

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Assembly Room, Kendal Town Hall, on Thursday, 19th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES Councillors P. Bramham, J. Veevers, M. Severn, K. Bracey and J. Owen

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

Also in attendance were invited dignitaries and guests.

001/16/17 INTRODUCTION

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

002/16/17 THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL SUMMARY

The Mayor began his Annual Summary by saying that, whilst every Mayor would rightly describe their year as being extraordinary, this year truly had been. His focus for the year had been to increase the awareness of the issue of organ donation and highlight what a wonderful place Kendal is for culture, heritage, and events. Whilst he had been able to do this with a degree of success, his focus had been superseded by the storms and floods of December 2015.

The Mayor had been presenting the Sea Cadets their awards on the Friday evening of the storms and, walking back in the rain that night, never considered he would be outside their headquarters knee deep in water by the Sunday morning. He had personally visited those stranded in the Leisure Centre on the Saturday night and Sunday morning. He toured the flood affected areas on the Sunday afternoon and by Sunday evening a small group of Councillors had decided to set up the 'Kendal Cares' centre in the Romney Room in the Town Hall. By Monday morning a hotline had been set up and Councillors had come along to volunteer. There were volunteers sorting clothes, donations and matching offers of help from the public, who responded magnificently to the crisis. Some of those volunteers had been invited to the Mayor Making Ceremony and the Mayor invited them to stand so that he may take the opportunity to thank them again.

With the help of SLDC Officers, a new home was found for the tonnes of donations at the Westmorland Shopping Centre. It was arranged for the Kings Food Bank to manage the centre and for it to be a one stop shop for information for those who had been affected by the floods. The Mayor said that it had been the support of volunteers (including Councillors), businesses, council officers from all tiers, voluntary agencies, Churches Together, the emergency services and the amazing community reaction that had kept him going through the crisis and thanked anyone who had helped in any way, shape or form.

The Mayor remarked that Kendal had a strong community and whilst for many life had returned to normal, it should be remembered that for some this was far from the case. Kendal Town Council had decided they must continue to support the community to get back on its feet and increased the precept to be able to react to some of the difficulties that would be faced. He added that, whilst Kendal Town Council were a small cog in the machine that would achieve this, it would be achieved through partnership working and community resilience.

With regard to the Kendal Organ Donor Town campaign, the Mayor declared that he had been delighted with the response. Hundreds of people (just short of the target of 1000) had signed up to become organ donors and generated a great deal of publicity to increase awareness of the issue. A remarkable number of people had helped at all sorts of events and the Mayor was particularly grateful to the committee, Freshspace, Creative 42, the NHS and especially the Chairman, Glenys Marriott. He said that without their help it would not have been possible to achieve what had been achieved and to be officially recognised as the first ever organ donor town.

The Mayor referred to his wish to highlight what a wonderful place Kendal is for culture, heritage, and events. He had been privileged to attend many concerts, plays, exhibitions, festivals and events throughout his mayoral year. He added that whilst there had been many highlights, accompanying Kendal Mountain Festival to China had to be one of the key events of the year. He said that seeing one of Kendal's strongest cultural brands being exported successfully throughout the world and playing a small part in that had been very exhilarating.

One of the many cultural organisations that had become important to the Mayor was Space2Create. He said that he was honoured that their Chairman had donated a painting created especially for Kendal Town Council.

The Mayor observed that Kendal Town Council had a strong tradition as an authority that scrutinises the role of other key players in the town. Whilst he had been disappointed in the decision regarding the closure of Kendal Courts, he was proud that the Council had held the decision makers to account in a public meeting with the help of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chairman of the Magistrates. He still had hopes that this important service would not be lost completely from Kendal.

The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate Councillors Walker and Severn who had both become parents for the first time this year. He also paid tribute to one of Kendal Town Council's most respected Councillors, John McCreesh, who

had sadly passed away earlier in the year. Kendal Choral Society, of which he was a member, would be singing during the transferring of the chains of office as a tribute to Councillor McCreesh.

Finally, the Mayor extended his thanks for the generosity shown towards himself and his wife, Councillor R Hogg, and for supporting and enabling him to make it through a difficult year. He wished his successor a successful year ahead.

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

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY

003/16/17 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR 2016 – 2017

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor of Kendal 2016 -2017. It was proposed by Councillor Archibald, and seconded by Councillor Brook, that Councillor Coleman be elected as Town Mayor for 2016 - 2017. This was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Coleman be elected as Town Mayor for 2016 - 2017.

004/16/17 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF MAYOR

Councillor Coleman accepted the office of Town Mayor for 2016 - 2017 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by Councillor A Robinson and Councillor Teasdale.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor C Hogg, congratulated Councillor Coleman 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.

TRIBUTE BY KENDAL CHORAL SOCIETY TO COUNCILLOR JOHN MCCREESH

005/16/17 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.

006/16/17 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY HELD ON 21ST MAY 2015, AND MATTERS ARISING

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held on 21st May 2015. 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 21st May 2015 be accepted as a correct record, and it be noted that there were no matters arising.

007/16/17 MAYOR'S INAGURAL ADDRESS

Councillor Coleman, the incoming Mayor, thanked Kendal Choral Society for performing that evening as a tribute to Councillor McCreesh who had passed away earlier in the year. He said that his loss was a big shock to all and it was a fitting tribute to him that the choir he was part of had sung that evening.

The Mayor thanked Councillor C Hogg for his help, humour and encouragement in the year leading up to the Mayor Making Ceremony. He added that it was good to see Councillor C Hogg and his wife, Councillor R Hogg, recovering well after the kidney donation and said it had been an honour to take some of the workload off Councillor C Hogg during that time.

The Mayor highlighted the importance of Kendal's twin towns, Rinteln in Germany and Killarney in Ireland. He mentioned that the gathering would later hear from Rinteln, however unfortunately Killarney had not been able to attend. He hoped to have opportunity to visit both Twin Towns in the coming year.

The Mayor declared that it was a great honour to be elected to represent Kendal as Mayor. Before putting his name forward he had been concerned about having a full time job, however the support and encouragement offered by fellow councillors had been very welcome.

The Mayor pointed out that he was wearing a purple tie and explained that he was raising awareness of World IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) Day. He encouraged everyone to learn more about this disease.

The Mayor presented his theme for the new mayoral year which was to be "Helping Each Other". He commented that this had already been seen in practice during the last 6 months through the response of the community to the flooding in Kendal. It had also been demonstrated by the actions of the outgoing Mayor, Councillor C Hogg, in donating a kidney to his wife, Councillor R Hogg. He added that many people were already actively involved in helping the community in a huge array of ways and, on behalf of the town, applauded them for their efforts.

The Mayor noted that his chosen charities were already very active in supporting those in need of help:

- CAP Kendal (Christians against Poverty). Working with local people caught in the misery of debt.
- Manna House. Helping local people with homeless issues.

Finally, the Mayor thanked the staff that worked behind the scenes to make sure all Council meetings and events ran smoothly. He also thanked friends and family and all in attendance.

008/16/17 VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Emmott proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor C Hogg.

009/16/17 EX-MAYORAL MEDAL

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

010/16/17 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2016 - 2017

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of Kendal for 2016 - 2017.

It was proposed by Councillor Oldham, and seconded by Councillor Sutton, that Councillor Blackman be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2016 - 2017.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Blackman be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2016 - 2017.

011/16/17 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Blackman accepted the office of Deputy Town Mayor for 2016 - 2017 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by Councillor A Robinson and Councillor Teasdale.

012/16/17 TWIN TOWN OF RINTELN ADDRESS

The Mayor welcomed Frau Roswitha Hoekstra from the Kendal-Rinteln Association and invited her to give an address from Rinteln in Germany on behalf of the Mayor of Rinteln, Herr Thomas Priemer.

The Mayor of Rinteln congratulated Councillor Coleman on his election to the office of Mayor of Kendal on behalf of the citizens of Rinteln.

The twinning between Rinteln and Kendal had been in existence for almost 25 years and Herr Priemer said he was extremely proud that the twinning had developed into something quite remarkable. He said it embodied open-mindedness, mutual interest in each other's affairs, plus an associated tolerance, which was essential for a peaceful co-existence in Europe. He added that for this

thanks must be made to the many initiators, promoters and supporters; and indeed the initial and present driving forces behind the twinning, such as Karl-Heinz Buchholz, Mike Middleton, and the past and present members of Kendal-Rinteln Association, together with former colleagues in Office; not forgetting the many men and women in both towns who had devoted their time and energy so unstintingly to support the twinning. Herr Priemer said he fully intended to do his best to emulate their efforts and continue to support the twinning in the same manner.

Herr Priemer observed that next year would mark the 25th anniversary of the twinning. They hoped to send over the Big Band of Ernestinum grammar school to celebrate the event and possibly their All Male Voice Choir which had sung in Rinteln with the K Shoes Choir and previously performed in Kendal Town Hall.

Herr Priemer wished the Mayor every success in his year of Office as Mayor of Kendal and looked forward to working together to the benefit of the twinning.

013/16/17 MAYORAL SUNDAY SERVICE (Mayor's Sunday)

The Mayor extended a cordial invitation to join him at Kendal Parish Church on Sunday 3rd July 2016 at 10.45am for the Mayor's Sunday Service.

014/16/17 CONCLUSION

Flowers were presented by the Mayor to his wife, the Deputy Mayor's wife and to the retiring Mayor's wife, Councillor R Hogg.

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.