

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND
ON WEDNESDAY, 14 MAY 2008 AT 2.00PM

Present:

The Mayor – Mrs M Jones

<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
D A D Brett	C A Green	C J Michaelides	W H C Teesdale
R D L Burns	M Gregory	L C Morgan	G Thomas
M W Butcher	P A Hacking	W B Morgan	M Thomas
D Buttle	T Hacking	M E J Nott	J H Tildesley
N Clarke	E M Hughes	P Penpraze	D A Unwin
H J David	C E Hughes	D R Pugh	K Watkins
A E Davies	K S Hunt	B I Quennell	K J Watts
C Davies	M Inglesant	M Reeves	C Westwood
G Davies	C J James	D Sage	P J White
K R T Deere	R M James	R Shepherd	M C Wilkins
E Dodd	R D Jenkins	M L Simmonds	H M Williams
D K Edwards	A Jones	S B Smith	R Williams
P A Evans	D N W Jones	J C Spanswick	M Winter
E P Foley	M Lewis		

Officers

Dr J Farrar	- Chief Executive
P A Jolley	- Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Regulatory Services and Monitoring Officer
Mr A Rees	- Senior Cabinet and Committee Officer
Mr G P Jones	- Principal Cabinet and Committee Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

2 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The outgoing Mayor, Mrs M Jones, proceeded to give a speech reflecting on her time in office over the last twelve months.

She began by saying that it had seemed like yesterday that she took her oaths in Welsh and English to serve the Council and all the people of the Borough, as Mayor and First Citizen, which had given her an opportunity of a lifetime, a wonderful and an unforgettable year.

She thanked Councillors for the way in which she had been treated at all times, with courtesy and tolerance. She also thanked Councillors for their patience as she had struggled with the new technology as she chaired meetings, but had endeavoured to ensure at all meetings that each Councillor had a fair hearing and debate.

She placed on record the respect and regard that she had always received on every occasion for wearing the Chain of Office. Nearly 500 mayoral duties had been carried out during the last year. These involved a great deal of planning and preparation and for this she expressed her sincere thanks to the Members

Services office for assisting to organise the Civic Sunday and in particular, to Mandy Parsons and Merete Bang in the Mayoral Team who worked so hard during the year and always with a smile.

The Mayor thanked the chauffeurs Richard, Jim, Kevin and Alun for getting her to each and every event on time. She also thanked the Deputy Mayor, Cleone Westwood, and her Escort, Judith Morgan, for the gracious way they have carried out their duties, and also to several Past Mayors for their willingness to assist whenever called upon.

She expressed her thanks to the various Executive Directors for their help and advice, in particular Chief Executive, Jo Farrar, Andrew Jolley and Gareth Moss.

She expressed her sincere thanks to the Committee Clerks for their work and in particular to Gary Jones and his team for their back-up with the electronic equipment.

The Mayor also expressed her thanks to the press photographers for their coverage of events that have been carried out, and to Bridge FM for all their publicity.

The Mayor also extended her thanks to the outgoing Youth Mayor, Craig Lambourne, who accompanied her on many occasions. It was always a pleasure to have his company. Thanks went to her Chaplain, the Reverend Geraldine Blyth, for all her guidance and a very sincere thanks also to Ms Joyce Harman for the way she conducted and preached at the Civic Sunday at St Michael's Church, and wished her health and happiness in her new post as Vicar of Dowlais.

The Mayor also expressed her sincere thanks to the members of the Mayor's Charity Appeals Standing Committee, under their Secretary and Co-ordinator Mrs Mari Major, who have all worked so hard to raise funds for her chosen charities, to David and Dawn Brace of the Dunraven Group who organised the Charity Gala, companies, organisations, staff and members of the public who have contributed to the Charity Appeal. Full details were not yet finalised, but she hoped that it will not be long before the Syncope Laboratory in the Princess of Wales Hospital, is in place.

The Chief Executive has completed a very successful first year and the changes within the Borough are nearly finalised.

During her term of office the Mayor had endeavoured to ensure that events hosted and attended have the prime objective of bringing value to the County Borough and are in line with the aims of the Authority.

Receptions were held at Bryngarw House including one to thank the emergency services for their work in the Borough, one to offer support to Volunteer Groups, other receptions were held for Foster Carers, the Rangers, Guides and Brownies to local organisations to encourage schools in their work and their associations with schools abroad, their concerts, theatre productions and sporting achievements. She also thanked the Youth Team, with their talent shows and to Bridgend Youth Theatre and Music Section, for their productions. Business dinners had been streamlined, but without distracting from their purpose of thanking and paying tribute to businesses, companies and entrepreneurs for investing in the area. For many it was their first visit to Bryngarw, and they were very taken with the venue and surroundings and some have been back since.

Visits had been made to support the Boys and Girls Clubs within the County Borough to present awards to the members, including county, regional, Wales and British level. The Mayor was delighted to have accompanied the Borough finalists to the National Youth Dance Finals in Newtown, Powys, and for the second year running won the trophy for the highest number of points in the dance and theatre and had since gone on to further success. The Mayor expressed her sincere thanks to the hard working members of the Youth Service.

The Mayor also had the honour of opening the first Olympage Games at the Recreation Centre, an event designed specifically for people over the age of 50 in the Borough. There were eight teams from various centres and each team had to compete in five competitions and the Mayor was delighted to present the cup to the winning team who were residents of Hyfrydol Nursing Home in Maesteg. The Olympage is an ongoing event and new teams are interested and looking forward to next year.

The Mayor referred to visits to various homes, residential and sheltered accommodation, and spoke with the residents and arranged musical events for them, or arranged for the piano to be tuned.

The Mayor also visited the Nantymoel Old Age Dinner Club and enjoyed an afternoon in their company.

The Mayor and Consort had attended 65th, 67th and 70th wedding anniversaries and also a 100th and a 103rd birthday celebrations.

Citizenship ceremonies have been held regularly at the Registry Office in Sunnyside. People of various nationalities have received British Citizenship and are now worthy residents of the County Borough. The Mayor greeted them and thanked them in their native language, and they were delighted to hear their native language being spoken.

The Mayor's Citizenship Awards have also been held to honour local residents for their work in the Community.

Many people have visited the Parlour from within and outside the Borough such as schools, Guides and Scouts. A group of Swedish people visited whilst on holiday in Bridgend.

Councillor D Sage brought some very well behaved Chernobyl children who were staying in Bridgend. These children were very appreciative of everything given to them and it was a delight to meet them.

A representative of the Welsh Guards brought greetings and a gift from the Mayor of Hechtel. Greetings had been given from the Borough to people in Finland, New Zealand, Uganda, Botswana, and she had been visited by the Deputy Chairman of Mogilev, a region in Belarus.

A reception was hosted for the Young Farmers' ambassadors from Wales, Ireland, England, Scotland and the Isle of Man at the Heronston Hotel, and the Mayor had joined them for the week's activities.

Outside the County Borough meetings had taken place with the Mayors and Chairmen of other County Boroughs and formed strong links with them.

She was invited as the Chief Constable's Mayor to the University of Cardiff where a tribute was made to her on behalf of the International Community.

On a sadder note she was requested to attend the funeral of Craig Barber who was killed on active service in Iraq. She had also attended the consecration of the memorial stone to the soldiers killed in the Falklands, also the Aberfan memorial service, together with 20 other Mayors.

The Mayor joined the rest of the Mayors and Chairmen of Wales at the Mansion House, Cardiff on the eve of the opening of the Senedd.

The highlight of the whole year was meeting Her Majesty the Queen at the opening of the Senedd.

Finally, in conclusion her grateful thanks went to her Escort, Vi Cody. Her support and comradeship during the year had helped to make the year a memorable one and she thanked her for giving up her time to be at her side and share so many memories.

She finally thanked everyone once again for giving her the opportunity to serve as Mayor for the past year, and she wished her successor, health and happiness for the coming year.

Diolch or galon i chwi am fy ethol yn Faer Penybont ar Ogwr am y flwyddyn diwetha, gan ddymuno bob llwyddiant i'r Maer am y flwyddyn nesaf.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR 2008/09

A motion was made by Councillor D Sage proposing Councillor C Westwood as Mayor, which was duly seconded by Councillor M Inglesant.

RESOLVED: That Councillor C Westwood be elected Mayor for the year 2008/09

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

4 MAYOR'S ESCORT

The Mayor's Escort for the ensuing year was announced by the Chief Executive as Mrs Judith Morgan, who was then invested with the Insignia of Office.

5 MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Chief Executive then announced Pastor Roy Lewis as the Mayor's Chaplain for the ensuing year.

6 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2008/09

Councillor M W Butcher proposed Councillor J H Tildesley as Deputy Mayor, which was duly seconded by Councillor K S Hunt.

RESOLVED: That Councillor J H Tildesley be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the year 2008/09.

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

7 **DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT**

The Deputy Mayor's consort for the ensuing year was announced as Mrs Audrey Thomas who was duly invested with the Insignia of Office.

8 **MAYOR'S ADDRESS**

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

The new Mayor thanked everyone for attending this afternoon to share her Inauguration as Mayor for the coming year 2008/09.

In accepting the office of Mayor bestowed upon her by her fellow Councillors with humility and pride she thanked them all most sincerely. The Mayor appreciated the responsibilities that accompany this honour and would endeavour to the best of her ability to promote Bridgend County Borough Council, always being aware that this is a non-political role.

She started that she followed in the footsteps of some very good Mayors and would like to congratulate the outgoing Mayor and her consort for the tremendous job they have done in the past year. She admired the outgoing Mayor for her tenacity in what had not been an easy year for her and thanked her most sincerely.

The Mayor commented that she had enjoyed her year as Deputy Mayor and felt it had put her in good stead for the coming year. She had enjoyed both visiting other Councillor's wards and getting a wider picture of the Authority, and meeting so many people. There is so much work being done in all the communities by charities and volunteers who give up so much of their time to help other people. It has never failed to amaze her of the talent in this authority, in music, arts and sport.

On the down side the Authority had received adverse publicity not only nationally but worldwide, but there is a good deal of good work going on by and for the youth of the Authority. She had attended the Duke of Edinburgh awards where there were over two hundred awards with three Gold Awards the highest achievement. The Council was the first Authority to have a Youth Mayor who carried out some sterling work, which did not receive a lot of publicity.

The Mayor commented that society is different today, youngsters previously did not have the same pressures and distractions the youngsters have today. One of her hopes for this coming year is that she will be able, if only in a small way to help youngsters in their communities. There is already a great deal of work being carried out in this field.

The Mayor thanked Judith Morgan for agreeing to be her Consort for the coming year. She had been of great assistance during the last year. The Mayor thanked the staff of the Mayor's office, Merete Bang and Mandy Parsons for all the help and guidance they have given her during the past year and also Richard, Jim, Alun and Kevin the chauffeurs for their excellent chauffeuring to and from the various functions arranged. She also thanked Gary Jones for his work in assisting her with the Council Chamber electronics.

Lastly she wished to thank the Labour Group for their support over the past few years.

Together with her Consort, and the Deputy Mayor, she would do her upmost to promote Bridgend County Borough which can only be achieved with the support of Councillors and officers. As the Coat of Arms says, the motto which incidentally was adopted from the old Ogwr Borough Council, on which she served for many years, we will go forward with confidence.

9 **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE YOUTH MAYOR**

The Chief Executive introduced Rebecca Newton as Youth Mayor.

RESOLVED: That Rebecca Newton be announced as Youth Mayor for the ensuing year of 2008/09.

10 **ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPUTY YOUTH MAYOR**

The Chief Executive introduced Angharad Reed as Deputy Youth Mayor.

RESOLVED: That Angharad Reed be announced as Deputy Youth Mayor for the ensuing year of 2008/09.

11 **YOUTH MAYOR'S ADDRESS**

The Youth Mayor proceeded to give her address to the Council.

The Youth Mayor began by stating that she was honoured and privileged to be representing her peers as Bridgend Youth Mayor. The Youth Council is very close to her heart. As well as giving young people a voice, which is something she felt passionately about, it had made her develop as a young person. When entering the Chamber two years ago for her first meeting, she would not have believed that in two years time she would be elected as Youth Mayor, and would be making this speech. She believed that the Youth Council gave young people opportunities to push their boundaries and realise their potential, and to find confidence they never knew they had.

It was for this reason that her main priority for this year will be raising awareness of the Youth Council. With the help of her Deputy, Angharad Reed, she aimed to visit youth centres, organisations and schools to both promote the Youth Council and recruit new members so they can get their voices heard and represent their peers on a broader scale.

She began by thanking the outgoing Youth Mayor, Craig Lambourne, for all the hard work that he has put in over the last two years, whom she believed would be a very tough act to follow, all of his hard work had proved invaluable and she hoped that after the fine example he had set, the Youth Council would continue to move from strength to strength.

The Youth Council had elected a Cabinet of Seven who have prioritised topics in the following areas: Ogmore Valley, Education, Anti-bullying, Garw Valley and Environment. The Youth Council will also be focusing on issues regarding off-road biking facilities and Associate Pupil Governors this year and the Youth Mayor hoped that the Youth Council will continue to receive the Council's support in all of these areas.

The Youth Mayor congratulated all of the Councillors on their success at the elections and looked forward to working with all Councillors. The Youth Mayor thanked the former Leader and previous Cabinet and full Council, who had been of great support to the Youth Council over the last four years. The Youth Council had thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the Cabinet to discuss and feed back on issues affecting young people, and she hoped this was something which could be continued over the next four years with the new Council.

The Youth Mayor thanked her family for the invaluable and ongoing support.

Finally, the Youth Mayor emphasised that she was very much looking forward to her term. She really wanted to make a difference for young people, with the help of the Council and the Youth Service who she felt must be praised for all their hard work and support for the youth of Bridgend.

She said by working together, Bridgend can be made a better place for young and old. Her aim is that by the end of this year every young person in Bridgend will have at least heard of the Youth Council and know that they are both able and entitled to get their voice heard. To this end, the priority of the Youth Council will now be to strengthen the voice that it speaks up for, a voice which she was proud to represent.

12 **ELECTION OF LEADER**

Councillor A E Davies moved a motion proposing Councillor M E J Nott as Leader of the Council for 2008/09. This motion was duly seconded by Councillor G Thomas.

Councillor R D L Burns moved a further motion proposing Councillor C A Green as Leader of the Council for 2008/09. This motion was duly seconded by Councillor G Davies.

Following the conducting of an electronic vote regarding both these nominations, it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor M E J Nott be elected as Leader of the Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year 2008/09.

13 **LEADER'S ADDRESS**

The Leader gave his address to Council.

The Leader addressed Council by firstly thanking Members for electing him to the position of Leader, which he considered to be a privilege and an honour to be the Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council. He stated that he would work tirelessly for the benefit of the people of the Borough and the Council.

He congratulated the new Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Youth Mayor and new Members on their recent election to their respective positions. He stated that he and the Cabinet were looking forward to working with the Youth Mayor to discuss issues affecting young people.

He stated that the Labour party in Bridgend County Borough had carried out its biggest ever consultation with the public. The issues requiring priority raised by the consultation were highways, refuse collections, services for the elderly, premises that sell alcohol to children and the problems of litter and dog fouling. A

commitment had been given in their manifesto to tackle these issues and work will start on these immediately with a view to delivering on these commitments as quickly as possible. Proposals would be brought to the next Council meeting to re-organise the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Rights of Way Panel and the Objections and Appeals Panel, which will produce a saving of approximately £20k. This money will be put straight back into front line services, this can help provide additional dog and litter warden services. The Chairs and Vice Chairs of other committees, would also be reviewed and the results of this review will be brought to Council in due course. The current composition of the Planning and Development Committee would be the subject of consultation and proposals will again be brought to Members in due course.

He acknowledged that the Authority had made progress during the past four years, however, a lot still remained to be done. The aim was to achieve a modern forward looking Authority. There were a number of issues facing the Council which had to be met through open and honest dialogue to find a common solution to these problems.

Regeneration in the County Borough has been taking place for many years, namely with the regeneration of Porthcawl and the Ogmore Valley. The regeneration of Bridgend Town Centre, the Garw Valley and Maesteg will also continue. Public confidence would be restored to ensure that the vision at the beginning of these projects is not lost.

In closing he commented that the people of the County Borough had given his Group a mandate on 1st May.

14 APPOINTMENT OF CABINET MEMBERS

The Leader, Councillor M E J Nott, moved a motion proposing the number of Members to be appointed to the Cabinet, consisting of himself and five Members to the Cabinet portfolios.

This motion was duly seconded by Councillor D Sage.

RESOLVED: That the following Members be appointed to the Cabinet:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
Councillor M E J Nott	Leader
Councillor D Sage	Cross Cutting Issues
Councillor H J David	Resources
Councillor A E Davies	Children
Councillor L C Morgan	Wellbeing
Councillor J C Spanswick	Communities

15 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER

RESOLVED: That Councillor D Sage be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council.

16 PROGRAMME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That the report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Regulatory Services outlining suggested dates for meetings of Bridgend County Borough Council for the ensuing year

ANNUAL COUNCIL - 14 MAY 2008

2008/09 and the date of the Annual General Meeting of Council for 2009, be approved.

The meeting concluded at 3:07pm.