor for 2015 - 2016 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by Councillor Brook and Councillor Oldham.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Clare, congratulated Councillor C Hogg on his appointment to the office of Town Mayor, and wished him well for his forthcoming year of office.

The Mayor and the retiring Mayor then retired to transfer the Chains of Office.

005/15/16 WELCOME AND ROLL CALL APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The incoming Mayor welcomed those present. He requested the Town Clerk to call the roll of Town Councillors and present any apologies for absence.

006/15/16 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY HELD ON 5 JUNE 2014, AND MATTERS ARISING

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held on 5th June 2014. He requested that the minutes be approved as a correct record of the proceedings, and asked if there were any matters arising.

It was proposed by Councillor Brook, and seconded by Councillor Feeney-Johnson, that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings. Members were asked to vote by a show of hands on this motion. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED unanimously, that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held on 5th June 2014 be accepted as a correct record, and it be noted that there were no matters arising.

007/15/16 MAYOR'S INAGURAL ADDRESS

Councillor C Hogg, the incoming Mayor, welcomed the dignitaries who had travelled from Rinteln, Killarney and from around Cumbria as well as fellow Councillors and all guests in attendance.

He expressed his thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Clare, and his wife, Alyson, for their advice and support during the previous year and said it had been a privilege to serve as Deputy Mayor.

Councillor C Hogg said he was looking forward to the year ahead as Mayor of Kendal. He considered it a great honour and a great opportunity which he hoped to make the most of.

The Mayor then explained that he had three main goals for his year ahead as Mayor of Kendal.

The first goal was to raise funds for his chosen charity, the Buzz Club, a youth branch of Leonard Cheshire Disability based in Kendal. Given Leonard Cheshire's links with the RAF the Mayor had also asked the Air Cadets to work with the Buzz Club throughout the year and advised that they had agreed to do so. He announced that the first fundraising event would be on 18th July 2015. This would be a concert where Kendal Concert Band and the K Shoes Male Voice Choir would collaborate together.

The Mayor's second goal was to focus on the Culture, Heritage, Arts and Events that Kendal has to offer, with a clear vision for Kendal to be the best cultural destination for a rural town in the Northwest. The Mayor remarked that Kendal is an exceptional place for many reasons, but the town's cultural offer really set it apart from other similar sized market towns. The Mayor mentioned the many cultural organisations delivering quality exhibitions and events throughout the year, such as the Brewery Arts Centre, Abbott Hall and the Museum of Life and Industry, Quaker Tapestry and Kendal Museum. He also observed that Kendal had some of the best festivals in the UK with the award winning Kendal Mountain Film Festival, Lakes International Comic Arts Festival, the Food Festival, Torchlight and Wake the Lakes which all boost the Kendal economy and add to the town's vibrancy. The Mayor acknowledged The Factory as a welcome addition to the town and hoped the creative mix of artists, designers and craftspeople continued to flourish there. The Factory is also home to Space2Create which is an arts organisation that uses art and creativity to help those with mental health issues and has a positive effect on the health and

wellbeing of some of Kendal's residents. Finally, the Mayor thanked Creative Arts and Jump into Kendal for their valuable contributions to the area of mental health also.

The third goal for the year ahead was to make Kendal a donor town. The Mayor explained that he would be donating one of his kidneys to his wife, Councillor Rachael Hogg, this year. There are currently 11,000 people registered as organ donors in Kendal and the Mayor hoped to reach a target of 12,000 people. He requested anyone that could help in achieving this goal to get in touch and encourage others to do so too.

008/15/16 VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Vincent proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Clare.

009/15/16 EX-MAYORAL MEDAL

The Mayor presented the retiring Mayor, Councillor Clare, with an Ex-Mayoral Medal.

010/15/16 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2015 - 2016

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of Kendal for 2015 - 2016.

It was proposed by Councillor Archibald, and seconded by Councillor Brook, that Councillor Coleman be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2015 - 2016.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Coleman be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2015 - 2016.

011/15/16 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Coleman accepted the office of Deputy Town Mayor for 2015 - 2016 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by Councillor Brook and Councillor Oldham.

012/15/16 TWIN TOWNS OF RINTELN AND KILLARNEY ADDRESS

The Mayor welcomed the Mayor of Rinteln, Herr Thomas Priemer, and invited him to give an address from Rinteln in Germany.

The Mayor of Rinteln, Herr Thomas Priemer, congratulated Councillor Chris Hogg on his election to the office of Mayor of Kendal on behalf of his Town Council and the citizens of Rinteln. He also thanked the Mayor for inviting him to Kendal to attend the Mayor Making ceremony.

Herr Priemer had been elected Mayor of Rinteln only a few months ago and had previously been Mayor of the Auetal Municipality, just outside Rinteln, where he

served for 8 years.

Herr Priemer gave special thanks to the Kendal-Rinteln Association, to former Mayors, to Karl-Heinz Buchholz and Mike Middleton; and to all others who worked tirelessly and with never failing commitment to make the twinning such a success. The two towns had been twinned for over 20 years.

Herr Priemer highlighted planned visits between the towns, including a forthcoming visit in July by three pupils from Queen Katherine School to attend their summer university seminars. Kendal Concert Band would also be playing at the traditional Old Town Festival of Music in August and Kendal's WOSPs were planning a visit in September to celebrate their own 10 year twinning. Rinteln's Youth Wind Orchestra were looking forward to visiting Kendal in October to play for the town. Herr Priemer also commented that the visit of Kendal's Amabile Girls Choir to Rinteln last August had made an unforgettable impression.

He hoped that there would always be people in both towns who would continue to come up with projects and initiatives and support the twinning - especially the younger generation. Herr Priemer referred to their own Peace Garden in Rinteln and invited the Mayor to visit to take a look.

He wished the Mayor every success in his Mayoral duties and looked forward to working together to the benefit of the twinning.

The Mayor welcomed the Mayor of Killarney, Councillor John Joe Culloty, and invited him to give an address from Killarney in Ireland.

The Mayor of Killarney, Councillor John Joe Culloty, thanked the Mayor for the invitation to attend the Mayor Making Ceremony and said that it was important to him that relations with Kendal were maintained and developed into the future.

It had been 11 years since the twinning agreement with Kendal had been signed and the Mayor of Killarney acknowledged his fellow Councillor, the late Michael Courtney, who had been instrumental in the twinning arrangement with Kendal.

It was his belief that twinning towns provide a great opportunity to share experiences and build new relationships. It gave towns the chance to learn more about each other's culture, history and way of life. He commented that this is especially important for local communities and young people and was delighted to learn that a number of Killarney based groups had visited Kendal in the past and participated in the Kendal Torchlight Carnival.

Councillor John Joe Culloty commented that they saw Killarney as the 'unofficial' Lake District of Ireland and through the twinning with Kendal they hoped to learn more about how to enhance the potential of living in such beautiful surroundings. He said that Killarney is proud of its twinning history and looked forward to building new relationships as a Municipal District Authority and to working with the new Mayor of Kendal and the Mayor's office.

013/15/16 MAYORAL SUNDAY SERVICE (Mayor's Sunday)

The Mayor extended a cordial invitation to join him at Kendal Parish Church on Sunday 5th July 2015 at 10.45am for the Mayor's Sunday Service.

014/15/16 CONCLUSION

Flowers were presented by the Mayor to his wife, Councillor Rachael Hogg, the Deputy Mayor's mother and to the retiring Mayor's wife, Mrs Alyson Clare.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and looked forward to meeting them during the evening.

The Mayor then retired to greet Civic Dignitaries, Councillors and Mayoral Guests, who had been invited to take refreshments in the Kendal Town Council Chamber and the Bindloss Room.