

The Guildhall  
Market Place  
Salisbury  
Wilts  
SP1 1JH



**Contact:** Janine Whitty  
**Direct Line:** 01722 342860  
**Email:** [corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk)

## Minutes

**Meeting of** : Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council  
**Date** : 18 May 2019  
**Meeting held in** : The Church of St Thomas and St Edmunds, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 12 Noon

---

Present:

Chair: Cllr M Osment

Vice Chair: Cllr J Walsh

Cllrs: J Baber MBE, S Berry, J Broom, D Brown OBE, C Corbin, T Corbin, B Dalton, A Foster, S Hocking, A Hoque, S Jackson, J Lindley, Dr M McClelland, F Moody, J Nettle, L Sirman, C Rogers OBE and I Tomes.

Officers: Annie Child and Janine Whitty

---

The Mayor, Cllr Mike Osment, welcomed everyone to St Thomas'.

Cllr Osment opened the Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council by calling for nominations for Mayor for 2019/20.

### **783. Election of the Mayor 2019/20:**

Cllr Ian Tomes proposed that Cllr John Walsh be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2019/20. This was seconded by Cllr Frogg Moody.

As there were no other nominations it was **resolved unanimously** that Cllr John Walsh be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2019/20.

The newly elected Mayor then moved to the Mayoral seat and was vested by the outgoing Mayor with the Mayor's Chain of Office. He then made a declaration of acceptance of office, which he duly signed, this being witnessed by the City Clerk, Annie Child.

## **The new Mayor Cllr Mr John Walsh took the Chair**

### **784. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllr K Daley, M Dean and J Farquhar.

### **785. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

### **786. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

### **787. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council held on 19 May 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair.

### **788. Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **789. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested.

### **790. Retiring Chairman's Announcements:**

The retiring Chairman gave a resume of the last year and thanked a number of people who supported him, including his Mayoress Nikki Savage. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes. The retiring Chairman also presented his Mayoress with her Mayoress badge and the Scout & Guide with their badges.

### **791. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman gave a speech outlining his background in the military and his life in Salisbury, his service to the City and his hopes for his Mayoral year. He announced his charity as South West Mencap. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes.

### **792. Election of the Deputy Mayor 2019/20:**

The Mayor called for any nominations.

Cllr Jeremy Nettle proposed that Cllr Caroline Corbin be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing year 2019/20. This was seconded by Cllr Liz Sirman.

There were no other nominations and it was **resolved unanimously** that

Cllr Caroline Corbin be elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2019/20.

Cllr Mrs Caroline Corbin then moved to the Deputy Mayor's seat and was vested with the Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office by the Mayor.

**793. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman, decides should be considered as a matter of urgency:**

No matters were raised

The meeting closed at 12.45 pm

**Councillor Mike Osment**  
**Retiring Mayors Farewell Speech 18 May 2019**

Good afternoon Mr Mayor distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen  
It is difficult to know how to summarise my last year as your Mayor. It has truly been a huge honour and privilege to represent this, my home city, as its first citizen. The last twelve months have been a difficult time for the city following the incident in March 2018. As the city moved into recovery, I saw that the role of the Mayor was to support and promote the city wherever possible. I have hosted several visiting groups including Councillors from Malmesbury with their twinning association visitors, a motor cycle group from Xanten (our German Twin City), and more recently a coach full of dignitaries from Warwickshire including many Mayors and Chairs of Councils. All these visitors told me how much they had enjoyed their visit, with many indicating they would return to visit again. Our City and Cathedral guides are excellent and I have learnt something new every time they were present at visits. Tourism is so vital to the economy and the prosperity of the city. Despite the difficult year for the city I have been invited to the launch and opening of a number of new businesses in the city.

Many organisations wanted to show their support for the city. As a Trade Unionist, I was extremely pleased when the South West TUC organised its Health & Safety Conference in Salisbury and asked me to address the Conference. It was great to be at the re-opening of Zizzi's restaurant in the autumn and more recently to be invited to re-open the Bishops Mill Public House, two of the businesses most affected by the March 2018 incident. A personal thanks goes to Zizzi's who generously donated all of their takings from the re-opening day to my Mayor's Appeal.

As Mayor, you get invited to a wide range of engagements with many community groups and organisations. I have been impressed by the commitment and dedication of the hundreds of volunteers in these organisations. They are truly the lifeblood of the city and are one of the reasons why Salisbury is the best place to live in the country.

In June 2018, I greeted HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall when they visited the City. Also in June the City Council granted the Freedom of the City to the Royal Military Police. In September, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and I were involved in the ceremony to install the 82<sup>nd</sup> Dean of Salisbury at the Cathedral. In November I had the honour of leading the City's Remembrance Day, marking the centenary of the end of the 1st World War. The crowds were truly amazing and it gave me great pride to see so many children and young people involved in Remembrance day, giving me confidence that the fallen, and the sacrifice they made, will continue to be remembered in years to come.

The Mayor is often asked what event they have enjoyed most during their Mayoral year, which is difficult to answer. However, attending events and supporting grass root community groups has given the Mayoress and I most pleasure. Visiting the Onward Stoke Club in Stratford, the Harnham Day Centre, opening the Community Fridge in Bemerton, attending a music performance by service users from Headway and cheering on the participants at the Mencap Sports Day, to name but a few. I have been invited to a number of Scouting Association events and in this church a couple of weeks ago, along with hundreds of scouts and leaders, I renewed my scout promise.

I also enjoyed visiting a number of Salisbury's primary schools, giving an assembly about the history of the Mayor and the city. I would have liked to have had the opportunity to visit all of the schools. Despite both working full-time, the Mayoress and I managed to attend 218 formal engagements as well as fundraising event for my Appeal.

The pride of wearing the Mayoral chain has been equalled by the pride of having my wife Nikki by my side. She was committed and dedicated to the role of Mayoress and was a natural ambassador for the City. She now has a list of community groups and charities that she would like to get involved with in the future. Nikki is also a formidable organiser and fundraiser and was regularly up into the early hours organising events. Quite simply, without her support a successful Mayoral year would not of been possible. I will be always be grateful to Nikki for her support. I would also like to thank my children Joe and Maya for their support and patience during the last year. They have spent many hours without us being around and have never grumbled.

During my Mayoral year, my Appeal was to raise funds for two Salisbury charities who support children and young people. Childrens Chance and the Rose Gale Trust. Firstly, I would like to thank the charities for their support during the last year. Secondly, I would like to thank my fellow City Councillors, friends and family who have supported fundraising events which have included a murder trail re-enactment organised by Councillor Frogg Moody, a Ceilidh, a musical evening with the Navy Larks and the making and selling of crafts at Salisbury Christmas market. Special thanks goes to Salisbury Football Club, Wilton Venture Scouts Old Boys, Salisbury Xanten Twinning Association Bierfest and the Baker family for their contributions to the Mayor's Appeal. Thanks to Clare King for running the Salisbury Half Marathon with the Mayoress and to Andy Bletsoe and Mark Redford for giving up their time over the very hot Easter bank holiday weekend to walk the 90 mile White Horse Trail with me for the Appeal.

There is one remaining ongoing event where friends Helen Whicher, Sandra Treslove and others are raising money by undertaking a physical challenge Every Day In May.

I am delighted to announce today that the Mayor's Appeal has raised £20,000. Although I did not have a formal Mayor's Chaplain, I would like to thank the Reverend Kelvin Inglis for his support and understanding and for the adjustments made to services in recognition of my Humanist beliefs.

It's now time for me to step into the background to reflect on the memories.

I will remember being encircled by a pack of Brownies who would not let me go until they had a photo with the Mayor, a girl at Old Sarum School who wanted to know if I lived at Buckingham Palace with the Queen and the smile on the face of Phyllis Haley when we attended her 108<sup>th</sup> Birthday to present her with some flowers on behalf of the City.

I would like to thank Salisbury City Council and Guildhall staff for all their help and support this year and I'd like to take the opportunity to wish John and Carrie all the best for their year ahead as Mayor and Mayoress of Salisbury.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank the Mayoral Scout and Guide Lilah Khan and Scarlett Brooking for supporting the Mayor and for their commitment to their duties, including going on all the rides at the Fair that the Mayor was too scared to go on. Thanks to Scarlett for raising money for my Appeal through a Beetle Drive with the Wilton Guides. Lilah has become a bit of a local celebrity, playing in a local band with three other young women. The band is called Home from the Unknown - they won the Wiltshire's Got Talent competition and recently played at the opening event of Salisbury Live, I am a big fan. Can I ask you both to come forward to receive your Mayoral badges.

Finally, can I ask my wife Nikki to come forward to receive her brooch in recognition of her service to the city as Mayoress.

**Councillor John Walsh**  
**The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury**  
**His speech on the occasion of his election to Mayor 18 May 2019**

Deputy Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Welcome to the 759th Mayor Making ceremony. At least I was elected this morning by a larger number of votes than I achieved in 2013 in the County elections when I only got in by one vote.

May I particularly welcome the Deputy Mayor and his companion from our twin city of Xanten in Germany. I have had the pleasure of visiting Xanten twice already and I will be joining a bus load of my fellow citizens next Thursday on a further excursion to Xanten. Whatever the outcome of our present difficulties, I won't mention the B word, I very much hope our close links with Xanten and Saintes, our French twin, will continue in the years ahead.

At the risk of this speech becoming like the one Bridegrooms tend to give, it would be quite remiss of me not to thank, on everyone's behalf, my predecessor Mayor, Cllr Mike Osment and his Mayoress, Nikki Savage who have completed over 220 engagements during the year.

Mike and Nikki have crisscrossed Wiltshire and surrounding counties, spreading the word that despite the impression given by the tabloids, Salisbury is not out for the count and is bouncing back, as the Times was able to report last month. As citizens who love their City, I intend with my Mayoress to do everything we can to continue to spread the good news about all the exciting moves which are being made to take Salisbury to new heights.

I would also like to thank The Reverend Sarah Wood-Roe for agreeing to become my chaplain. Along with the Mayoress and Council officers, I can tell you now Sarah, that you will have your work cut out guiding this Mayor.  
Many thanks for your support.

As we move out of the first phase of our recovery from the Novachok incident, I would like to mention one individual and a group of people who have and still are, working very hard to create this new beginning.

I refer in the case of the individual, to our Member of Parliament, John Glen, who despite having a ministerial post to field, at an interesting time, has ensured that everything in his power has been done to push forward the various schemes which will improve our central shopping area. I know he has also worked hard to ensure the support that we received from our Government was appropriate and timely. Thank you, John.

The group of people, are the officers of our two Councils who ably led by Alistair Cunningham, who has become a bit of an international super star, Robin Townsend and our own Annie Child have worked very long hours especially in the first four to five months to help our businesses to recover, and to organise special events, such as the cycling race around the City Centre which takes place this coming Thursday from 5 – 9pm.

We should not forget the Armed Forces Day, which they are helping organise, at the end of June, when our citizens will have the opportunity to thank our armed forces for the critical role they played in Salisbury.

I for one, am looking forward to welcoming my fellow veterans to this great occasion. Yes, I am one of them. A soldier who was made welcome by the ever-generous citizens of Salisbury who must have taken in and made welcome more retiring servicemen and women than anyone else, judging by the number of Councillors who have service backgrounds.

I arrived here in 1991 with my late wife Catherine and my 3 children after a 26 year career in the Army. We very rapidly settled in and flourished in a community which brings out the best in everyone who moves here. I had an interesting 20 years as the Bursar of Wyvern College and then the Assistant Bursar at the Godolphin School. Before the real work in retirement started.

It will come as no surprise to my fellow citizens, that after Catherine's death from cancer in 2007, I stayed here, supported by friends and neighbours and was fortunate enough in 2016 to meet another lovely lady who agreed to become my wife. Meet your Mayoress, Carrie. Oh Yes she is also a service veteran of 10 years standing. I do feel a touch of sadness as I stand here, because in 1996 Catherine had been asked by the late Councillor Beryl Jay to become her Mayoress. We thought it was a two year stint, but as Beryl went on to be Chair of the County and District Councils, it turned out to be 6 years of public duties for Catherine. For me, the husband of the Mayoress, it was babysitting on a regular basis and a diet of baked beans for tea, when the Mayoress was away again. I get all the best jobs.

As you might imagine I couldn't help picking up the odd political nuance over those years, so when Beryl was sadly dying of cancer in 2002, she encouraged me to stand in the by-election which would be created by her death. So, I found myself propelled into local politics in the Fisherton and Bemerton Village Ward in the same year. I have very much enjoyed my years as a Councillor, 12 and a half years in all and am grateful to my residents for giving me the chance. At the time I think it was thought it would get me off the streets, unfortunately it had the opposite effect.

I am not saying it runs in the family but my brother, Richard was already a Councillor in Surrey, and if there is any noise from the back of the church, it is likely to be from the younger Walsh members exercising their lungs in preparation for a life in politics.



I would like to thank my family and friends for turning out in force to support me, it is much appreciated.

One of the worst kept secrets in the City is which charity I have chosen to support in my Mayoral year.

So, for the benefit of the people in the room who haven't heard, it is a local charity founded 60 years ago by parents to support people with learning disabilities, inspiring them to achieve their full potential and enabling them to lead fuller lives. It does this by partially subsidising holidays for members, running clubs and outings for all ages, providing information through its website and generally providing the extra support, which the state system is not able to provide. It has been a highly successful charity setting up and now owning its own shop in Catherine Street. It has never employed a paid manager, so almost 90% of the shop's income, which has been supported so loyally by local citizens, goes straight to local disabled people. Have you guessed it yet? Yes, it is South Wilts MENCAP. The branch runs its own affairs and is answerable to a local board of Trustees.

I have been connected with this charity for over 20 years having been involved in a number of roles, ever flexible, it has ranged from being Chair of Trustees to running the car parking at our bigger events. My greatest pleasure is however chatting to members. I am delighted that so many of the society's members can join us to celebrate this 60th anniversary over the weekend. I am looking forward to walking back to the Guildhall with Jamie, one of our members, who has kindly volunteered to be an ambassador for South Wilts Mencap. We have much to discuss.

I have been giving some thought as to what we citizens can do to help the official system regenerate the City. Only so much can be done by advertising in National newspapers and arranging special events as they only reach certain sections of the national community.

There are 40,000 Salisbury citizens, most of whom have friends and relatives spread across the United Kingdom. I for one, am always intending to invite old friends to visit, but seldom carry out the good intention. So, when you leave this lovely church why not send a quick message inviting them to visit soon? We need those lovely visitors to boost our footfall, which in its turn helps businesses of every type from night clubs to shops, through to our churches and Cathedral. We have many wonderful things to offer, they range from our International Arts Festival which starts next Friday for two weeks, to our thriving Charter Market, a History Festival on the August Bank Holiday organised by one of the Councillors here present – Cllr Frogg Moody. Our wonderful Playhouse and Art Centre, I could go on, but I hope you get the idea.

I very much hope to visit as many groups and organisations as possible in the City in the next year. It is not necessary to have some grand event, I and the Mayoress are

very happy to drop in to say a coffee morning. So do contact the City Council and they will tell you the procedure for inviting the Mayor or go on their website. It is a real privilege to be the Mayor in this wonderful city and I look forward to meeting you and learning about your lives.

I would now like to announce that I am appointing Philippa Thorpe, as the Mayoral Scout, Ruaridh Thomson-Easter as the reserve Mayoral Scout and Natasha Waters as the Reserve Mayoral Guide for 2019/2020

It now gives me great pleasure to present my lovely partner in crime otherwise known as the Mayoress with her chain of office.