

CYNGOR TREF SANCLÛR
ST.CLEAR'S TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Meeting

Held on Friday 17th May, 2013

PRESENT: Cllrs: Jane Rees, Lyn Davies, Graham Edwards, Selwyn Runnett, Dr. Edmund Davies, Huw Eynon, Cath Ingleton, Heather Witt, Philip Lanc, Phil Rogers, Mark Davies.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Keith Major and County Councillor, Philip Hughes.

2. WELCOME:

The proceedings opened by the retiring Mayor welcoming everyone and explaining his role as Master of Ceremonies for the evening due to the unfortunate absence of the Town Clerk, Mr. Lynn Bowen, due to illness.

3. PRAYERS:

The Mayor-elect's Chaplain, Canon Bryan Witt offered prayers and meditations. He especially asked for a blessing on the council's work and also to remember Lynn Bowen, the Town Clerk, and to wish him well.

4. RETIRING MAYOR'S ADDRESS;

Cllr. Lyn Davies referred back to how 10 names had survived the Nomination process of May 3rd, 2012 and as a result 3 candidates were co-opted.

Cllr. Davies emphasised that the Civic Service held at Gibeon Chapel gave an opportunity to invite many diverse organisations and associations within the St. Clears and Bancyfelin area. He noted that the response was positive and attendance high.

Cllr. Davies referred to the aims and objectives he outlined at the service and gave an update on how matters had progressed on each one during the Civic Year.

1. To continue to pursue Fair Trade status for the Town. The new Mayor, Councillor Jane Rees is now our Fair trade Ambassador and a Community Fair Trade Steering Group has been formed making good progress.
2. To progress with the campaign to provide St Clears and the surrounding area with a railway connection. This aim has attracted Feasability Funding from Carmarthenshire County Council; questions in the Welsh Senedd and a Railway Pressure Group Support has been achieved.

3. To formally provide a Youth Forum in order to foster active Citizenship. Cllr. Davies noted that although work was slow the same aspirations remain.
4. The Town Council instigate a community wide review and co-ordination of all activities associated with celebrating St. David's Day. Cllr. Davies reported that this had been discussed by the Town Council and the St. Clears Community Association so that progress can be made next year.

Cllr. Davies pointed out that the Council should be congratulated on the work carried out by the Heritage Schemes near Peillac Way and the path along the edge of Bancyfelin noting that a great deal of work had undergone in order to secure grants. He also noted that the Council precept had remained the same for the last 5 years which is testimony to low levels of capital expenditure together with very prudent revenue expenditure.

An appointment of a Project and Events Co-ordinator had just been made to serve St. Clears and Whitland Town Council areas, giving opportunities to work in partnership.

Finally, the Council is embarking on acquiring The Welfare Field, Station Road.

Cllr. Davies reported that the Council had undertaken many tasks and several achievements had been made. He also referred to the passing of Mr. Maldwyn Jenkins, a loyal and dedicated Councillor and also Mr. Bertie Jenkins who was also totally committed to the Council.

Cllr. Davies gave a resume of the Council's work during his Civic Year and then called upon the Mayoress Annalyn Davies, to outline the Ambassadorial duties undertaken.

5. MAYORESS' ADDRESS:

The Mayoress explained that this was a break with tradition but she would give a brief outline of the activities which stood out.

The past year was a year of celebrations and the Mayor was duly invited to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee at both St. Clears and Bancyfelin by attending a Service of Celebration at Llanfihangel Abercowin Church, a Jubilee Tea at Bancyfelin, a Party in the Park in St. Clears and was bestowed the honour of lighting the Beacon at The Motte and Bailey

Many events were attended to celebrate the St. Clears and District Choral Society 60th celebration -the most memorable being an evening entitled "A Musical Journey." Two 100th birthday celebrations were attended at Dolyfelin also.

The W.I. celebrated its 90th year and the Mayor and Mayoress attended a dinner in the 1920's period costume. The Mayor was asked to judge various categories including Carnival floats; fancy dress; scariest pumpkins and best dressed mummies.

The Mayor attended the launch of the new Ferryside Lifeboat named the Freemason. The Mayor's Charity Fund was dedicated to raising money for Multiple Sclerosis and local charities and many fundraising activities were organised. The Mayor's Golf Challenge raised

£1, 050 and the Mayor presented £1,020 to H.O.P.E. Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre at Neyland.

The Mayor also organised an evening of Welsh entertainment by 3 Welsh crowned and chaired bards thus targeting a different sector of the community. This proved to be a huge success with much positive feedback being received.

During the Civic Year, the Mayor sponsored matches held by St. Clears Cricket Club; St. Clears A.F.C. and St. Clears R.F.C. and St. Clears R.F.C. Juniors and also the T.R.O.T.S. Particular congratulations to St. Clears A.F.C. who won the Division 5 Pembrokeshire League Cup.

The Mayoress concluded by thanking everyone for the honour of being made Mayoress and for the support received.

The retiring Mayor concluded by thanking everyone who had contributed to making his Civic Year a success- the Council for being elected Mayor; he thanked the Clerk for all his advice, wealth of information and his continued support during his own very difficult personal circumstances; the Mayor's Chaplain; all the Councillors; the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Jane Rees for all her support; the Grounds Maintenance Staff and Contractors for carrying out their work so diligently; all County Council staff at Y Gât especially Maggie Richards and also Annie of Annie's café. He also thanked the Mayoress for her unfailing support.

6. BUSINESS

1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR for the Civic Year 2013/2014

On the motion of Cllr. Dr. Edmund Davies, seconded by Cllr. Graham Edwards, it was unanimously resolved that Cllr. Jane Rees be appointed Town Mayor for the civic year 2013/2014.

The Town Mayor made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of office and was invested with the Chain of Office by the retiring Town Mayor, Cllr. Lyn Davies.

Mrs. Annalyn Davies presented the Mayor's Consort, Mr. Roy Watkins with his chain of Office.

The new Mayor, Cllr. Jane Rees addressed Council.

THE MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Cllr. Jane Rees considered it to be a great honour to be elected St. Clears Town Mayor once again. 11 have passed and last time Cllr. Lyn Davies was her Deputy.

A vicar's daughter, the eldest of three, Cllr. Rees was born in Neath moving to the Rhymney Valley later on. Having been involved with community activity from the "cot" with significant roles that paved the way to contributing to community life. She trained as a

teacher at Trinity College, Carmarthen, married and settled in St. Clears 40 years ago and she has two grown up children.

Cllr. Rees opened an Ysgol Feithrin at St. Clears in the 70's. She taught in local Primary and Secondary Schools and eventually changed career path to become a member of the NHS and trained and qualified as an Occupational Therapist involved in adult and children's independence. She stressed that her faith and Church life had kept her strong of heart and will and also the great network of friends and her two children at her side. Strength had also blossomed with the help of her partner Roy, her Consort, who shares her sense of community especially for St. Clears.

Cllr. Rees saw the next year as exciting, challenging and full of opportunities to bring young families and children together and encourage their responsibility and sense of pride for their town whilst realising where it comes from with the Heritage trail making good progress. Fair Trade status for St. Clears is on the horizon with the Steering Group making good progress.

The two charities the Mayor will be supporting are Canolfan Plant Sir Gâr (Bandi Appeal) and the Breast Care Unit at Prince Philip Hospital. A Community Civic Service will be held on Sunday, July 21st at St. Mary Magdalene's Church.

Cllr. Rees emphasised that the Council is forward thinking with each member bringing skills to the table. She thanked Canon Bryan Witt for accepting the role of Mayor's Chaplain and congratulated him on being installed as a 2nd Cursall Canon at St. David's Cathedral.

Cllr. Rees congratulated the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress Cllr. and Mrs. Lyn Davies on their successful year whilst thinking of Lynn Bowen, the Clerk and wishing him well

To close, Cllr. Rees thanked everyone for their pledges of support and looked forward to a successful year ahead.

2. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

On the motion of Cllr. Dr. Edmund Davies, seconded by Cllr. Selwyn Runnett, it was unanimously resolved that Cllr. Graham Edwards be appointed Deputy Mayor for the civic year 2013/2014.

The Deputy Town Mayor made the Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was invested with the Insignia of Office by the Town Mayor, Cllr. Jane Rees. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Graham Edwards duly thanked the members of the Council for his appointment.

VOTE OF THANKS

Cllr. Philip Rogers proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor thanking him for the leadership given, his commitment especially to the youth of the community and also his willingness to work in partnership at all times. This was seconded by Cllr. Mark Davies.

The retiring Mayor and Mayoress were presented with gifts by the Mayor and her Consort.

The retiring Mayor congratulated the new Mayor and her Consort wishing them well for an enjoyable and successful year ahead.

The Mayor, Cllr. Jane Rees presided the remainder of the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest. None.
4. To appoint membership of the Council's Committees. Cllr. Lyn Davies moved to defer appointments until the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Edmund Davies. Motion carried.
5. To appoint representatives on other committees, outside bodies etc. Cllr. Lyn Davies moved to defer appointments until next meeting. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Edmund Davies. Motion carried.
6. It was resolved to maintain the usual dates for the meetings and also the drop in sessions. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 28th at Y Gât. Drop in session at 7 o'clock followed by meeting at 7.30.
7. Other items of business. The Mayor, Cllr. Jane Rees informed Council that a "support" Clerk could be attending the next meeting of May 28th and that the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Graham Edwards and herself would be guided by One Voice Wales and the present Clerk.

Cllr. Graham Edwards proposed that monies allocated for the Mayor should be transferred and made available immediately. Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Edmund Davies.

The meeting ended at 8.25.