

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held in the Assembly Room, Kendal Town Hall, on Thursday, 18th May 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES Councillors T Clare, P. Bramham, J. Brook, J. Veevers, K. Bracey, M. Severn, K. Hurst-Jones, A. Finch and J. Owen

OFFICERS Liz Richardson (Town Clerk), Jack Jones (Town Treasurer), Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk), and Hazel Belshaw (Temporary Council Secretary).

Also in attendance were invited dignitaries and guests.

001/17/18 INTRODUCTION

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

002/17/18 THE MAYOR'S ANNUAL SUMMARY

The Mayor began his Annual Summary by saying that it has been a great honour to represent this great town as Mayor. One aim he had at the start of the year was to attend events as thoroughly as he could. An event that he particularly enjoyed was the Kendal Wool Gathering. He thanked everyone for the kind invitations to so many wonderful events during the year. He felt it was a great way to experience the vast diversity of talent in the town and can recommend the role to anyone. He applauded all the helpers and supporters of all these organisations for their efforts.

The Mayor's theme for his year was 'helping each other'. At Mayor's Sunday some friends from St Thomas' Church created and performed a drama called "Little Boxes". This superb performance stimulated a lot of very positive comments and this has continued throughout the year.

The two Mayoral charities this year are 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.

During the year there had been two major events to raise money for the charities: the coffee morning in December and the annual dinner in February. He thanked everyone involved in these very successful and enjoyable events and was pleased to announce that a total of £4,330.03 had been raised. He then presented CAP and Manna House with a cheque for £2,165.01 each.

He talked about the important international links with Kendal and how he was delighted to be part of the Friendship Charter signing with Nanshan in China during the Kendal Mountain Festival. He had also thoroughly enjoyed visiting both Killarney in Ireland and Rinteln in Germany.

He talked briefly of the sad passing of his mother, Dorothy, last month and mentioned that preparing for this event has been particularly difficult.

He thanked the hard working staff behind the scenes, with a special thanks to Carolyn Moffatt who sadly could not attend as she is recovering from an operation.

He commented that having a full time job was a big concern to him before putting his name forward but the support and encouragement from fellow Councillors and from his Deputy, Andy Blackman, had really helped. He went on to wish Andy (along with his wife Sue and daughter Sally) a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding year.

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

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY

003/17/18 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR FOR 2017 – 2018

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor of Kendal 2017 -2018. It was proposed by Councillor Feeney-Johnson, and seconded by Councillor Oldham, that Councillor Blackman be elected as Mayor for 2017 - 2018. This was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Blackman be elected as Mayor for 2017 - 2018.

004/17/18 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF MAYOR

Councillor Blackman accepted the office of Mayor for 2017 - 2018 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by Councillor A Robinson and Councillor Teasdale.

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Coleman, congratulated Councillor Blackman on his appointment to the office of 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.

005/17/18 WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

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

006/17/18 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY HELD ON 19TH MAY 2016, AND MATTERS ARISING

The Town Mayor presented the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held on 19th May 2017. 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 A Robinson, and seconded by Councillor Feeney-Johnson, that the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings. This was carried unanimously. There were no matters arising.

RESOLVED unanimously, that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony held on 19th May 2016 be accepted as a correct record.

007/17/18 MAYOR'S INAGURAL ADDRESS

Councillor Blackman, the incoming Mayor, thanked Councillor Feeney-Johnson for her kind words and Councillor Coleman for his role as Major over the last 12 months. He talked briefly about his roots in Blackburn and how he has grown to love Kendal and along with his family regard it as their adopted home. He went on to say that amongst other things some of the reasons he loves Kendal, the 2017 Sunday Times 2nd best place to live in the UK, were its location, character, proximity to the Lakes and the people.

He talked about the communities in Kendal - neighbourhoods, workplaces, schools, churches, sports clubs and other common interest groups. He highlighted that being set apart from community life can lead to desperate loneliness, isolation and impact on mental well-being. He talked about encouraging us to find ways to 'love our community', be open to friendships with our neighbours and to, work with, play with and to get involved in community projects.

Councillor Blackman talked about the year ahead and how he would like to continue and progress three initiatives from previous years. Firstly Kendal Dementia Action Alliance, a group of organisations working together to radically improve the lives of people living with dementia and their carers. This will be one of the The Mayor's charities for the forthcoming year. Secondly, working towards making Kendal a 'Walking Town', a place recognised to be an attractive destination for walkers offering local people and visitors excellent walking opportunities. Thirdly, he noted his intention to further Councillor Coleman's initiative and encourage members of the church community in Kendal to gather in the Mayor's Parlour to pray for Kendal and the work of the Town Council prior to the Council meeting on the first Monday of each month. He also mentioned that

following on from the awarding of the 2016-17 Wainwright Award to Shirley Gilpin of the Kendal Family Drop in Centre, which supports families with children with additional needs, he has decided that this valuable work in the town should be the second Mayor's charity.

He went on to say he was looking to maintain friendships with wider communities beyond the town's boundaries. Kendal has town twinning relationships with Rinteln in Germany and Killarney in Ireland as well as recently signing a friendship charter with Nanshan in China.

He commented that he was delighted that this evening's proceedings coincide with what has become an annual visit to Kendal by his friends of over 20 years, Thompson and Glenda from Jos, a bustling city in the heart of Nigeria. From a class for 30 children in their home in 1991, Glenda, as Director of Education, is now overseeing two primary schools and a secondary school and the education of 1500+ children and young people. Last June Queen Katherine School hosted three of her staff for a programme of school visits around the local area which had far reaching impacts. Glenda is keen to follow it up with further visits.

Finally Councillor Blackman talked about the support from his family, his wife Sue and daughter, Sally and the Town Council. This time next year there will be a different set of faces around the table as Councillors as individuals, and the electorate, make their decisions with regards to the 2018 Town Council elections. Therefore he wanted to express the town's gratitude for the effort, energy and commitment they have freely given and the examples they demonstrate.

008/17/18 VOTE OF THANKS

Councillor Archibald proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Coleman.

009/17/18 EX-MAYORAL MEDAL

The Mayor presented the retiring Mayor, Councillor Coleman, with an ex-Mayoral medal.

010/17/18 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2017 - 2018

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor of Kendal for 2017 - 2018.

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman, and seconded by Councillor Vincent, that Councillor Tirvengadam be elected as Deputy Mayor for 2017 - 2018. This was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED unanimously, that Councillor Tirvengadam be elected as Deputy Mayor for 2017 - 2018.

011/17/18 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor Tirvengadam accepted the office of Deputy Mayor for 2017 - 2018 and signed the Declaration of Acceptance, which was witnessed by Councillor A Robinson and Councillor Teasdale.

012/17/18 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, Herr Thomas Priemer, congratulated Councillor Blackman on his election to the office of Mayor of Kendal on behalf of the citizens of Rinteln.

He was delighted that the Mayor, Andy Blackman, had been a guest in Rinteln along with Councillors Coleman and C Hogg and their families last year. He said it was a pleasure getting to know Councillors Coleman and Blackman and re-newing his friendship with Councillor C Hogg. He looked forward to welcoming Councillor Blackman again this summer.

Herr Priemer commented that the twinning between Rinteln and Kendal had been in existence for almost 25 years and he said he was extremely proud that the twinning had developed into something quite remarkable.

He mentioned the ongoing contacts and youth links between the two towns organisations.

Frau Roswitha Hoekstra then presented two gifts from Herr Priemer.

013/17/18 MAYORAL SUNDAY SERVICE (Mayor's Sunday)

The Mayor extended a cordial invitation to join him at Kendal Parish Church on Sunday 2nd July 2017 at 10.45am for the Mayor's Sunday Service.

014/17/18 CONCLUSION

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

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.