

## **Hebden ROYD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL held WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014 at HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH HEBDEN BRIDGE**

#### **MINUTES**

**PRESENT** Councillors; Timbers (Chair item 2 onward) Bampton Smith, Boggis, Davenport, Dixon, Halewood, Fearon, Hodgins, Press, Sweeney, Yorke and Young

Also present Chairs and Consorts of Heptonstall & Wadsworth Parish Councils, Todmorden Town Council and 48 members of the public.

Clerk – Jason Boom, Hebden Royd Town Council.

#### **1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR**

It was moved by Cllr Press

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Jonathan Timbers be Town Mayor for the Council Year 2014/15.

Cllr Timbers received the Chain of Office from Cllr Boggis.

Cllr Timbers read aloud and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office witnessed by Cllr Boggis.

The Mayor announced his consort to be Aeisha Timbers. The new Mayor placed the Chain of Office on Aeisha Timbers.

The Mayor presented the outgoing Mayor with his past Mayors Badge, Certificate of Office and his Memories of the Year and invited Cllr Karl Boggis to reflect on his year in office.

Cllr Karl Boggis reflected that his year had started with a jolt, the murder of Private Lee Rigby had shocked the nation and overshadowed his day of becoming Mayor but it made him realise that he had so much to be thankful for. This set the tone for the year and he thanked many people for what they did for others and for the area.

Note: Cllr Young arrived.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

The Mayor & Consort of Calderdale MBC, Cllr Ann Martin & Mohammed Naeem, the Governors of Calder High School and Burnley Road School, Nader Fekri, Frank Woolwych, Stephen Curry and Catherine Putz.

#### **3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Cllr Bampton Smith

Seconded by Cllr Press and

RESOLVED: that Cllr Hodgins would be Deputy Town Mayor for the Council Year 2014/15.

The Mayor placed the Deputy Mayor's Chain on Cllr Hodgins.

Cllr Yorke announced that Hazel Scott-Jones would be his consort.

**4. APPRECIATION OF CHAIRS**

Cllr Boggis thanked the chairs of his committees for the council year 2013/14.

i) **Community Funding Committee**

Cllr Fearon.

ii) **Environment & Allotments Committee**

Cllr Yorke.

iii) **Picture House**

Cllr Press.

iv) **Staffing Committee**

Cllr Young.

v) **Strategy & Review Committee**

Cllr Dixon.

vi) **Twinning Committee**

Cllr Davenport.

**5. ADJOURNMENT OF FORMAL BUSINESS**

It was moved by Cllr Timbers

Seconded by Cllr Young and

**RESOLVED:** to adjournment formal business until the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

**6. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Dave Nelson played Petrarch Sonnet no.2 (from *Années de Pèlerinage, Italie*) by Liszt following a short introduction reflecting on the local connections of the composer.

**7. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD**

Senior Section

It was moved by Cllr Press

Seconded by Cllr Young and

**RESOLVED:** to award the 2014 Service to the Community Award to Andrew Bibby for his commitment to the Town of Hebden Bridge over many years.

Andrew was presented with a plaque and certificate in recognition of his efforts.

Andrew reflected that you should 'dig where you stand, everybody can make a difference when we work collectively'.

Junior Section

It was moved by Cllr Fearon

Seconded by Cllr Halewood and

**RESOLVED:** to award the 2014 Service to the Community Award to Roisin Sheridan and Alex Kostaykov for their involvement with, and organisation of the Fair for Youth and the Community PA.

Roisin & Alex were presented with a plaque, certificate and gift vouchers.

**8. MAYORAL ASPIRATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MAYORS CHARITY FOR 2014/15.**

The Mayor stated it was an honour to be elected as Mayor of Hebden Royd. The Mayor thanked Cllr Karl Boggis, the outgoing Mayor, and his genuine love of meeting and getting to know others and Cllr Nigel Yorke, without whom he would not have been standing here. Cllr Timbers reflected that he hoped Nigel would become Mayor one day.

Turning to his year in office with the biggest event being the Tour de France, during which he shall be doing his utmost to ensure that the Town Council supports the efforts of local people who wish to use the race to promote Mytholmroyd, Hebden Bridge and Cragg Vale. To his mind however, the most significant event will be the First World War commemoration. The Mayors Grandfathers fought in that war, one of who died just before the Mayor was born partly of injuries sustained during active service. The Mayor stated that for him, WW1 is still a personal matter.

The Mayor reflected that WW1 was the product of an unjust system of international relations, imagined by the opponents of war back in 1914 and 15, including people from Hebden Royd

The Mayors Charities are in some way related to issues that derive from that and other wars.

The St Augustine Centre, a Halifax based charity, supported by Churches Together, supports refugees and asylum seekers, all of whom will have been displaced by terrible events, including war. The Mayor stated ‘many awful things have been said about asylum seekers and refugees over the last decade or so because of the explosion of numbers, caused by climate change, globalisation and because we are still a world at war, with ourselves. Compassion, as the greatest refugee of them all, Jesus, showed, is sometimes the greatest challenge both to authority and to ourselves. The most difficult thing in the world can be to love others. Supporting St Augustine’s is an opportunity to express our love.’

Combat Stress is one of the main charities that deals with armed forces personnel coming back from active service. The Mayor added ‘up to one in five have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This too is a personal matter for me. My father served in the Royal Navy on Arctic convoys in 1942/3 and clearly suffered from PTSD for many years. I am also a PTSD sufferer, and it has taken me a long time to rebuild my life after the events that caused it. I cannot begin to tell you how unsympathetic people can be to those who have to start out again. How difficult it is to keep on going in the face of disbelief.’ Combat Stress offers the right sort of counselling to those with the condition, so they can stay near the ones they love and rebuild their lives.

The charity was set up, under a different name, after WW1 because of huge numbers who had gone back into civilian life deeply traumatised. Last year, the charity saw a 57% increase in the number of referrals requiring treatment. Because of the nature of PTSD, and our many recent wars, the numbers are expected to rise dramatically over the next few years.

The Mayor asked that we should remember how lucky we are to live in Hebden Royd, particularly now when the hills and valleys are so beautiful, and we are surrounded by love and light and life. The Mayor asked that we ensure that others have the chance to share in our good fortune and celebrate what this council of unpaid volunteers is about, which is the ability of us all to give to all, for the benefit of all.

Finally, the Mayor placed on record his thanks to my wife, Aeisha, a very private person, who has approached the prospect of being the Mayor's Consort and chauffeur with fortitude and humour. The Mayor said 'I depend on her a great deal. And she didn't ask for this role. I think we should all thank her for her forbearance.'

**9. ST AUGUSTINES CENTRE**

A video presentation, prepared by staff and users of the St Augustine's Centre showed how the centre supported those seeking asylum in the UK and holding refugee status. The presentation showed the centres facilities available for use including an IT Suite and providing food for those attending.

Three users of the centre reflected on how the centre supports them and their families and how it is an important resource.

The presentation closed with the reading of a poem: Who are we? by Benjamin Zephaniah.

**10. A PERIOD OF REFLECTION**

The Mayor invited the meeting to observe a period of four minutes in which to reflect quoting from the book of Quaker Faith and Practice that 'the right to speak is a call to the duty of listening. Speech has no meaning unless there are attentive minds and silent hearts. Silence is the welcoming acceptance of the other. The word born of silence must be received in silence.'

**11. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Introduced, performed and composed by Dave Nelson the meeting concluded with The Long Haul (*Piano Cycle piece 4*) a piano piece played during the ascent of Cragg Vale as part of the celebrations in the lead up to the Tour de France passing through the Township on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

