

Salisbury City Council
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Minutes

Meeting of : Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council
Date : 11 May 2024
Meeting held in : Church of St Thomas and St Edmund
Commencing at : 12.10pm

Present:

Chair: Cllr S Hocking

Vice Chair: Cllr E Rimmer

Cllrs: A Bayliss, J Bolwell, J Broom, B Dalton, S Charleston, V Charleston, T Corbin, J King, C Hibbert, T Last, C McGrath, J Nettle, R Rogers, C Stanway, and I Tomes.

Officers: Asa Thorpe and Thomas Simpkins

The Chief Executive Officer, Asa Thorpe, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1082. The Election of the Mayor 2024 - 2025:

The Chief Executive Officer, Asa Thorpe, called for nominations for Mayor for 2024 – 2025.

Cllr Ricky Rogers proposed that Cllr Sven Hocking be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2024/25. This was seconded by Cllr Chris Stanway.

As there were no other nominations it was unanimously

Resolved that:

1082.1. Cllr Sven Hocking be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2024/25.

The new Mayor Cllr Sven Hocking signed his Acceptance of Office and took the Chair.

1083. Apologies:

1083.1. Apologies were received from Cllrs L Blackwood, C Corbin, A Hoque and A Riddle

1084. Public Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by the public.

1085. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

There were no questions or statements submitted by Councillors.

1086. Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting Annual Meeting of Full Council held on 13 May 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1087. Declaration of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

1088. Dispensations:

No dispensations were requested.

1089. Retiring Chairman's Announcements:

The Chief Executive Officer thanked all those present for attending Mayor Making and made a speech reflecting on the retiring Chairman's, Cllr Atiquil Hoque's year as Mayor. Asa Thorpe gave an account of Cllr Hoque's year as Mayor and thanked those who supported Cllr Hoque during his active and engaging year of events and activities. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes.

1090. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman gave his acceptance speech expressing his delight and appreciation at being elected Mayor and presented his Mayoress with her ceremonial chain for the forthcoming year. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes. The Mayor thanked the past Mayoral Guide and Scout, Jess Johnson and Arthur Graham for their support to the Past Mayor, and provided Jess Johnson with their Mayor's Badges.

The Mayoral Scout and Guide for the year will be Ryan Warden and Lottie Waterworth and Isabelle Grover as the Reserve Scout.

1091. The Election of the Deputy Mayor 2024 - 25:

The Mayor called for nominations for Deputy Mayor for 2024 -25.

Cllr Paul Sample proposed that Cllr Ed Rimmer be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2024/25. This was seconded by Cllr Chris Stanway.

There were no other nominations, and it was unanimously.

Resolved that:

1091.1. Cllr Ed Rimmer be elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2024/25.

The new Deputy Mayor Cllr Ed Rimmer signed his Acceptance of Office and took the Vice Chairman's seat.

1092. 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 12.38pm.

Retiring Chairman's speech
from Asa Thorpe, Chief Executive Officer of Salisbury City Council
reflecting on Councillor Atiqul Hoque's term as
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury

Dignitaries, honoured guests, and most importantly members of the public,
As we gather here today, we come together not only to honour the achievements of a dedicated public servant but also to reflect on the resilience and strength of our community in the face of adversity.

Over the past year our Mayor tirelessly served as our first citizen, here in our city. Throughout his tenure he demonstrated unwavering commitment, compassion and dedication to the betterment of the New Sarum and its residents.

With his direction we witnessed progress and positive change. From initiatives to reward and acknowledge the hard work of our young people, presiding over multiple citizenship ceremonies at Bourne Hill, and even his tireless fundraising for good causes. His energy and positivity are something which we must acknowledge and try to take the positive from.

However, as we celebrate his achievements today, we must also acknowledge the challenges which he and his family have borne. It is with a heavy heart that we address the past Mayor's current situation. He is not here today as he awaits Wiltshire Council's investigation to conclude.

While this turn of events may cast a shadow, let us not forget the contributions and accomplishments that have shaped our town for the better. It is no mean feat that our outgoing Mayor, together with his Mayoral Charities has raised over £31,000. I know that he will be pleased to have contributed in some small way to the work of the Wilton Riding for the Disabled Association, Salisbury & Wilton Rotary Clubs and Salisbury Hospice.

It is crucial that we come together as a community and support one another and uphold values of transparency, accountability and inclusion. Let us remain steadfast in our commitment to the principles of good governance and integrity, ensuring that the trust and confidence of our residents are upheld.

As we bid farewell to our past Mayor, let us express our gratitude for his service and dedication to Salisbury. We look forward with positivity, working towards a brighter future for generations to come.

Thank You

Councillor Sven Hocking
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury
His speech on the occasion of his election to Mayor, on Saturday 11 May 2024

Here we are, Sven Hocking, me, Mayor of Salisbury....who would have thought...definitely not me...and looking round I am clearly not the only one...

If Facebook had been around in the late 1970's...and 80's...and 90's you'd probably be listening to somebody else...

Deputy Lieutenant, High Sherriff, Mayor of Xanten, Members of Parliament, Mayors, distinguished guests, our twinning friends, Councillors, friends and family...Welcome and thank you for attending to St Thomas's Church on this most excellent day.

First, a few thank you 's...The City Council for laying on the event today, ... Kelvin Inglis, the Rector of St Thomas's who has given the use of the Church today for this very special occasion...to the outgoing Mayor Cllr Atiqul Hoque in recognition of the money he has raised for his chosen Charities, who I know are very grateful... to the outgoing Mayoral Scout and Guide...to you all who have turned out en masse today ...and finally, to the residents in my Ward who have been kind enough to keep electing me... you have no idea of what you have done...my grateful thanks.

It is funny how one's perception of a place changes over time. I moved to Salisbury, Whiteparish actually, so just up the road, in 1978 when my dad, who can't be here today for reasons ill pick up on later, was transferred from MOD Portreath in Cornwall to CDE at Porton Down and my introduction to Salisbury began when, amazingly, my parents managed to get me over the line for a place at Bishops Wordsworth's School. At the time the Cathedral played a significant part in school life, it was always there, over the back wall, ha, over the wall...there used to be a really leafy tree in the grounds in front of the Chapter office which we would climb up for a crafty lunchtime cigarette as we though nobody could see us, well, that was completely dispelled when I came round the corner from the High Street gate one day and there were so many boys smoking in the tree it looked like it was on fire...I digress, back the Cathedral...there was Speech Day, Founders Day, any other number of other days, including a Cathedral Service when the whole school would decamp for assembly once a month. So I, and others, would catch the late bus, alight by the College rather than the bus station, amble slowly through the Friary and arrive just too late to follow the entourage to the Cathedral. Result, missed Cathedral Assembly with added benefit of a free period in which to do the homework I should have done the night before. By the way, before you think this was just me, one of the aforementioned "others" on said bus, was one of the City's past Mayors!!

So back in the day, If the Cathedral had fallen down, I probably wouldn't have cared. Anyhow, I finished the Sixth form with parting words from the then Headmaster, Reggie Evans on my final School report..."If Hocking had paid as much attention to his academic studies as he did to his fishing, he could have achieved so much more...." Honestly, if he was still here to see this, he'd be having a cardiac arrest right about now...

Time marches on, I found gainful employment as a buyer at Racal Electronics in Salisbury which meant ditching the jeans and leather jacket, and having to temper my motorcycling maverick traits with the professionalism that comes with a suit and tie. Although still living in Whiteparish, Salisbury, became less the Cathedral dominated City that I had to put up with at school but my now place of work... perceptions changing...step forward another six or seven years and I decided it was time to go and see a bit of the world, so I quit my job, booked a plane

ticket and headed for Australia, New Zealand and America.

Nealy year passed and I find myself back at in the UK, having spent my last few dollars on a copy of the Sunday edition of the New York Times at JFK, so couldn't even afford a bus ticket to get back to Salisbury from the airport. After a few phone calls I'd manage to scrounge a lift back from Heathrow and as I neared the City, the first thing I saw, before anything else, was the Cathedral Spire...I was home...hadn't really thought like that before...a little more... perceptions changing...

Out of the blue, a couple of months later, my old boss at Racal heard I was back, called me up and offered me a job, I bit his arm off...six months back in the old job he comes and sees me to let me know that there was an opportunity coming up with the firm in Saudi Arabia, would I be interested?...I bit off his other arm... Four months in Riyadh turned into the best part of four years and the five years after that were spent setting up factories and production lines in the middle east, far east and Eastern Europe. But each time, retuning back from all these places, and don't get me wrong, I loved the work and the travel, it was always good to be back in Salisbury...home.

Somewhere in all of this, my relationship with Marcia had clearly come to be a permanent thing and it was time to put down some roots. This is the same Marcia that nagged me constantly, for years, about how much time all the "Councillor stuff" was taking up, who, when it dawned on her that she was going to be the Mayoress of Salisbury had a radical shift in position... "yay... fantastic, I'm off to by some new shoes and dresses"...Of all the places I had been, all the things that I had seen, Salisbury was the place that just felt right, and she felt the same. So we bought a house just outside the City centre, I remember the estate agent saying "just but anything that will do for now, nobody ever spends more than five years in their first house"...well, how wrong he was...thirty one years and four children later, we are still there, in our house, in our City, properly, our home.

In 2007 and we bought a little café business in Salt Lane and given business never stands still, we expanded into a few more premises and with Marcia having her own business as well, we became firmly embedded in the commercial side of the City, as well as living in it. New business and personal networks built, to the point it was rare for Marcia and I to walk through the City Centre with bumping into people we knew. Then, sometime in 2012, a there was a chance conversation in the Salt Lane café one lunchtime..."Hi Sven, there are local elections coming up, you've always pretty opinionated and always have plenty to say, you'd make a really good local Councillor?" to which my immediate response was, "What's a one of those then?"...Anyway 2013, elected to the City Council, and again in 2017, and again in 2021, ever creeping up the order of Mayoral precedence until this year...

I could go on for ages about what it's like and the things I have been involved in as a Councillor but there are two conversations that stand out over time which I will never forget, one at the beginning of my Councillor life, and the second some eleven years later. The ex-Clerk of the City Council is giving me daggers right now, I can feel it...

I was always pretty much used to doing my own thing and getting my own way, and rarely take no for an answer, and nobody tells me what to do, no change there...So I'd had been asked by a local business if they could open up the container at the skate park in Churchill Gardens out of which to sell soft drinks and bits for the kids skateboards and BMX bikes, what could possibly go wrong with that ? What I hadn't realised was that this had been tried before and then shut down as the brand of coke being sold wasn't the stuff you drink! – anyway the Clerk and I had a pretty forthright conversation and her parting comment was "We can't have rogue Councillors like you Cllr Hocking just going round doing whatever they like!!".. Rogue Councillor...hey,

...“We’ll see about that” I countered...so that relationship started off pretty frosty but, over time, I worked out that throwing toys out of prams got you very little, and a more colligate approach seemed to work better and sure enough, I started to get things done. Roll on to the Clerks last day only some six months back and I dropped into her office just to say a personal goodbye and good luck, so we chatted for a while and at the end her parting words were “Cllr Hocking, Sven, you are now a very much more “effective” Councillor – I’ve been called a lot of thing but never “effective” - but, the words that stuck were “and you are a much better person for it” And she was right, I am, and she had part in that which as I said, I won’t forget

In accordance with Mayoral traditions a few items

Firstly, the appointment of the Mayor’s Chaplain, and Kelvin Inglis from this very Church has offered his services and I have accepted, Kelvin, my grateful thanks.

Secondly the selection of a Mayoral Charity to support and fundraise for the duration of this term and this year will be no exception. I mentioned my Dad earlier, a few years ago now he suffered a heart attack in the Village shop in Whiteparish, the Wilts AA were called and responded, however as I recall, it turned out Hampshire AA were closer at the time so it they arranged for them to attend instead, while at the same time the Wilts AA helicopter was tasked to another call out. Dad unfortunately didn’t make it, but it wasn’t for the lack of trying. Add to that at least one of my kids friends have been medevacked to Southampton after seriously injuring themselves at the skatepark in Churchill gardens, and as motorcyclist, I have been present on two occasions where a rider has been air lifted from the ring road outside my house after a serious crash. So I am very pleased to announce that my Mayoral Charity for the year will be the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. They will have a stand at the GH and will give a you a brief introduction on our return.

Thirdly, a big thank you and presentation of badges to the outgoing Mayoral Scout and Guide, Arthur Graham and Jess Johnson, so if you both like to step forward please...

Fourthly, the appointment of the Mayoral Scout and Guide for the coming year who, I am delighted to announce, will be Ryan Warden and Isabelle Grover, and their reserve Lottie Waterworth , step forward and give us a wave...

Lastly, Could I invite the Deputy Mayoress to come forward and accept the position and Chain as the Mayoress of Salisbury...

I have given you a bit of my back story in the hope that you will understand why, for me, it is truly a great honour and absolute privilege to be elected as the Mayor of this fantastic City and why I will do my utmost to support, promote and represent it, and it’s residents, at every possible opportunity, to the very best of my abilities and I will endeavour to repay the faith and trust that has been vested in me. I thank you all.

Ok, that’s enough from me for now as we have other formalities to get through, and personally I need a drink...but, in the words of the finest actor of all time, from the finest film of all time...

I’ll be back...