

TENBY TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE TENBY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 6th MAY 2016

PRESENT

Councillor P Rapi	Mayor
Councillor Mrs Lane	
Councillor B James	
Councillor Mrs Rossiter	
Councillor Mrs Thomas	
Councillor M Evans	
Councillor Mrs Brown	
Councillor Mrs K Durham	
Councillor L Blackhall	
Councillor Dr P Easy	
Councillor W Rossiter	

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr A. Davies	Clerk to the Council/Financial Officer
Mrs L Hensman	Assistant Clerk

1. OPENING PRAYER

Father Michael Fewell as the Mayor's Chaplain opened the meeting with prayers.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Councillor Mrs S Williams and Councillor T Hallett.

3. ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

The Mayor asked all Councillors in turn if they wished to stand for the Election of Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor L Blackhall expressed his wish to be considered for Mayor 2016/17. Councillor Rapi said he did not wish to put himself forward for a second year.

Councillor Mrs Brown was delighted to propose Councillor L Blackhall as Mayor for 2016/17. She said Councillor Blackhall was one of the volunteers, tirelessly striving to promote and make Tenby stand out as a special town. He is one of the St Mary's Soupermen, the Warden of St Julian's Church, an active Tenby Regeneration Committee member, a Christmas Festivities committee member, a very active member of TTC and immensely involved with the work in the De Valence. As he now embarked upon his greatest voluntary role as Tenby's First Citizen she wished him all the luck in the world and had no hesitation in her proposal.

Councillor M Evans was delighted to second the proposition and agreed with everything Councillor Mrs Brown had said about Councillor Blackhall. He had known Councillor Blackhall for eight years and was pleased to call him a friend as well as being enlightened by the way he undertakes tasks, deals with them and comes out with a positive result for Tenby. His energy, honesty and close relationship with St Mary's Church are evident and he will support the New Primary School opening this year. The theme Councillor Blackhall had adopted for the year 'Tenby United', he felt was an amazing choice for putting Tenby at the heart of

everything. He continued outlining local achievements that have occurred over the last few weeks by residents of Tenby.

Councillor Evans wished Councillor Blackhall success for the ensuing year and thanked Councillor Rapi for his work during his year in office as a proud Tenby man. He praised both of his fellow councillors who have Tenby at the heart of everything they do and concluded in reaffirming he was proud to second Councillor Blackhall as Mayor for 2016/17.

Resolved that Councillor Laurence Blackhall be elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Clerk congratulated Councillor Laurence Blackhall on his appointment as Mayor of Tenby before asking him to perform the Declaration of Acceptance of Office followed by the Swearing of the Oath.

The Mayor's party then left the meeting to undertake the robing. On returning Councillor Blackhall took the chair and thanked fellow Councillors for electing him. He said it was a huge honour and he would work hard to be as worthy as those who have held the office of Mayor before him. He was proud and honoured to be Mayor for 2016/17.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

Councillor Blackhall proposed Councillor Mrs Lane as his Deputy Mayor for 2016/17 and outlined his reasons for asking her. He said he had been given advice many years ago to be successful in any role surround yourself with talented and able women. Therefore he could think of no one better person to support him for his forthcoming year than Councillor Mrs Lane. He had no hesitation in knowing she would be a great support to him as she is highly experienced in the role as Mayor in Tenby and around Pembrokeshire. She is a great ambassador for Tenby through her work for Tenby in Bloom. Ultimately she is able to offer guidance, support and friendship to him as his Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Mrs Thomas firstly congratulated the 627th Mayor of Tenby on his appointment. She said his first decision as Mayor to propose Councillor Mrs Lane as his deputy was a wise one. Councillor Mrs Lane is a dedicated, reliable friendly person, full of ideas and easy to work with. She has served on TTC for 29 years and therefore is a very wise choice to guide you through your year in office. Without hesitation she seconded the proposal.

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Lane be elected Deputy Mayor for the year 2016/17.

The Mayor presented Councillor Mrs Lane with the Deputy Mayor's Chain and Scroll.

6. APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT AT ARMS AND SERGEANT AT MACE

Councillor Dr Easy firstly congratulated the Mayor on his appointment and wished him a very successful, rewarding and interesting year ahead. He expressed praise for the excellent service provided by Mr J Morgan, Sergeant at Arms, Mr E Vokes, Sergeant at Mace and Mr T Powell, Town Crier. He thanked Mr Vokes for his service in his absence as he is unwell at present. He praised Mr Powell on undertaking the Town Crier role as these were very big shoes to fill and he was pleased to see him in office. He said he had asked how many years Mr John Morgan had been in office and the reply was many years of faithful service. He therefore was pleased to propose Mr John Morgan be appointed Sergeant at Arms, Mr Ernie Vokes as Sergeant at Mace and Mr T Powell as Tenby Town crier.

Councillor W Rossiter was delighted to second the proposal, and thanked the gentlemen for their service.

Resolved that Mr John Morgan be appointed Sergeant at Arms, Mr Ernie Vokes as Sergeant at Mace and Mr T Powell be appointed Tenby Town Crier.

The Mayor presented Mr J Morgan and Mr T Powell with their Scrolls and he would present Mr E Vokes with his scroll at a later date.

Mr J Morgan and Mr Powell congratulated Councillor L Blackhall on his appointment as Mayor of Tenby.

The Mayor on behalf of TTC sent best wishes to Mr. Vokes at this time and hoped he is improving.

7. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

The Mayor was pleased to appoint Canon the Reverend Andrew Grace as his Chaplain for the coming year 2016/17, he was confident of the appointment as he was pleased to asking him to do a task instead of the other way round in the knowledge he is a fantastic Rector and a person he can call a friend too.

The Mayor presented Canon Grace with his Scroll.

Canon Grace congratulated the Mayor on his appointment and said it was a great pleasure to undertake the role of Mayor's Chaplain to a much valued member of St Mary's Church.

8. APPOINTMENT OF MAYORESS FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

The Mayor said every so often you get lucky in life and he had got lucky with a special woman in his life. She is a fantastic mother and a huge support to him as his partner in life; therefore he was honoured to ask Ms S Skyrme to be his Mayoress and looked forward to having her by his side for the ensuing year and presented her with her scroll.

9. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYORESS FOR THE YEAR 2016/17

The Mayor said it was a delight to appoint a friend Ms Siân Waters as Deputy Mayoress to serve for the coming year as she brings fun and humour to everything she undertakes as well as carrying out her role with dignity and dedication. He thanked her for the support she will give as he presented her with her scroll.

10. VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Mrs Rossiter firstly congratulated the Mayor on his appointment.

She continued saying what a year Councillor Paul Rapi had, starting by being pushed in by wheelchair. Progressing onto crutches and finally abandoning his crutches to complete his year on both feet. Throughout all this time he did not let the mobility challenges deter him from fulfilling his role. His delight at being Mayor of Tenby was evident every time he talked about where he had been or what he had done during a very successful year.

Councillor Mrs Durham firstly congratulated Councillor Blackhall on his appointment before adding her thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Rapi.

She said she agreed with all Councillor Mrs Rossiter had said as it was the same as she had written down. Councillor Rapi had started and ended the year on wheels taking part in the charity cycle challenge in Tudor Square. During his year he carried out his duties diligently and with great dignity. Now he has properly retired, his wife Sarah would get to see her husband much more. She concluded by thanking Councillor Rapi for all he has contributed during his year in office and it had been a pleasure being around the council table with him bringing humour, friendship and warmth to meetings.

11. RESPONSE BY RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor Paul Rapi said he was not a speech writer; however the highlights of his year had been so many from the first day it rained, whilst being wheeled around due to his broken leg to a very wet Christmas Festivities series of Events with its own unique occurrences. A huge highlight and memorable occasion was joining the launch of the lifeboat and seeing children waiting for its return with Father Christmas.

Many exceptional things happened and his advice to his fellow councillor undertaking the role is to cherish the year as you will do so much and

meet and make some fantastic friends. Many of the friends he had met were Mayors and their partners joining the celebrations that evening.

The position of Mayor is truly an honour, when you are representing a special community of people who live in Tenby and even more special when the town is known as the ‘Jewel in the Crown’ of Pembrokeshire.

He continued outlining some of his legacies during his year in office. Firstly along with former councillor Hayden Johns they called for a ‘pelican crossing’ to promote the safety of pedestrians crossing at the Narberth Road Junction, Tenby, and it has just been installed. Secondly, during his year a Tenby Town Crier was appointed and thirdly the achievement that WIFI will be installed into the whole of the De Valence gave him great pleasure.

Throughout the year Councillor Rapi said he joined County Councillor Wynne Evans, Chairman of Pembrokeshire County Council at events including the last official one in Folly Farm where he was up close touching and feeding the animals, noting this as a truly memorable experience to end his year.

Councillor Rapi concluded by saying he may have been wheeled in for his Mayor Making Ceremony; however he is walking out after a remarkable and rewarding year. He congratulated Councillor Blackhall on his appointment as Mayor of Tenby 2016/17 and offered him 100% support for the year.

12. CONFIRMATION OF MAYORS SUNDAY

The Mayor announced that the Mayor’s Sunday Civic Service date will be Sunday 25th September 2016 at 10am.

13. ADJOURNMENT OF STATUTORY BUSINESS

Proposed by Councillor B James that all statutory business be adjourned, seconded by Councillor P Rapi. The proposition was carried.

Resolved that all statutory business be adjourned until the next Meeting of Council which would be held at the De Valence Pavilion on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.00 pm.

14. PRAYERS

The Mayor’s Chaplain Canon the Reverend Andrew Grace closed the meeting in prayer.

Mayor _____

Town Clerk _____

Date _____