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SALISBURY  
CITY COUNCIL



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# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council  
**Date** : 19 May 2018  
**Meeting held in** : The Church of St Thomas and St Edmunds, Salisbury  
**Commencing at** : 12 Noon

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Present:

Chair: Cllr J Lindley

Vice Chair: Cllr M Osment

Cllrs: J Baber MBE, S Berry, J Broom, D Brown OBE, C Corbin, T Corbin, K Daley, M Dean, A Foster, S Hocking, A Hoque, Dr M McClelland, F Moody, J Nettle, C Rogers OBE and J Walsh.

Officers: Annie Child, Bethan Viney and Cathy Titcombe

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The Mayor, Cllr John Lindley welcomed everyone to St Thomas'.

Cllr Lindley opened the Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council by calling for nominations for Mayor for 2018/19.

## **774. Election of the Mayor for 2018/19:**

Cllr Jeremy Nettle proposed that Cllr Mike Osment be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing municipal year 2018/19. This was seconded by Cllr Frogg Moody.

As there were no other nominations it was resolved unanimously that Cllr Mike Osment be elected Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2018/19.

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, Mrs Annie Child.

**The new Mayor Cllr Mr Mike Osment took the Chair**

**775. Apologies:**

Apologies were received from Cllr B Dalton, J Farquhar, S Jackson, L Sirman and I Tomes.

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

There were no questions submitted by the public.

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

There were no questions submitted by Councillors.

**778. Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting of Salisbury City Council held on 13 May 2017 were approved and signed by the Chair.

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

The Chairman welcomed the new Mayor and guests and before he gave a resume of the last year he thanked a number of people who had supported him, including all the City Council Staff, most especially Cathy Titcombe and her team for all the help and support, The Revd. Jonathan Plows for being his Chaplain and for all his help and advice, fellow Cllr Mrs Jo Broom for being the chair of his fundraising committee. He also thanked the Mayoral Scout Tim Baker and Mayoral Guide Mere Makasiale for their assistance throughout the year. Along with thanking his fellow councillors he also thanked Mrs Joan Gordon for being his Consort and friend during the last year, her support had been invaluable.

Following the remainder of his speech (full version available on request) he presented his Consort, Mrs Joan Gordon with her Consort's Badge and the Scout & Guide with their Badges.

**780. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman gave a speech outlining his background growing up near Salisbury, his service to the City and his hopes for his Mayoral year. His speech is shown in full at the end of these minutes.

**781. Election of the Deputy Mayor 2018/19:**

The Mayor called for any nominations.

Cllr Jo Broom proposed that Cllr John Walsh be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for the ensuing year 2018/19. This was seconded by Cllr Amanda Foster.

There were no other nominations and it was resolved unanimously that Cllr John Walsh be elected as Deputy Mayor of the City of Salisbury for 2018/19.

Cllr John Walsh then moved to the Deputy Mayor's seat and was vested with the Deputy Mayor's Chain of Office by the Mayor.

**782. 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 12:40pm

**Councillor Mike Osment,  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Salisbury  
His Speech on the Occasion of his Election to Mayor  
19 May 2018**

Good afternoon distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for attending today's Mayor Making Ceremony. I would like to give a special welcome to our Mayoral visitors from our sister cities in America: Mayor Al Heggins and her Consort Isaac Heggins from Salisbury North Carolina and Mayor Jake Day from Salisbury, Maryland who is accompanied by the City Council President, Jack Heath and the City Administrator, Julia Glanz. It is also wonderful to welcome representatives from some of our local schools and many of our local organisations.

On behalf of the City I would like to thank Councillor John Lindley and his Consort Mrs Joan Gordon for the service and dedication they have given to the City during the last year in their Mayoral roles. I would also like to thank Councillor Jeremy Nettle for his kind words on proposing me for Mayor and my good friend, Councillor Ian Tomes, for providing him with some personal information and anecdotes.

It is difficult to put into words my pride and excitement on becoming the 758th Mayor of my home city. I will give my all to the role and will positively promote the City whenever and wherever I can. Recent months have been an extremely difficult time for the City. I will work with the Leaders of Salisbury City Council and Wiltshire Council to offer Mayoral input into the recovery programme for the City. Tourism is vital to the economy and prosperity of the City. Some of you may know that I was due to become Mayor in 2009, but unfortunately, I lost my Council seat in the May 2009 elections. After the initial disappointment, I accepted that it was something that was not meant to be, so to now have this second opportunity to be Mayor makes it extremely special for me. Last year, when I was nominated for Deputy Mayor, when the Mayor asked whether there were any other nominations, a small boy from the audience shouted "Daddy" - fortunately for me, this proposal was not seconded!

I was born at Salisbury District Hospital (which was then known as Odstock Hospital). I was raised in Wilton and attended the local primary and secondary schools. I am extremely proud of my working class roots, growing up on a Council estate in Wilton. It influenced and shaped my beliefs and principles. One of my main memories from primary school was the class having a test paper placed in front of them, the content of which was foreign to me. I subsequently discovered that this was the 11+ test, and I had failed the first stage. The label of failure and the limited expectations of what you would achieve had a profound effect on my confidence and self-esteem, and for many like me. For this reason, I have always been a supporter of a true Comprehensive education system for all children and young people. With reference to my secondary school, I recall a school report stating that I had made good academic progress, but I needed to master my paper round and arrive at 8.45am with the other students. Upon leaving school, I served a 5 year apprenticeship in the printing industry and subsequently worked for local Salisbury based companies before spending 2 years in Saudi Arabia, managing the printing department of the Royal Saudi Airforce. I left the print industry in 1987 to follow a career in social work.

I was involved in a number of youth projects and worked as residential care officer in a local children's home in Salisbury, before qualifying as a Social Worker at Ruskin College, Oxford in 1992. Since qualifying, and for the last 25 years, I have worked

with Young Offenders in the role of Youth Offending Officer. Although this remains my substantive post, I am currently on secondment to the role of Branch Secretary of Wiltshire Unison. It was during my time as an apprentice printer that I first became involved with Trade Union movement and joined the National Graphical Association. I am passionate about equality, social justice and defending worker's rights. Since working for Wiltshire Council, I have been a Union Steward with NALGO and then with Unison, when the new union was formed 25 years ago. I served as Branch Chair for a number of years before taking up my full time secondment as Branch Secretary in April 2017. I currently serve on the Unison South West Local Government Service Group Executive and on South West TUC Regional Council and Region Executive.

I first became a Labour Councillor on Salisbury District Council in 1995, representing Bulford ward. I changed wards in 1999, and represented Bemerton ward until Salisbury District Council ceased in 2009. I have been a Salisbury City Councillor representing Bemerton Ward since 2013, and I am currently the Leader of the Labour Group on Salisbury City Council.

Until February of this year I had served 18 years as a school governor, over 10 years at Westwood St Thomas School and the last 8 years at Harnham Infant School, where I was Chair of Governors for several years.

In my personal life, I have been married to Nikki for 24 years and we have two teenage children, Joe and Maya. Our extended family all live close by, with my sister and brother and their families in Tisbury and Nikki's mum, brothers, sister and nephew in Salisbury. In the little spare time that I have, I enjoy walking, real ale and camping with a group of good friends who all, like us, own a VW campervan. I'm a life-long Tottenham Hotspur supporter, and attend their home games when I can. I currently help with the Harnham Explorer Scout Unit, which brings back fond memories of my time in the Wilton Venture Scout Unit back in the mid-70s. I am delighted that so many of the friends that I share these interests and memories with are here today, along with our families, to share this special day.

I have enjoyed my career working with young people. I find it extremely satisfying when I meet people who I have previously worked with, many years later, who tell me that my intervention in their lives made a difference.

I wish to make promoting young people a central theme of my Mayoral year. Being a young person has always been a difficult time. However, the pressures and expectations on young people now are huge: the pressure to succeed academically, to find a secure job with a regular wage, to be able to afford independent accommodation and leave home, dealing with social isolation and the negative influence of drugs and a knife carrying culture, to name just a few. Social media creates communication platforms for young people, but we must also equip and encourage them to develop face to face communication skills. We must allow young people to explore and take risks in a safe environment; they need to know its ok to make mistakes as long as they reflect on their decision and the outcome and evaluate what they might do differently in the future. Above all we must respect and trust young people - they are the future of the City.

During my Mayoral year I want to visit as many Salisbury schools as possible, I want the children of the City to know the City's history and take pride in being part of the City. I would also like to introduce The Mayor's Junior Citizens Awards. These awards will recognize students who contribute positively to the school in a non-

academic way. For example, those who always think about and help others, those who challenge bullying, those who go out of their way to ensure that the child alone in the playground has a friend and those who will always have a go and demonstrate that taking part is more important than winning. I will be asking local schools to put forward nominations for these awards. Lack of finances can be a barrier to children and young people engaging in extra-curricular activities and school trips or developing a talent they have through coaching or tuition. Whilst some will have the finances to enjoy these experiences, for many, a simple desire to learn to swim can prove difficult if their family cannot afford to pay for swimming lessons. We need to ensure that as many children as possible have opportunities and experiences that enhance their lives and develop their self-esteem and confidence. It is for this reason that one of the charities that I will be supporting with my Mayor's Appeal is Children's Chance.

Children's Chance is a Salisbury based charity founded by Jane Miller, which, through financial assistance, aims to give children whose families are going through hard times, or have disadvantaged backgrounds, the opportunity to do things that would otherwise be denied to them. A lack of finances can also make it difficult for young people to continue into further education, training, or employment. Travel costs, course and materials fees and securing accommodation are just some of the barriers faced by young people with limited finances.

My second charity that I have chosen to support this year is another Salisbury based charity, The Rose Gale Trust. This charity was set up to honour the memory of Rose Gale, who founded the Wiltshire Council Bass Connection Youth Project in Salisbury. Rose was a highly respected Youth Worker, who I had the privilege of working with. The Rose Gale Trust supports young people by making grants to help them to undertake education and training courses, voluntary work, get employment and assist with accommodation costs such as deposits and furnishings, as well as providing support in a crisis. I hope that you will join me in supporting these two worthwhile charities.

I welcome the Reverend Kelvin Inglis, who has kindly agreed to act, as required, as the Mayor's Chaplain this year.

I had the idea of introducing the tradition of The Mayoral Scout and Guide when I was deputy Mayor in 2009, so it gives me particular pleasure to welcome Lilah Khan as the Mayoral Scout, Scarlett Brooking as the Mayoral Guide and Pip Thorpe as the reserve Mayoral Scout for 2018-2019.

I am pleased to be supported during my Mayoral year by my wife Nikki in her role as Mayoress and we are both very much looking forward to the year ahead.