

The Guildhall  
Market Place  
Salisbury  
Wilts  
SP1 1JH



**Contact:** J 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** : 17 May 2021  
**Meeting held in** : The Guildhall, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 5.30pm

---

Present:

Chair: Cllr C Corbin

Vice Chair: Cllr T Corbin

Cllrs: A Bayliss, J Bolwell, J Broom, S Charleston, V Charleston, P Cunningham, B Dalton, C Hibbert, S Hocking, A Hoque, J King, C McGrath, M Mewse, J Nettle, A Riddle, E Rimmer, R Rogers, P Sample, C Stanway, I Tomes, M Webb and John Wells

Officers: Annie Child and Janine Whitty

The outgoing Mayor John Walsh and Mayoress Carrie Walsh were also present.

---

The Retiring Chairman, Mr John Walsh, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Retiring Chairman began by asking Cllr J Nettle to share a few words about Past Mayor John Collier who died recently. Cllr Nettle spoke the fondness and appreciation about John Collier, and his contribution to the life of the City.

This was followed by a minute's silence observed by all present.

### **1049. Election of the Mayor 2021/22:**

The Retiring Mayor called for nominations for Mayor for 2021/22.

Cllr Jeremy Nettle proposed that Cllr Caroline Corbin be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2021/22. This was seconded by Cllr Brian Dalton.

As there were no other nominations it was

**Resolved that:**

1049.1. Cllr Caroline Corbin be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2021/22.

*The new Mayor Cllr Caroline Corbin took the Chair.*

**1050. Apologies:**

All councillors were present.

**1051. Public Questions/Statement Time:**

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

**1052. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

**1053. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last meeting of Full Council held on 8 March 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**1054. Declaration of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**1055. Dispensations:**

No dispensations were requested.

**1056. Retiring Chairman's Announcements:**

The retiring Chairman thanked Cllr Corbin for all her work as Deputy Mayor. Mr Walsh gave an account of his two years as Mayor and thanked those who supported him, including his Mayoress Carrie Walsh. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes.

**1057. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman gave her acceptance speech expressing her delight and appreciation at being elected Mayor, and thanking the retiring Mayor for his service during the past two years. She welcomed all present to the return of face-to-face meetings. Her speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes.

**1058. Election of the Deputy Mayor 2021/22:**

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2021/22.

Cllr Atiqul Hoque proposed that Cllr Tom Corbin be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2021/22. This was seconded by Cllr Sven Hocking.

There were no other nominations, and it was

**Resolved that:**

1058.1. Cllr Tom Corbin be elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2021/22.

**1059. Matters, if any, which by reason of special circumstances the Chairman, decides should be considered as a matter of urgency:**

No matters were raised.

There were 4 members of the public and 1 member of the press present.

The meeting closed at 6.18pm.

**Mr John Walsh**  
**Retiring Mayor's Farewell Speech 17 May 2021**

I am delighted to be the first person to congratulate Cllr Caroline Corbin on her election as our 760<sup>th</sup> Mayor. As many will know she has been the Deputy Mayor for two years, so is splendidly prepared, ready, and raring to go.

More importantly Caroline has been a hardworking and conscientious Councillor since 2013 serving her residents with the added responsibility of being my Deputy Mayor.

I thank you Caroline for that dedication to the City and for your unfailing support to me over the last 2 years. I know this important office has passed into the safest of hands and I hope you will have a wonderful year leading the City out of lockdown. Talking of which, I am naturally deeply disappointed that this Mayor Making is but a shadow of its normal self. I very much hope that, next year, it will return to its former glory and that the ceremonies and traditions will once again be seen to reflect the hundreds of years of having a Mayor of Salisbury.

Mayor Making is important, as it allows Councillors to network with all the representatives of the numerous organisations which make up this City and the area around it. We are stronger and more effective when we have the opportunity to meet and talk to people. Whilst I don't know any details, I am delighted that the new Mayor hopes to hold an event in the summer if circumstances allow.

By tradition, this address is an opportunity for me to reflect on my two years in office and hopefully to give an indication of some of the events the Mayor gets involved in. There are two distinct tasks for the Mayor:

to be the Chair of the City Council

and to be Salisbury's First Citizen

The former was a relatively simple task thanks to the quality and economy of expression of my fellow councillors.

In the latter role I must mention that the Mayoress has proved to be a vital support and in Carrie's words her role was "to get me to the right place at the right time, in the correct dress with speech at the ready". A large post-it note on the front door saying "Have you got your chain?" proved useful on numerous occasions.

My first year in office started with a continental flourish only 5 days after Mayor Making with a visit to Xanten in North Germany in the excellent company of Salisbury Xanten Twinning Association members to help open Xanten's enhanced Kur Park which encircles the medieval walls. Our other twin city, Saintes, in France invited us to their Bastille Day Celebrations, this time alone, but warmly welcomed by

the French “Twinners” Both visits were jam packed with events, tours and meals and I was thankful that Mayor Making at the end of my term would not include a “weighing in” It was all most enjoyable and a great opportunity to reassure our friends that, while this Country may have fallen out of love with the European Union, we were still very keen to preserve and foster our links with Xanten and Saintes. I strongly encourage everyone to visit Xanten & Saintes. You will receive a warm welcome: the friendships forged between individuals are the real source of lasting European harmony and we have so much in common with our twin cities.

Citizenship Ceremonies at Bourne Hill were always a pleasure and it is indeed astonishing and humbling to learn of the time, money and determination people put into attaining British Citizenship. Being British is still valued by those not unthinkingly born into it.

The Novichok incident was still fresh in people’s minds in 2019 and members of the French Masarati Car Club arrived in early June in twenty-one gleaming vintage cars to demonstrate their solidarity with the City. In complete contrast later in the year and arriving by charabanc, we also hosted a group of civic leaders from the Midlands bent on a similar mission of friendship and support.

Recalling the Triennial Festival Service with the Mothers’ Union in the Cathedral and later the Federation of Women’s Institute Centenary Service brings back memories of a glorious technicolour parade of hats and a deep insight and admiration for the voluntary work these organisations do in their communities. However, it was not only the big events, but our visits to many smaller charities and organisations in Salisbury that were so interesting and thought provoking. It was a genuine privilege to talk and meet with so many people who give unstintingly of their time and their love to help others less fortunate than themselves. It has been fascinating to hear how small and tentative ideas to help others have blossomed and grown into effective charities or organisations. There is a rich seam of such kindnesses ranging from Encircles with their soup kitchen, to Salisbury Trust for the Homeless and Silver Salisbury which only last month delivered 400 Sunday teas to elderly and lonely residents. A visit to The Talking Newspaper for Blind People in Salisbury and being interviewed for Radio Odstock at Salisbury Hospital brought home how much the spoken word means to people. The effects of the pandemic lockdown over the last 14 months brought out the ‘can do’ spirit in many of our local communities who organised support for the vulnerable and elderly. Our “city in the country” certainly has a warm and beating heart and I am proud of our Salisbury citizens.

Life in Salisbury naturally encompasses our business and cultural activities and, as Mayor, I have had a unique opportunity to learn so much more about how we function as a City. Apart from opening premises ranging from footwear to pop-up office space, Retirement and Care homes there were visits to places as diverse as the Chapel Nightclub, our city CCTV centre and Nichols & Harris Bakery in Churchfields.

The South Wiltshire Business of the Year Awards was an inspiring evening showcasing our local entrepreneurs, whose innovation, enthusiasm, and energy revealed a deep commitment to their businesses. I hope that has carried them through the trials and tribulations of lockdown to rise like Phoenix from the ashes in the coming months.

Salisbury is innovative in its cultural offerings and draws audiences from across the county and much further afield. Wiltshire Creative has brought together the energy and ambition of the Arts Centre, International Arts Festival and the Playhouse. In my first year, it was marvellous to be present at concerts, art exhibitions and new plays. We also appreciated and enjoyed a variety of school concerts, Ukulele performances, recitals, talks, and plays produced by local clubs and organisations. Despite the lockdown all are working hard to provide new entertainment this summer and autumn.

The Charter Fair, held by the Showmen's Guild and popular with Salisbury citizens, is opened by the Mayor, supported by the Councillors. We are all encouraged to have a go on the rides, and it is quite a sight to watch councillors, robes flying, becoming so competitive on the dodgems. I hope the Fair can return this year. It was great fun too to join with our Indian Community last year as they celebrated Diwali – a vibrant evening of dance, music, and delicious curry.

In so much of the advertising for Salisbury events we have the backdrop of our famous Cathedral which prompts me to mention the fine body of Churchmen and women who together serve our City providing comfort, support and inspiration. I would particularly like to mention St Thomas' Church and Canon Kelvin Inglis who, throughout my extended reign, has given the Mayor and Council officers unstinting support as we navigated the numerous changes in content and style of the various Civic services.

While talking on the subject of faith, I would like to thank Cllr Hoque for organizing my visit to our local mosque which I found interesting and very moving. I also opened the new Cemetery near St Peter's Estate and found it to be beautifully laid out with all the promise of a peaceful and reflective garden of remembrance as it matures.

In my first Mayoral year we ventured out to support our neighbouring Mayors and to spread the word that Salisbury was back on its feet after Novichok and flourishing. Most Mayors in the County, known between us as "The Chain Gang", try to support each other at events be it Mayor Making, Civic Awards, special church services or Charity Balls. A summer visit to Marlborough was novel as their Council sponsored a re-enactment of the battle of 1642 when the Royalist Army of Charles I besieged the town to bring its citizens to heel. Cavaliers swaggering down the High Street and a ragged army of pikemen being drilled seemed very authentic. The mounted and foot skirmishes on the Common were exciting and appealed to a veteran like me.

Talking of the military, one of the unexpected highlights of my first year was, of course, Armed Forces Day. We are a City with both a strong veteran contingent and a large serving community around us. The city always celebrates Armed Forces Day, but in 2019 it was on a rather grander scale as Salisbury was unexpectedly chosen to host the 3-day National Event. I felt very honoured to represent the City and take the parade salute with HRH The Princess Royal. It was a really splendid weekend and a lot of hard work had gone into it by the military and both council staffs.

Summer and autumn 2019 continued with a rich variety of events. On the Education side, opening Puddleducks Pre-School Extension in Harnham in the company of Donald Duck was a complete contrast to processing from City Hall in our robes to the Cathedral with some very elated students for the Graduation Ceremony of Wiltshire College. Another impressive Graduation was the retrospective award of Bachelor of Education to Alumni from Old Sarum College, who prior to 1978, had only been eligible for a Teaching Certificate. Over 300 women from all over the UK and abroad received their Degrees and the pride in the Cathedral from family and guests was palpable.

Memorial Services commemorating the major events in the First and Second World War are hugely significant, and it is a deep honour, as Mayor, to lay the wreaths on behalf of the City. I was determined in 2020 that our Remembrance Service would still be held despite all the various restrictions. It was simple but still very moving.

Two events in the Autumn were special: The Salisbury Civic Day which I held to showcase the City to my fellow Mayors and their Clerks was a great success and an opportunity for us to show off local business, the Playhouse, the Cathedral and the Guildhall with behind-the-scenes tours.

The second event in October 2019 was linked to my Mayoral Charity and, looking back, it was my favourite event in my extended term of office. It was a Vintage Tea Party held here in the Guildhall - complete with a crooner, a Vintage Mayor (me) and HRH Sophie Countess of Wessex who was definitely not vintage, but a charming and delightful guest of honour. We were celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of South Wilts Mencap and it was attended by members, parents, carers and supporters. It was a fabulous, joyful afternoon with prizes for the winning designs of our Mayoral Christmas Card, other awards and a splendid tea and is still talked about by our members.

At this point I just want to mention that my Mayoress, Carrie, in parallel with keeping me sorted out and attending our engagements also kept busy organising events to raise the profile of and increase funds for our Mayoral Charity, South Wilts Mencap. Carrie & I married in late 2017, but she only arrived permanently in Salisbury in September 2018, knowing nobody. Undaunted, and by the time I took office in May 2019, she and a small band of volunteers from the Charity, had various events planned, kicking off with our inaugural Dinner Dance in the Guildhall for 120 people,

complete with Salisbury Big Band. We had some memorable events throughout the year and an online Quiz during lockdown. I am so grateful to Carrie and her helpers for organising this aspect of Mayoral life.

The Salisbury Carnival is another much loved tradition in the City whereby the Mayor, Councillors and helpers walk alongside the parade of floats shaking buckets to collect pennies for the Mayor's Charity. Our Carnival night was fun but a very sodden affair in a continual downpour that left us tipping water out of the collecting buckets and drying the coins with towels before they could be counted. Yes, the Mayor does that too!

The Lantern Parade and the switch on of the Christmas lights were also memorable for heavy rain which seemed guaranteed at every large open-air event I attended.

Christmas was a wonderful bonanza of Carol Concerts and Nativity Plays which we thoroughly enjoyed and I am sure we could have that as our specialist subject on MasterMind.

We slipped away to Egypt in January for a short break checking out the pyramids in Cairo and stunning tombs in the Valley of the Kings. As we sailed up the River Nile in the guise of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, international news began to pay increasing attention to a new virus spreading in China.

February and most of March continued as normal, but the writing was on the wall. Suddenly our calendars became page after page of red CANCELLED notices.

I felt very honoured to be asked by my fellow councillors to continue for a second term due to the impact of Covid and was reassured by comments that "there won't be much happening, so you will have little to do" Hmmmm...yes, there were periods of quiet in my second year, but it was not as quiet as you might expect. Council business in Salisbury and Wiltshire continued apace with the added pressure of a steep learning curve to attend and sometimes manage online meetings. Your Mayor, always wary of what the computer might do unasked, was much helped by the Mayoress and eventually mastered the virtual arts and carried on.

It was sad for us all that so much in Salisbury and surrounding areas simply had to be cancelled because of Covid. However, events were held online during the year and it was remarkable how people adapted. We attended several events and celebrations including a Ball, fundraising drinks parties (Bring your own), Quizzes, and the installation of the new Sheriff. Formal online events retained the appropriate dress codes with me in full Mayoral robes and chain or Black Tie and the Mayoress loved the chance to dress up too. - even though we were in our sitting room drinking our own champagne. I promise you we never wore our slippers with our finery.

As we moved in and out of lockdowns, the Mayoress and I, often with Cllr Nettle then Leader of the Council, stepped out around the City visiting the market, shops and restaurants and generally trying to support and encourage our businesses.



I was very saddened when the marvellous celebrations planned for the Cathedral's 800th year were dramatically curtailed, especially after so much hard work by its' staff. A "surprise" visit by HM The Queen had been planned together with concerts and events in and around the Cathedral so it was very disappointing. However, the Cathedral and Event Producers rallied round and devised a remarkable programme of events online. I was honoured to be asked to give an introductory video talk for the launch and Carrie filmed me in full regalia in our garden with Old Sarum as an appropriate backdrop. The comments of curious passers by stopping to ask, "what was the Mayor up to now?" meant it took us several goes to get it in the can. Whilst preparing it I was intrigued to discover that during the Cromwellian period the Mayor and Council inherited responsibility for the upkeep of the Cathedral. That must have put the precept charge up.

Christmas this year was low key, but we got involved with some of the online events and visited residential and care homes socially distanced and outside of course.

Our last two engagements, both at a few days' notice, illustrate that you never know what is coming up. We opened the Crown Paint shop on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April surrounded by balloons and four days later attended Choral Evensong with Prayers for HRH Prince Phillip The Duke of Edinburgh in Salisbury Cathedral. It could not have been more of a contrast.

Being the Mayor is something that simply cannot be done alone, so I thank all who have helped me in the last two years: Our City Clerk and our officers, my fellow Councillors, Guildhall support staff, Canon Revd. Kelvin Inglis Rector at St Thomas', my Mayoral Chaplain, Revd Sarah Wood-Roe and the many organisations and people who supported me when I was planning events from the Civic Day to Remembrance Sunday. Thank you all...

It has been said by many before me but the greatest pleasure of being Mayor is talking with so many people going about their business of improving the quality of life of others. It never failed to impress me. It has been a real privilege and an education to serve as Mayor and to realise how lucky we all are to live in Salisbury.

I wish you all well in your service as Councillors – do enjoy!

God bless you all.

I will now present the past Mayoress's brooch to Carrie.

**Councillor Caroline Corbin**  
**The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury**  
**Her speech on the occasion of her election to Mayor 17 May 2021**

It is an honour and privilege to finally take up the chain of office as Mayor of Salisbury. I was concerned that I may have just been listed in Wikipedia as a nearly there, Mayor. Also, according to wikipedia I am only the 7<sup>th</sup> female Mayor of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 760 Mayors altogether. We really do need more women in politics!

Firstly, my thanks must go to John Walsh and his lovely wife Carrie who held the position for two years to give Salisbury some stability throughout the pandemic. They did of course attend various events both in the virtual world and physically where able to. All of which are documented with military precision. They are both assets to the community and I hope to be able to carry on in the same way.

Thanks, must also go to the electorate in the Bemerton Heath ward who have elected me again to serve them and I hope, I can continue to improve things within the ward and expand across Salisbury in a supportive way.

Jeremy and Brian thank you for your nominations I look forward to working with you both throughout this administration.

Although I have not formally committed to any charity it comes as no surprise I will be fundraising for Mental health and LGBT causes throughout my Mayoral year.

However, as I am not aligned with any charity I would love to support the Secret Spitfire fund and the many other good causes which benefit the residents of Salisbury and I hope that all councillors across all parties feel able to support me in doing that.

My final thank you must go to Tom who will be both consort and Deputy Mayor subject to his nomination in a few moments, so I am confident that between the pair of us Salisbury residents and community causes will be well backed.