

The Guildhall
Market Place
Salisbury
Wilts
SP1 1JH



Contact: J Whitty
Direct Line: 01722 342860
Email: corporate@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk
Web: www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

Minutes

Meeting of : Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council
Date : 14 May 2022
Meeting held in : The Guildhall, Salisbury
Commencing at : 10.30am

Present:

Chair: Cllr T Corbin

Vice Chair: Cllr A Hoque

Cllrs: C Corbin, A Bayliss, J Bolwell, J Broom, B Dalton, S Hocking, J King, C McGrath, M Mewse, J Nettle, A Riddle, E Rimmer, R Rogers, P Sample, C Stanway, I Tomes and J Wells

Officers: Annie Child and Janine Whitty

The Retiring Chairman, Caroline Corbin, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1060. The Election of the Mayor 2022 - 2023:

The Retiring Mayor called for nominations for Mayor for 2022 – 2023.

Cllr Paul Sample proposed that Cllr Tom Corbin be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2022/23. This was seconded by Cllr Chris Stanway.

As there were no other nominations it was

Resolved that:

1060.1. Cllr Tom Corbin be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2022/23.

The new Mayor Cllr Tom Corbin took the Chair.

1061. Apologies:

1061.1. Apologies were received from Cllrs S Charleston, V Charleston, C Hibbert and M Webb.

1062. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

1063. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

1064. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

1064.1. The minutes of the last meeting Annual Meeting of Full Council held on 17 May 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1065. Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1066. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

1067. Retiring Chairman's Announcements:

The retiring Chairman thanked Cllr T Corbin for his support as both the Mayor's Consort and Deputy Mayor. Cllr C Corbin gave a full and eloquent account of her year as Mayor and thanked those who supported her during her active and engaging year of events and activities.

1068. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman gave his acceptance speech expressing his delight and appreciation at being elected Mayor, and thanking the retiring Mayor Cllr C Corbin for her service during the past years, as well as presenting her with the Mayoress ceremonial chain for the forthcoming year. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes.

1069. The Election of the Deputy Mayor 2022 - 23:

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2022 -23.

Cllr Paul Sample proposed that Cllr Atiqul Hoque be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2022/23. This was seconded by Cllr Jenny Bolwell.

There were no other nominations, and it was

Resolved that:

1058.1. Cllr Atiqul Hoque be elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2022/23.

1070. 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 11.32am.

Councillor Tom Corbin
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury
His speech on the occasion of his election to Mayor 14 May 2022

Firstly, welcome to Deputy Lieutenant Helen Birchenough and Salisbury MP John Glen, assembled Mayors, Deputy Mayors, guests of the past Mayor, my wife, my guests, especially to those who have travelled over from Guernsey and guests of Cllr Hoque.

Thank you to Curate, Ali Alexander for introducing you to this beautiful building. Often when we have these meetings here we miss out on the opportunity of thanking the staff and volunteers who have made our being here possible so please join me in a round of applause to the staff and volunteers of St Thomas' Church.

As you have seen, this is a Council meeting, but as I sit here under this magnificent Doom painting this is clearly just not your everyday council meeting.

Most of our meetings are conducted in Salisbury Guildhall. This St Thomas' is our parish church and it is a real pleasure to have them host us once again for our annual Mayor making event, but the first since 2019. This is very much for all the Councillors elected for their first time in 2021 their first opportunity to see how we have tried to celebrate our Mayor making ceremony in recent history.

For those of you fortunate enough to be able to enjoy a little something before we entered, that was very kindly courtesy of Côte.

After two years of Covid I feel people need and want to have things to look forward to and where I can I do wish to bring a sense of fun.

Joining us on our parade is Christopher the Giant and Hobnob the Hobby Horse with thanks through Cllr Sample but especially to Sarum Morris, Morris Dancers who are manning Christopher and Hobnob. This year is an important year for Sarum Morris who celebrate their 40th anniversary and are in fact doing 40 events to mark their 40 years. Indeed it could be said that just a few days ago my wife, the previous Mayor of Salisbury was seen to be walking prior to being invited to join in with Sarum Morris at the Salisbury Museum Spring Fayre!

It has been a very long time since we had Christopher the Giant parading in the City's important events but he is not the original. The original can be seen in Salisbury Museum where he has been effectively locked in for the last 40 years. The upgrade building works will hopefully see him released in the near future. He dates back to at least 1570 and was used by the Guild of Taylors to show off their skills,

his outfit presumably changing many times. An opportune plug whilst you are all here to visit our museums.

I have for as long as I can remember being able to read had an interest in what goes on in the City. Whilst the seeds that lead me to wanting to put myself forward to be a Councillor may have been there a long time, at no point did I ever imagine myself being sat before you wearing these robes and the Mayoral Chain. When I was first elected, like all newly elected Councillors I had a firm idea of what I wanted to achieve for my residents and wearing robes was not part of my equation. I was soon persuaded by the then City Clerk and Deputy Clerk that the robes and hats went with the role.

All towns have their own method for electing their Mayor and given its size Salisbury has a non political solution that gives all Councillors a fair crack at being able to serve as the Mayor. We are assumed to serve just once and for one year only, based in order of number of years of service and where it is the same we are sorted by percentage of vote when we were first elected. My wife having received a handful more votes when we were first elected in 2013 hence serving as Mayor before me. I am the 761st Mayor of Salisbury over the past 800 odd years.

I guess I should thank the last Mayor for giving up the chain of office!

It has been a real pleasure and privilege to serve as both her Consort and as Deputy Mayor. When Caroline took on the role we were still coming out of lockdown and it was very hard for anyone to make plans, now we are into much more normal times. As past Mayors, Penny and Derek Brown noted it was useful to have a year's gap between them taking on their respective terms as Mayor. With a very busy May and June diary soon filling up with Civic duties and anticipating a busy Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend I could probably do with a break, but it is what it is and now that I am wearing the chain I have clearly taken on the challenge!

I will take the opportunity to comment on how Caroline had positive impacts in the community. There are certain things that you do not know that you are going to deal with and the Salisbury train crash was certainly one of them. As a train driver working at the station on the evening it was doubly hard on Caroline as I was precluded from being able to help with responding to the press who I am grateful were all respectful of my inability to discuss the incident. Caroline managed so well as the front face of the City whilst also understanding the need to bring closure. There were many people who were very grateful for the thank you event held at Caroline's request at the Guildhall for those affected and who helped out with initial response and with repairs to the railway infrastructure.

As one of our residents remarked, Caroline has also brought joy on Facebook, one recent post of her being a good sport as she had put herself in the stocks with yours truly with the wet sponge in hand! The stocks were courtesy of the Salisbury Men's shed who are also kindly supporting the Mayor making event today. Perhaps roles might be reversed?

During my Mayoral year I wish to do as much as I can to support local businesses and tourism. With a view to increasing confidence in international travel it is important that Salisbury is marketed appropriately. Pictures of the Mayoral procession and Christopher the Giant help add to the sense of a place worth visiting, along with images of our Cathedral, our venues, creative arts and of course our proximity to Stonehenge.

My main focus however will of course be to promote my chosen mayoral charity. My wife and I have both shared a long interest in mental health and I had originally thought that I would follow that route. However two years of Covid and the hardship that has brought, I felt a strong need to have things we could look forward too. This thinking started to overlap with things that the council do anyway. As it was, I kept coming back to the same charity, Children's Chance who provide opportunities to children that would otherwise miss out. I believe that our positive experiences that we have as children can have life long positive impacts that really help shape our lives. Based in Salisbury they cover a 30 mile radius from Salisbury Cathedral. To explain I will read directly from their literature:

Children's Chance was set up in 1998 to give all children, regardless of financial background, the ordinary chances that we so often take for granted, such as swimming, music, tennis, dance or horse riding lessons. Nearly all the children come from families supported by welfare benefits – people who have been made redundant, those who are ill, others who are disabled, some whose partner has left the family home, and others who simply live on a very low income. Families in these circumstances may hardly be able to pay the bills or provide food, let alone a music or a swimming lesson, but our philosophy is that no child is responsible for his or her financial welfare, and that all children are equal and entitled to basic opportunity. We fund over forty different activities -piano, gymnastics, football workshops, singing lessons and so on, in over sixty towns and villages. Some children are talented, and we help them develop their talent, others just enjoy their activity, and for others we help provide an escape from social exclusion. It doesn't matter how good the children are, at least they have had the chance...

Like all charity fund raising it has become harder with the way in which people are less likely to carry cash. So if people wish to donate online there will be information slips to pick up.

Children's Chance, CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code 40-52-40 Account No. 00012853

I will at the Guildhall reception allow an opportunity for Jane Miller to address you with good work that Children's Chance do and who next year will celebrate their 25th anniversary. Whilst Jane will be very grateful to receive as much in the way of donations as possible, my main challenge that has been set is to help raise the profile of the charity to the point that people passing in the street know about it as widely as other well-known charities. Clearly I am open to the support of others in helping me promote Children's Chance and reliant on the goodwill of local press and radio to cover my Mayoral charity.

Now as Mayor, as I draw to a close, I should announce who my Mayoress is and I am sure it will be of no surprise to any of you that it is my wife Caroline, who goes from having served two years as Deputy Mayor during Covid, one year as Mayor and now, finally a year as my Mayoress!