

CARMARTHEN TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON 11th MAY 2018

The Mayor, Cllr Alun Lenny, presided over the Annual Meeting of Carmarthen Town Council held in the Guildhall, Carmarthen, on Friday, 11th May 2018, at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Julia Ault, Revd Tom Defis, Dr Baba Gana, Peter Hughes Griffiths, Gareth John, Angharad Jones Leefe, Alun Lenny, Arwel Lloyd, Ken Lloyd, Dr Ioan Matthews, Miriam Moules, Emlyn Schiavone, Jeff Thomas, Dr Matthew Thomas, Wyn Thomas and Barry Williams.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Phil Grice and Daniel Bartley

2. OPENING EXHORTATION

The proceedings opened with an exhortation by the retiring Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Beti-Wyn James. The retiring Mayor thanked the Reverend James for her support during the year.

3. RETIRING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

"It was a great privilege for me to be elected as Mayor of the town where I was born - in the old Priory Road Hospital, although a country boy, I was brought up in Bwlch-y-Corn on Ystaffle Carn, which looks down on the town of Carmarthen. However, I've spent around half of my life living here, and I've always worked in the town - although the Mayoress is more of a 'towny', in fact! Ann came here when she was three years old, and her relatives kept the sweet shop in Queen Street for fifty years.

Since I mention Ann's name, I'd like to thank her now for being my backbone during the year - and more than that, in fact, as she went to some occasions without me, when I had other duties. I am also grateful to Eleri James, Mayor's Secretary, for going the extra mile several times.

Thank you both of you to make sure that the Mayor of Carmarthen is able to carry out his duties effectively. And I also thank Councillor Emlyn Schiavone for taking a place when I was not available, and he and his wife Tina wanted to be an entertaining company for Ann and I on several occasions.

I am grateful to my chaplain and friend, Revd Beti-Wyn James, for her support. Being the Mayor's Chaplain is almost a permanent job for Beti-Wyn these days! Thanks also to all council staff for their support and dedication in different ways - maintenance of the parks and caring for the cemetery, raising the fantastic Christmas lights, arranging Raindeer Day, keeping records of the council and looking after the social media and so on.

The fact that the Council has received a load of awards from One Voice Wales last month is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, led by Clerk, Alun Harries. I am pleased to say that, as Councillors, we have recognized their loyalty by ensuring that no-one who works for the Carmarthen Town Council earns less than the Living Wage that has been set by the Living Wage Foundation. Thank you again for them.

As always, there was a great call for the Mayor. It is incredible how many organizations and societies there are in this town - most are either charities, or contribute to the maintenance of good causes. The lives of our residents - especially those who need help of many kinds - would be much poorer without them. I name one in particular- The Mayor's Charity Committee. Some people believe that it's a charity to raise money for the Mayor! It has in fact contributed to a countless number of good causes, many of which have benefited from the hard work of the Mayor's Charity Committee over the years.

One of the activities in which they served was the gathering of Sheriffs and former Sheriffs of England and Wales in September. Only 15 towns or cities have a Sheriff - and the Annual Meetings go around fifteen in turn. Last year, it was Carmarthen. Councillor Phil Grice has attended these meetings for many years, and in his absence, I want to thank him for agreeing to be a Sheriff again over the past year – and for facilitating the arrangements.

As one who has a great interest in history, I am aware of the succession that I have stood in as Mayor - among them, Rhys ap Iorwedd, the man who, it is said, killed Richard III, the English king, at the Battle of Bosworth, putting Henry Tudor on the throne. Rhys was the Mayor of Carmarthen four times! As Mayor, I contributed a huge banner - a copy of the banner of Harri Tudur - to be erected over St. Peter's Church to mark Bosworth Day, and had the opportunity to contribute to radio and television items to talk about that occasion - highlighting the great contribution of this old town to the history of Wales and Britain.

It was a privilege to open the new Velodrome - a scheme that cost over half a million pounds. A big project - one that will give a huge boost to cycling in West Wales. I want to thank Alun Harries for his leadership and dedication, and to Carl Morgan, our engineer.

There was some disappointment during the year, the St David's Day Parade had to be cancelled - for the second year running: rain last year, snow this year! Summer was not much better, and the journey as Admiral of the Port down the River Tywi had to be cancelled three times! Yet, by virtue of that position, I was privileged to attend when the agreement was signed to build a new ferry boat to travel between Ferryside and Llansteffan, and hopefully to Carmarthen too. Local schoolchildren have named the boat that will connect the two villages across the Towy as GlanSteffan. A great name!

For the past few months, I have been trying to raise public awareness of a real threat to the future of the A & E unit at Glangwili Hospital. To that end, I have started an online petition that has collected thousands of names, and

with the blessing of the Town Council, established an advisory group of people with great experience in the NHS and Social Care - which includes a number of our advisers – in order to take the campaign forward. We must accept that that change is inevitable, but we must also ensure that that change is managed responsibly and led by democratic considerations, as well as clinical considerations. It is our NHS after all. Most of Glangwili hospital is old by the current standards. I remember well when I was about five years old when the new hospital opened. Little did I think about 60 years later that I would launch a campaign as the Mayor of Carmarthen to try and save Glangwili from being closed, or at least downgraded as a General Hospital.

On a more joyful note, the last occasion Ann and I went to was the Mayor's Race. Thanks to the sponsors, to everyone who was involved in the arrangements - especially the council's staff - and especially to Noelwyn and Sharon Daniel. Thousands of pounds were raised to divide between good causes.

Thank you all again for listening. Best wishes to Councillor Emlyn Schiavone as he prepares to start his year as the Mayor of Carmarthen.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Cllr Alun Lenny presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr Adam Whitehouse, from Carmarthenshire Water Safety Partnership and Mr Mike Walters from Carmarthen Round Table, for their contribution to the community.

5. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR 2018/2019

On the motion of Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews, seconded by Cllr Arwel LLoyd, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Emlyn Schiavone be elected Town Mayor for Carmarthen for the year 2018/2019.

In proposing Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, Cllr Dr Ioan Matthews said -

"It is an honour to offer Councillor Emlyn Schiavone's name to serve as Carmarthen Town Mayor for the year 2018/19.

In proposing Councillor Emlyn Gruffydd Schiavone's name to be promoted to the post of the Mayor of Carmarthen Town, there is no doubt that he has the commitment and ability to carry out the responsible post in an effective and dynamic way.

But in case there is doubt about the eligibility of our prospective Mayor to be our leader, let me briefly summarise –

Firstly, he is a family man who has been an integral part of the life of Carmarthen town for forty years. His family's origins cover a broad distance. His father Vito, from Italy and his mother, Eluned came from the Newcastle Emlyn area which is where the future Mayor was raised. The family ran a successful business in the town and played a part in the life of the town.

Eluned Schiavone served in local government itself, and was the Mayor of Newcastle Emlyn. Having married Tina, they have lived in Johnstown and now, in Pentremeurig.

Secondly, he has spent his career giving decades of service to Carmarthenshire in education and local government, and before his retirement he held a responsible position with Carmarthenshire County Council as a support officer for the development of schoolchildren. His concern for young people, especially the less-favored in our town, is well known, and his close connection with Dr Mz and other support networks is well known.

And thirdly, he has connections and a very wide range of organisations, bodies and societies in the town of Carmarthen, which that Arwel will be mentioning next. The range of his charitable activities, in the field of sports, the arts, and so on, is a testament of his connections in different ways, with so many people in Carmarthen. Indeed, that he was elected a County Councillor last year is proof of that. As a member of Carmarthen Town Council his contributions to the discussion are always wise and meaningful, and encompass a real concern for the well-being and success of our town."

In seconding the nomination, Cllr Arwel Lloyd said -

"It is a privilege for me to stand before you tonight in order to second the proposal to appoint Councillor Emlyn Schiavone as Mayor for the next civic year.

Councillor Ioan Matthews has already given you some background to Emlyn but I would like to talk a bit about his various roles here in the town, and to outline the contribution that Emlyn has made to the Town Council's activities since becoming a member.

Emlyn is a person who knows everyone and that is because he is involved with so many organisations here in the town.

Emlyn is Chairman of the Governors at Richmond Park Primary School, and also is also Vice-Chair of the Governors of Myrddin Primary School.

He also Chairs the Trustee Committee of Tŷ Hapus and Tŷ Ni and is a member of the Management Committee of Dr Mz - the youth project here in the town. As Ioan mentioned, services and facilities for children and young people are very important to Emlyn.

Emlyn is also a member of the Night Light Team which is doing so much good work helping young people on evenings in the town. He is also a Secretary of the Tŷ Cymorth Hospice Appeal committee - a cause that is such a key resource in this region.

Emlyn is an individual that contributes extensively to the life of his community and I can assure you that we are in very safe hands, and I'm looking forward to Emlyn's contribution during the year. Therefore, it is a pleasure to second

the proposal to appoint Emlyn Schiavone as Mayor on the town of Carmarthen for the year 2018-2019. Thank you very much"

Cllr Emlyn Schiavone was invested with the chain and insignia of the office of Town Mayor.

The Mayor, Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, presiding.

The Mayor, Cllr Emlyn Schiavone, then made and subscribed the Oath of Admiralty, whilst holding the Silver Oar, being the badge of office.

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.

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

6. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2018/2019

On the motion of Cllr Alun Lenny, seconded by Cllr Wyn Thomas, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Jeff Thomas be appointed Deputy Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

In making his proposal Cllr Alun Lenny spoke about Cllr Jeff Thomas's work and the prominent part he plays in the life of Carmarthen town; especially his work as Chairman of Carmarthen Football Club.

Seconded by Cllr Wyn Thomas, who said –

"It is a great pleasure to second the proposal to make Cllr Jeff Thomas Deputy Mayor. I wish him every success and health in this important job."

Cllr Jeff Thomas thanked the Council, he noted that he was looking forward to serving the community during the coming year.

The Mayor invested Cllr Jeff Thomas with the chain and badge of office.

7. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN SHERIFF FOR 2018/2019

On the motion of Cllr Rev Tom Defis, seconded by Cllr Miriam Moules, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe be appointed Sheriff of the Town for the forthcoming municipal year.

Nominating Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe, Cllr Rev Tom Defis spoke of the representation of women on the Council and the importance of promoting and increasing that representation.

Seconded by Cllr Miriam Moules, who noted that Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe was always ready to promote the needs of the young adults of the town.

Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe thanked the Council for the honour.

The Mayor invested Cllr Angharad Jones Leefe with the chain and badge of office.

8. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR

At Councillor Arwel Lloyd's proposal, seconded by Cllr Gareth John, it was **RESOLVED** that thanks be given to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Alun Lenny, for his achievements as Mayor during the year.

When offering a vote of thanks, Cllr Arwel Lloyd said –

"It is a privilege to propose a vote of thanks to Councillor Alun Lenny for his work and his special contribution as the Mayor of this town during the past year.

Surely you will all agree that Alun's year has been extremely successful - he has made a great contribution in so many different ways.

He has led and informed the town council's discussions skillfully and with authority, and I am sure that my fellow members agree that Alun has been a very natural and effective Chair during our meetings.

Alun and Ann can be very proud of how they have represented this historic town - they have supported everything possible and I know that different individuals, groups and organisations here in the town appreciate their support.

One thing I have to point out here about Alun - is the way he has been so willing to listen and talk to everyone - everyone's views are important to Alun - no one's voice is more important than the other. For those of you who are on social media - it certainly has been a breath of fresh air to see how Alun has engaged the people of the town and beyond during the year and I know this is greatly appreciated.

When proposing Alun's name as Mayor at this time last year - I said at that meeting that Alun was a great campaigner and had been leading in several campaigns over the years. And that has continued this year. Very recently Alun has led the way against the big threat facing our key services at Glangwili Hospital. That campaign will continue in the coming months of course and I know that Alun will be in the middle of that too - and continue to campaign. Thank you for your guidance.

Alun and Ann - it's been a very special year for you - it's been a full, busy and fruitful year and we can only extend our appreciation to you for your contributions. Enjoy the break! Thank you very much."

Seconding the motion to thank, Cllr Gareth John said –

"It is a great pleasure for me to support the vote of thanks to Alun for his special work over the past year as the Mayor of this historic Town. He has

represented the Council with enthusiasm and passion and with the energy and determination that is an integral part of who he is. Thanks to you"

9. MAYOR'S SUNDAY

The Mayor announced his intention to hold a Civic Service at Capel y Priordy on Sunday, 1st July 2018, at 10.00 am.

10. CLOSING PRAYER

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

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

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.