

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
MAYOR MAKING CEREMONY
HELD ON 3rd MAY 2024

The Mayor, Cllr Wyn Thomas, presided over the Annual Meeting of Carmarthen Town Council held in the Guildhall, Carmarthen, on Friday 3 May 2024, at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Heledd ap Gwynfor, Tom Defis, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John, Andy King, Alun Lenny, Arwel Lloyd, Ioan Matthews, Emlyn Schiavone, Russell Sparks, Jeff Thomas, Wyn Thomas, Barry Williams, and Luned Voyle.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Dai Evans, Angharad Jones Leefe, Miriam Moules, Aled Williams.

2. Opening Exhortation

The proceedings opened with a prayer by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths.

3. Retiring Mayor's Address

The retiring Mayor, Councillor Wyn Thomas welcomed everyone to the ceremony.

Cllr Wyn Thomas outlined some of his personal highlights from his year as Mayor.

"It has been a huge honour and pleasure to be Mayor of Carmarthen during the year.

Thank you to the Mayoress, Sylvia Perkins, for being my support and for her company at all the events.

Also, thank you to Rev Beti Wyn James, my Chaplain for all her support and help.

Unfortunately, Beti Wyn is unable to be with us tonight as the date has changed at short notice, and she had made other arrangements. She would have liked to have been here.

During the year I have visited over 90 events as well as at least three council meetings each month. I've enjoyed them all.

Thank you for the welcome.

I would like to thank the Deputy Mayor, Emlyn Schiavone, and the Sheriff, Heledd ap Gwynfor for their support along with my fellow councillors on the Council – Thank you for your work.

Also, thanks to Eleri James, the Mayor's secretary for helping to make my work effective and enjoyable and keeping my diary in order.

Also, thanks to Emma Smith, our Clerk, Wendy Dickson, Deputy Clerk, and to all the council staff for their hard work.

During October, Sylvia organised an Evening of “Cawl a Chân” at the Quins Club. Thanks to the artists for giving up their time for free, and to everyone who helped. £2,500 was raised with £1,000 donated to Llanelli Breast Cancer Unit and £500 each to Glangwili Kidney Department, Glangwili Chemotherapy Department and Prostrate Cymru.

It's great to see the week of celebrating St David's Day parade going from strength to strength.

One of the events I particularly enjoyed was the ceremony of the appointment of Helen Jones as Senior Sheriff of Dyfed in March. Helen is with us tonight, congratulations to her.

Next Monday will see the annual Mayor's race through the streets of Carmarthen. £500 each will be donated to six local charities before the end of the month. Special thanks to Noelwyn and Sharon Daniel. Thanks also to the sponsors, council staff, all volunteers and the Mayor's Charity Committee for all their help.

An important post connected to the Mayor is the Admiral of the Port. We went again this year on our annual cruise down the river to Ferryside. Carmarthen is very fortunate to have great volunteers working hard in all areas.

We are fortunate in Carmarthen to have a very effective Mayor's Charity Committee to raise money for local charities on behalf of the Mayor. This year we raised £6,000 and the money was shared to a host of local charities. On Tuesday evening the Committee hosted a Fashion Show. A profit of £1,820 was made. Thanks to Helen Thomas for arranging the evening and to Ian and everyone else from the committee. Thank you to the Chair, Ian Williams and all Members of the committee for your hard work. Their hard work and commitment is fantastic. Keep going, without you, where would we be.

This year Carmarthen Town's Christmas lights were the best in the west. Thanks again to the Town Council staff.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to be Mayor of Carmarthen.

Best Wishes to Councillor Emlyn Schiavone, Mayor of Carmarthen Town for the current year".

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

On the motion of Cllr. Arwel Lloyd, seconded by Cllr. Jeff Thomas, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone be elected as Mayor for 2024/25.

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

The Mayor, Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone, presiding.

The Mayor, Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone, then made and subscribed the Oath of Admiralty.

Cllr Emlyn Schiavone 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. Emlyn Schiavone thanked retiring Mayor, Cllr. Wyn Thomas for his service over the past year.

Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone appointed Reverend Beti-Wyn James, Minister of Priordy Chapel, as Mayor's Chaplain.

Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone appointed Mrs Tina Schiavone as his Mayoress. The retiring Mayor's Mayoress, Sylvia Perkins, invested the new Mayoress with her chain.

5. Election of Deputy Mayor for 2024/25

On the motion of Cllr. Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr. Tom Defis, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor be elected as Deputy Mayor for 2024/25.

Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Mayor, Cllr. Emlyn Schiavone invested Cllr. Heledd ap Gwynfor with the chain of office.

6. Election of Town Sheriff for 2024/25

On the motion of Cllr. Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Russell Sparks be appointed Sheriff of the Town for 2024/25.

Cllr. Russell Sparks read and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

7. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor

At Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths' proposal, seconded by Cllr. Barry Williams, it was **RESOLVED** that thanks be given to the retiring Mayor, Cllr. Wyn Thomas, for his 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 9th June at 10.00 am at Priordy Chapel.

9. Closing Prayer.

Cllr. Luned Voyle, closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned until Wednesday 22nd May at 7:30 pm at St Peter's Hall, Carmarthen.

The meeting closed at 7:25 pm.