



MINUTES OF THE MAYOR MAKING MEETING OF EVESHAM TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 9 MAY 2022
IN THE EVESHAM TOWN HALL AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor: Mark Goodge (Chairman)

Councillors: Robert Raphael, Norbert Tucker, Julie Tucker, Peter Knight, Nigel Deacon, Andrew Dyke, Wendy Dyke, Sarah Schaathun, Robert Hale, Marlene Sale, Jenny Johnson, Alan Booth, Frances Smith, Chrissy Smith

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs Tracy Predeth Locum (Town Clerk)
Mrs Carol Chambers

01/22 **APOLOGIES:**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Haines, J Haines and Cllr P Clifford

02/22 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
There were no declarations of Interest received.

03/22 **PRESENTATION OF THE CIVIC AWARD**
The Chairman presented the Civic award to Laura Van Toller of Evesham Anti-Litter.

04/22 **ADDRESS BY THE OUTGOING MAYOR**
Cllr Sue Amor addressed the council and gave thanks.

05/22 **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR**
RESOLVED: That Cllr Goodge be elected as Town Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal year.

06/22 **ADDRESS BY THE OUTGOING MAYOR**
Cllr Sue Amor addressed the council and gave thanks.

07/22 **ADJOURNMENT**
The meeting was adjourned to facilitate the exchange of mayoral regalia.

08/22 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE TOWN MAYOR**
Cllr Goodge, Town Mayor signed his Declaration of Office.

09/22 **ADDRESS BY THE TOWN MAYOR**
Cllr Goodge, Town Mayor provided the following address:
The last time I stood here at Mayor Making was three years ago in 2019, in the midpoint of a two-term stint as mayor. At the time, I expected that I would do a final year as mayor, then stand here again in May 2020 to hand over to my successor. And that would be it.

That, as we all know, didn't exactly happen as planned. The 2020 Mayor Making ceremony was first postponed, and then held by video conference featuring pre-recorded speeches by me and my successor. And then in 2021 it was held on video again. And this year, I'm back here again. Which wasn't expected either. But circumstances change, and sometimes we have to change with them.

It's good to be back here in the town hall and do this in person again. But we can't ignore all the reasons why we've had that gap. There are people who would have been here today, but are not, because they are among the victims of the past two years.

Before I talk about the future, which is what the Mayor's speech is supposed to be about, I'd ask you, if you are able to stand, to please stand with me as we observe a minute's silence to pay our respects to the members of our community who tragically lost their lives as a result of the Covid pandemic.

Looking forward, it would be lovely to be able to say that things are now back to normal and we can carry on as before. But that's not really true. Yes, we're back here in person again, which is wonderful. But there are huge challenges ahead in post-lockdown normality.

The economic consequences of lockdown, and more recently the war in Ukraine, are already being keenly felt. And things are likely to get worse before they get better.

Those challenges aren't unique to Evesham, of course. Across the country at this time of year, there will be councils looking to the new civic year with a degree of trepidation.

What we do have, though, are people who are used to dealing with challenges. There are people in this room who remember the devastating floods of 2007, and how the town recovered from that. As you arrived here this evening, you walked through a Market Square that's surrounded by flourishing cafes, bars and restaurants. The first time I came to a Mayor Making here, the retail units around the square were more than half empty.

Recovery is what we do here.

This town has what, in football parlance, is called bouncebackability. We get knocked down, but we get up again. I'm not going to go all Chumbawumba on you, but you ain't never gonna keep us down.

And that's not because we have such wonderful local government. As a local politician, I'd love to be able to claim that it is. But it isn't. We do our best. At least, I hope we do our best. But we're not the thing that really makes the difference.

What does make the difference is the people who live and work here.

The people who run our businesses, our events, our voluntary groups, our clubs, our churches, our schools.

The people whose time and effort is spent on working for a better future.

I'm not going to promise you that the town council will solve all the town's problems. But what I will promise is that we will always support those who are doing their best to solve them.

If that's you – and I hope it's you – then I hope you'll be willing to see the town council as a partner in what you're doing.

My role as Mayor is to support the work of the local community. This year is going to be different to the last time I stood here to say that. We've all got to find our way back to the new normal.

But I trust the people of this town to do that. I wouldn't be standing here now if I didn't.

I'm looking forward to working with you all as we face up to the challenges ahead of us.

And this time next year, I know I'm going to come back here and thank all of you for what you've achieved.

Moving on to the section of the agenda titled "Appointments", I'm happy to announce that my Mayoress will again be my wife, Emma, who successfully managed to avoid rolling her eyes too much when I told her I'd been asked to do another year.

The Mayor's Chaplain this year will be the Right Reverend Robert Paterson. Robert can't be here this evening as he has a prior commitment but he will be ready to take up his duties at our regular council meeting next month.

Traditionally, the Mayor appoints two Macebearers, one for each mace. However, one part of the new normal is that, with Covid still around, plans can be thrown awry at a moment's notice. So the Macebearers will be drawn from a rotating pool that will, initially, comprise Peter Stewart, Glen Lyon and Gary Hale.

The outgoing Mayor has already expressed her thanks to the council officers, but I'd like to add to that and specifically thank Carol Chambers for the sterling work she's put in to help organise this evening. And I'd like to thank Sian Purton, the manager of Wallace House, for organising the refreshments which will follow this meeting and taking that responsibility entirely off my back.

And I'd like to thank you, all of you, for coming this evening. It has been a struggle to get this organised, and I know that many of you didn't get your invitations until very late in the day. So your presence is very much appreciated, and I hope I'll be able to repay that over the course of the coming year.

Finally, one more thing for the future. This time next year, mayor-making will follow immediately after the next set of elections to Evesham Town Council.

If there's anyone in here who has been thinking about whether they should stand – or even if you haven't been thinking about it at all – I'd encourage you to put your hat into the ring. Local politics can be immensely frustrating at times, but it can also be very rewarding. If you're someone who has a vision for what we can achieve as a town, then it would be wonderful to see you sitting in one of these seats next year.

10/22 **APPOINTMENTS BY THE TOWN MAYOR**

The Town Mayor confirmed the following appointments:

- Mayoress
- Chaplain
- Macebearers

11/22 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

Resolved: To elect Cllr Sarah Schaathun as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming Municipal year.

12/22 **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned to allow the Deputy Mayor to robe.

13/22 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE DEPUTY MAYOR**

Cllr Sarah Schaathun, Deputy Mayor signed her Declaration of Office.

14/22 **DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

Resolved that the Council will hold its ordinary meetings on the the second Monday of every month at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Evesham Town Hall, with the exception of August when the Council is in recess, December, and May when the Annual Council Meeting (Mayor Making) commences at 7.00 pm.

15/22 **ADJOURNMENT**

Resolved: That the Council meeting is adjourned until 6.30 pm, Thursday 19 May 2022, for the consideration of business not completed on 9 May 2022 (if any) and other business listed on a separate agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Chairman

Date