

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET,
BRIDGEND ON WEDNESDAY, 17 MAY 2006 AT 2.15PM

Present:

Councillor B I Quennell - The Mayor

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
D T Anderson	E P Foley	M Jones	M L Simmonds
M M Bertorelli	R M Granville	G C Lewis	J C Spanswick
D A D Brett	D T Greaves	M Mathias	W H C Teesdale
R D L Burns	C A Green	W B May	G Thomas
C Y Butcher	M Gregory	E McIlveen	M Thomas
D Buttle	P A Hacking	C J Michaelides	J H Tildesley
H J David	J J Hipkiss	M E J Nott	M C Voisey
A E Davies	C E Hughes	L Phillips	K Watkins
G Davies	R G Hughes	M Quick	C Westwood
L Davies	K S Hunt	J Radford	M Wilkins
K R T Deere	M Inglesant	C Rees	H M Williams
P A Evans	C J James	K T Rowlands	M Winter
W B Evans	R D Jenkins	D Sage	

567 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the following Members:-

Councillor L C Morgan - Unwell
Councillor S B Smith - Holiday

568 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Quennell gave a speech reflecting on her time in office over the last twelve months, as follows.

She began by saying that she had a number of thank you messages. She thanked all those present for giving her the chance to be the First Citizen of the Borough.

She thanked the Deputy Mayor and all the past Mayors for their assistance for what has been a busy year.

To Father Michael Komor, of St Mary's, Nolton for spiritual guidance as her chaplain.

Thanks also went, she added, to Linda and Meretta, Andrea and her team and especially to Emma who will be on Maternity leave shortly. Brenda and Angela in Cabinet, the Cabinet and Committee Officers and to Chauffeurs, Richard, Jim and Kevin whose wives probably thought they had lodgers living at home due to all the time spent on engagements.

She gave special thanks also to the Porters, Reception staff and cleaners especially during the times when evening receptions were held at the Civic offices, such as the Veterans of the last war to say thank you for risking their lives

in keeping this country safe and free. She also extended thanks to Lee Jules and the Team Bridge FM for the regular radio mayoral slot.

She thanked all those who have helped raise funds for her chosen charities. Mari Major and team, Mr Kim Chan of the New Garden Restaurant, the staff at the Heronstone Hotel who held a Business lunch in memory of Ray Williams. Dawn and David Brace for the Mayor's Gala which she was pleased to say has raised near to £15,000. To Norma Griffiths and the catering staff who made the first contribution to the funds with their fun run. To Mrs Carol Thomas, Mr Rhodri Gwyn Jones' PA who had made Easter eggs for her fund raising and other events such as the Line Dancing recently at the OCLP Club. The Mayor wished Carol a happy retirement.

Last year was the "Year of the Volunteer" and during this time she had met many volunteers of all age groups. She thanked organisations such as the Rotary Club and the Lions who had invited her to attend several of their events giving up their time to help others.

Out of the approx 380 engagements she had attended this year there had been awards and presentations, which were too numerous to name individually but she congratulated all recipients.

The Mayor stated that she had represented the people of the Borough at a considerable number of major events such as:-

- 1) The opening of the Railway line and link to Cardiff Wales airport.
- 2) The 60th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations at St Paul's Cathedral in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal family
- 3) The opening of the new Assembly building at Cardiff in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen, members of the Royal family and other distinguished guests
- 4) A special day at Coopers Field in Cardiff to give thanks to all those involved in the last war and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the ending of the 2nd World War. This was attended by H.R.H the Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. The Prince of Wales paid tribute to all veterans at this event.
- 5) The Llandaff Cathedral for the New Prior for the Order of St John where individuals were presented with the Order of St John in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.
- 6) Finally, and most recently, the re-dedication of the Randall Memorial which has been lovingly restored and was attended by the Earl and Countess of Dunraven and their daughter Lady Anna.

She added that many people from other countries had visited the County during her term of office and it had been a pleasure to meet them all, just to give an example, visitors from Poland for a regeneration and Objective 1 project. Although she was not listed as taking part in their tour of the County Borough she specially asked to do so, so that she could keep abreast of how far projects were progressing. She had entertained people from the Ukraine, the bible college in

Denmark, the wonderful youngsters who have been affected by Chernobyl, the Bridgend Town Twinning area of Vill. D'orn, France and teachers from New South Wales.

At the start of her year the Chief Executive had asked her what she would like to focus on. At the time she was not sure, but it soon became apparent what it would be; the young people of the County Borough.

Their Concerts, musicals and orchestras have been impressive and outstanding. Some of the engagements involved Brownies, Scouts, Youth Activity Groups and through the excellent work of the Youth Services team, she and her mother had attended many engagements to support and encourage the younger generations. This included events such as youth talent shows and basketball tournament.

She attended the Bibblings camp near Symmonds Yat where she participated in outdoor events such as canoeing.

One of her final engagements was the Youth dance competition. Having attended Maesteg Town Hall to see the various youth groups of Boys and Girls from our Borough taking part, the winners of the singles, pairs and teams from Junior, intermediate and Seniors attended the finals at Newtown on Sunday, where youngsters from all over Wales were taking part. It pleased her to say that we received 2 winners and 4 runner up prizes. For events such as this the younger generation deserve better media coverage for all the good they do and not to be tarred with the same brush because a very small minority spoil it. She added that she felt they were a credit to their families, schools and the Borough.

The Mayor confirmed that her mother and she had been overwhelmed by the wonderful response they had received from all the young people they had met. She paid tribute and admiration to them all for their determination, energy and spirit as well as the dedication and loyalty of the hard working Youth Service team, who she felt did far more than people realise. She thanked them for making a large contribution to what has been an enjoyable year and one she wished she could turn the clocks back for, especially when she had received "Thank you" cards from people she had met only very briefly.

The most special moments were the Citizenship ceremony, with the swearing in of the new British Citizens, this was quite an emotional event but a joyous one, especially when recognised in your local supermarket by one who wants to show you her new addition to the family.

The other was the Mayors Citizenship Award Ceremony where one has the chance to meet and recognise the achievements of people of all ages and walks of life. Their caring attitudes, she confirmed, make such a difference to a lot of people's lives.

She stated that she made no bones of the fact that she lived and had done for the last 36 years in Wildmill. She was the second person to have been appointed Mayor from that area following in the footsteps of past Mayor Cllr. Idris Jones. She stated that she hoped she had made everyone in the Borough proud, due to the efforts she had put in during her term as Mayor, at whichever engagement she and her consort had attended. She had always tried to promote the County Borough. She added this has paid off when business people specifically asked to discuss with you their ideas of coming to the County Borough.

The Mayor paid tribute to her Consort, as throughout the year, she had been of great support to her. Attending nearly every engagement with her and also carrying out solo engagements on her behalf, most recently for the Samaritans. She had taken a great interest in what the Mayor was doing. She pointed out that although, they are both disabled this has not prevented them from doing what they set out to do at the start of their term.

She extended her thanks to everyone for all their hard work during her time as firstly Deputy Mayor, and then Mayor of the County Borough and said she could not have done it alone.

Finally, she wished the New Mayor and Deputy the very best and hoped that they would enjoy their year as much as she and her consort had enjoyed theirs.

569 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2005/06

A motion was made by Councillor G Lewis proposing Councillor K R T Deere as Mayor which was duly seconded by Councillor D T Greaves.

RESOLVED: That Councillor K R T Deere be elected Mayor for the year 2006/2007.

The new Mayor, having made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - Resources as Proper Officer for this purpose, was then invested with the Chain of Office and thereupon took the Chair.

570 MAYOR'S CONSORT

The Mayor's Consort for the ensuing year, Mr D Deere was then invested with the Insignia of Office.

571 MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

Canon Phillip Masson was then announced as the Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year.

572 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The incoming Mayor, Councillor Deere gave the following speech in relation to her being elected Mayor for the next twelve months.

She accepted this office as Mayor of the County Borough Council of Bridgend with great humility, and with extreme gratitude to her fellow Councillors for the confidence that they had shown in her. She added that she was grateful to her brother David for agreeing to act as her Consort. The Deputy Mayor would, she added, rely upon his experience and guidance during times of pressure.

She was also aware of the dignity that the mayoral chain deserved, and would ensure that this is upheld at all times.

She was conscious of the high standard set by her predecessors, and paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Beverley Quinnell, and to her Consort, for the way in which they had carried out their duties.

She was aware that they had attended very many functions during the past twelve months, and had gained the respect, and admiration within other adjoining Boroughs and Communities for their kindness, courage and fortitude in their duties.

She sincerely thanked the Reverend Cannon Phillip Masson, Rector of the Parish of Newton Nottage, Porthcawl for agreeing to act as her Chaplain during the mayoral year.

She did not intend to announce her chosen charities for the year today as she needed to further consider these. Details of these would be shared with people in due course.

The Role of Mayor, she added, was non political, and to that end, she assured every Councillor that although during the year she would respect individual political views, she would uphold the Mayoral office as being totally non-political.

The Role of Mayor, she added, was to serve not councillor colleagues, but the entire population of the County Borough of Bridgend.

The Mayor should also promote the County Borough of Bridgend, to ensure we were seen as a strong, vibrant and leading authority in Wales. This would involve the co-operation, both of Councillors and Officers, and for all to work for the best interests of the County Borough, and its people. She was sure that with the help of others the challenges that lie ahead could and would enable the County Borough of Bridgend to be in the forefront of Local Government in Wales.

Finally, she assured those present that this afternoon was one that she would treasure and she sincerely thanked Members for the trust and confidence placed in her which she promised she would strive to maintain throughout her term of office.

573 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2005/2006

Two nominations were received for Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor R Hughes proposed Councillor M Jones. This was duly seconded by Councillor P A Evans. Councillor D Sage proposed Councillor C Westwood. This was duly seconded by Councillor M Inglesant.

An electronic vote was then taken for Deputy Mayor 2006/07 as follows:-

For Councillor M Jones

26

For Councillor C Westwood

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The Mayor exercising her right for a second (casting) vote, voted for Councillor M Jones.

RESOLVED: That Councillor M Jones be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the year 2006/07.

The Deputy Mayor then made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office to the Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - Resources as Proper Officer for this purpose, and thereupon was invested with the Chain of Office.

574 DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT

The Deputy Mayor's consort for the ensuing year was announced as Mrs Violet Cody.

575 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE YOUTH MAYOR

The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director - Resources introduced Mr Craig Lambourne.

RESOLVED: That Mr Craig Lambourne be announced as Youth Mayor for the ensuing year of 2006/2007.

576 ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPUTY YOUTH MAYOR

RESOLVED: That Miss Erica Borley be announced as Deputy Youth Mayor for the ensuing year 2006/2007.

577 YOUTH MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Youth Mayor proceeded to give his address.

Mr Lambourne introduced himself. He stated that he was 16 years of age, and currently attended Ogmores School. He added that he was a lifeguard and part of Southerndown Surf Lifesaving Club and also had been on the Youth Council for the last two years. Within his school he sat on the Pupil Council where he represented all his peers.

During his year in office he planned to promote the Youth Council to the best of his ability especially with the coming up of the elections in October to work with the new Mayor and the "big" Council (BCBC), as he called it, to help improve the lives of the old and the young in and around Bridgend, for the better.

He planned to work with local charities to make young people more aware of what is on offer to them so that nothing like the tragedy in Pen-coed a few months ago ever happened again. He also wanted to try and lower the pregnancy rate in Bridgend by letting people know that there are organisations around that to this end, could help.

To do this he would have the help and support from his deputy Miss Erica Borley. He confirmed Erica was 17 and currently studying in Brynteg Comprehensive School. She was part of Nolton Church Choir and enjoyed reading, studying and socialising with friends.

In his opinion he added a Mayor and Deputy must be able to work as a team, and he assured that his Deputy Youth Mayor and himself can, and have proved this on several occasions. He stated that they might have different titles but assured that they would not be letting that get in their way of making this year the best year the Youth Council have ever had.

At the Duke of Edinburgh Gala Ball and Presentation last week he heard former Mayor Councillor Beverley Quennell saying how much she had enjoyed her term and was saddened to know that she would not be in office during his term. He hoped that the new Mayor, Councillor Deere does just as good a job as her predecessor. He further hoped that together the young and the old could unite and create a better Bridgend for everyone.

Before he finished his speech he said a huge thank you to his parents, who over the years had always been there to support him through "thick and thin".

Also another huge thank you he added should go to the teaching staff of Ogmore School for all the support they had given him this year and for the support he was sure they would give him over the next year.

Recognition and thanks he added must also go to Mrs Mary Hughes for taking her time to help the Youth Council so much.

As he was part of a team which is the Youth Council, Mary was part of a team called the Youth Service. He took an opportunity to praise the Youth Service for all the wonderful work it does for all the young people of Bridgend.

578 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND/OR THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

None.

579 ELECTION OF LEADER

Councillor G Davies moved a motion proposing Councillor C A Green BA as Leader of the Council for 2006/07. This motion was duly seconded by Councillor J J Hipkiss.

RESOLVED: That Councillor C A Green be elected as Leader of the Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year 2006/2007.

580 LEADER'S ADDRESS

The Leader gave her address.

It gave the Leader great pleasure to pay tribute to the outgoing Mayor and her Consort for all the hard work they had put in over the past year. She felt they had both approached their roles with energy and enthusiasm.

She confirmed that we were now halfway through the elected life of this Council and the Authority was going through a state of significant change. Its long-standing Chief Executive had left and we were poised to receive the newly appointed interim Chief Executive. The Council was facing further change at senior management level with this being the Deputy Chief Executive's final Annual Meeting at Bridgend, as he was due to leave the Authority in a couple of months time. Other senior staff were also due to retire shortly and to all of these the Leader wished them the best for the future and thanked them for what they had contributed to Bridgend during their time here. There had been considerable achievements that can be reflected upon she added, but right now, more than at

any other time she felt, was a time to look forward to the future of Bridgend County Borough Council.

As an authority she considered we needed to grasp the opportunities that were there for the Council to take. Sometimes it was difficult to make hard choices, she advised, but when we know these choices are for the best, then we have no option but to take them. It was our duty as elected members to take them. The public had placed their trust in the Council to make decisions that are right for Bridgend, decisions that must be taken in order for the Council to move forward. Party politics should not be allowed to cloud judgement, and she was confident that this would indeed be the case. She considered that people do not put themselves forward for election to Council to have an easy life. Members of Parliament were remote and inaccessible for much of the time and when they are in opposition are not even held to account. Assembly Members were somewhat more available but only if you were able to visit Cardiff. Councillors live amongst the people they represent and are always available to the electorate and the decisions they take are meaningful and real to the people they impact upon. The Leader confirmed she had long held the view that local government was the real government of the people, the higher tiers are not so connected and informed. She encouraged younger people to engage in politics. It should be remembered that Members provide the first shop window that the public engage with and if they do not like what they see, they will not enter the shop. Whether as Councillors we wish to be or not, we are the role models.

In Bridgend we have our own Youth Council, and have today invested the Youth Mayor. It is my intention to forge closer links with the Youth Council and engage with the Youth Mayor on a regular basis, she added. We currently operate on parallel universes that are aware of the activities of each other but have very little interaction during the course of the mayoral year. This was something the Leader hoped to remedy, as she was certain that both Councils could learn from one another.

In conclusion, the Leader took the opportunity to say to her fellow Members, keep up the good work in the communities you serve.

581 GROUP LEADERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

At this point in the proceedings Councillor Nott, Leader of the Labour Group thanked, on behalf of his Group, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Quennell. It was the Group's opinion that she had conducted her duties in a proficient and professional manner at all times, times which he considered had not always been easy. He was sure that she would now be looking forward to a period of rest after such an eventful year. He added that it was his Group's wish to also extend their best wishes to the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor for a successful year. He wound up by also passing on his best wishes to the Leader.

The above comments were echoed by Councillor W B Evans on behalf of the Independent Democrat Group.

582 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader Councillor Green moved that the Cabinet continue to be as that which currently exists, consisting of herself and 5 Members.

This was duly seconded by Councillor G Davies.

RESOLVED: That the following Members be appointed to the Cabinet, with their respective portfolios set out below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
Councillor P A Hacking	- Cross Cutting Issues
Councillor R D L Burns	- Corporate Services
Councillor E P Foley	- Education, Leisure and Community Services
Councillor R Hughes	- Social Services and Housing
Councillor M C Voisey	- Environmental and Planning Services

583 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER

RESOLVED: That Councillor P A Hacking be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

584 PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the report of the former Chief Executive outlining suggested dates for the convening of ordinary meetings of the Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year 2006/2007, be approved.

585 LETTER OF BEST WISHES

Councillor Nott advised Council that Councillor L C Morgan was currently unwell and undergoing various hospital tests.

He felt that in the circumstances, it would be appropriate if a letter of best wishes could be sent to Councillor Morgan from the Mayor, on behalf of Council, wishing him a speedy recovery to full health.

The Mayor confirmed that this request would be carried out.

The meeting concluded at 3.12pm.