

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY
HELD ON 12th MAY 2023

The Mayor, Cllr Miriam Moules, presided over the Annual Meeting of Carmarthen Town Council held in the Guildhall, Carmarthen, on Friday 12th May 2023, at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Heledd ap Gwynfor, Dai Evans, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John, Andy King, Arwel Lloyd, Ioan Matthews, Miriam Moules, Jeff Thomas, Wyn Thomas, Barry Williams, Emlyn Schiavone, Alun Lenny and Luned Voyle.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Angharad Jones-Leefe, Marc Ingram, Russell Sparks and Tom Defis.

2. Opening Exhortation

The proceedings opened with a prayer by Reverend Lorette Hinson the retiring Mayor's Chaplain.

3. Retiring Mayor's Address

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Miriam Moules welcomed everyone to the ceremony.

Cllr Miriam Moules outlined some of her personal highlights from her year as Mayor.

"From the Botanic Gardens to the Peace Race, from the Jubilee Torch to the Coronation parties, this year has been a year of connecting with the Carmarthen community. After the pandemic, there was an opportunity to say 'Thank You ' to the volunteers, with the town council and the Welsh Whisperer in the park.

I have spent time with the LGBT+ community – at Pride celebrations, and in the intense mourning after Brianna Jhey's death.

There have been moments of dispute about planning at the meetings, but on the whole, the spirit of the meetings was friendly, and I'm very grateful for that.

However, the things I've enjoyed the most have been the opportunity to engage with children and hear their voices. The teddy bears picnic in the summer, visits to the schools, a "letter to the future" competition, and the children's climate change conference; so many special memories.

There have been many vignettes, but the ones that stand out are:

*A young girl, who shares my name, trying on my chain, and realising that *she* could be mayor herself. Representation matters, people!*

The best dressed teddies – superheroes and bride/groom teddies and all the efforts that had gone into the event.

Hearing from younger parents and grandparents about what sort of town they want for their children, as well as from the children themselves. This has been the year of Local Motion, a project to make Carmarthen the happiest town in Wales, of listening and learning and acting upon.

Standing in silence as we remembered as a community those that have mattered to us.

As always, my thanks go to the team that makes this happen, headed up by Emma, Eleri, Wendy and Jenny and the tearoom and cemetery crews.

And of course, a big thank you to my partner Huw.”

Cllr. Miriam Moules expressed her best wishes to the incoming Mayor.

4. Election of Town Mayor of Carmarthen for 2023/24

On the motion of Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, seconded by Cllr. Barry Williams, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Wyn Thomas be elected as Mayor for 2023/24.

The new Mayor, Cllr. Wyn Thomas read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. The outgoing Mayor Cllr. Miriam Moules invested Cllr. Wyn Thomas with his chain of office.

The Mayor, Cllr. Wyn Thomas, presiding.

The Mayor, Cllr. Wyn Thomas, then made and subscribed the Oath of Admiralty.

Cllr Wyn Thomas thanked all Members for their faith in him and declared that it was both an honour and a pleasure to be elected Mayor of Carmarthen and that he was looking forward to the year ahead.

Cllr. Wyn Thomas thanked retiring Mayor, Cllr. Miriam Moules for her service over the past year.

Cllr. Wyn Thomas appointed Reverend Beti-Wyn James, Minister of Priordy Chapel, as Mayor's Chaplain and presented her with a framed picture of Guildhall Square as a token of his appreciation for her years' service as the Mayor's Chaplain, this being the tenth time she was to undertake the role.

Cllr. Wyn Thomas appointed Mrs Sylvia Perkins as his Mayoress. The retiring Mayor's Consort, Huw Garan, invested the new Mayoress with her chain.

5. Election of Deputy Mayor for 2023/24

On the motion of Cllr. Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone be elected as Deputy Mayor for 2023/24.

Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor, Cllr. Wyn Thomas invested Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone with the chain of office.

6. Election of Town Sheriff for 2023/24

On the motion of Cllr. Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor be appointed Sheriff of the Town for 2023/24.

7. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

At Cllr. Luned Voyle's proposal, seconded by Cllr. Ioan Matthews, it was **RESOLVED** that thanks be given to the retiring Mayor, Cllr. Miriam Moules, for her achievements as Mayor during the year.

8. Mayor's Sunday

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and announced that his Civic Service would be held on Sunday 14th May at 10.00 am at Priordy Chapel.

9. Closing Prayer.

The Reverend Beti-Wyn James, the Mayor's Chaplain, closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday 24th May at 7:30 pm at St Peter's Hall, Carmarthen.

The meeting closed at 7:20 pm.