

**ANNUAL MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL**  
**held WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023 at**  
**WATERFRONT HALL, HEBDEN BRIDGE TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT**

**Councillors** - Hayes (Chair from item 2), Bampton Smith, Boden, Boggis, Butterick, Cammack, Davenport, Fenton, Fraser, Guilfoyle, Harvey, Hedges, Howes, Hoyle, Matthias & Needham.

**Town Clerk** - Jason Boom

67 members of the public.

**MINUTES**

The Town Clerk opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. SMAJIC (St Michaels Amateur in Concert) performed a musical number from Chitty, Chitty, Bang Bang! Doll on a Music Box.

**1. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MAYOR**

It was moved by Cllr Needham

Seconded by Cllr Bampton Smith and

**RESOLVED:** That the Mayor for the council year 2023-24 shall be Cllr Bernice Hayes.

Cllr Hayes accepted the role of Mayor and announced that her consort for the year shall be Mr Eddie Hayes.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Maguire & Morse.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Cllr Hayes

Seconded by Cllr Boggis and

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Pat Fraser be the Deputy Mayor for the council year 2023-24.

**4. GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

It was moved by Cllr Hayes

Seconded by Cllr Guilfoyle and

**RESOLVED:** to confirm that the Town Council qualifies and adopts the General Power of Competence for the life of the council.

The Town Clerk explained the power and the requirements to qualify to the meeting.

## **5. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD 2022/23**

Ex-Councillor Rob Freeth introduced the award recalling recent Annual Meeting of the Town Council and how it was wonderful to see attendances returning to pre-covid 19 pandemic levels.

Rob shared that while sitting on council he had been keen to nominate Roger Benn for this award who he had met through the Hebden Bridge Rotary Club witnessing his selfless organisation of the Annual Duck Race. Roger contributes a huge amount of time and skilled effort all at no benefit to himself.

Roger supported Rob in his Mayoral initiatives to build back and strengthen the resilience of Hebden Royd following the Covid-19 Pandemic, publicising events and activities to encourage tourism and but also ensuring local people could take part, the initiatives looked to return positivity to Hebden Royd. Roger took this idea forward beyond anything that could have been expected and he created Light up the Valley, a road show to the Hilltop Villages including Mytholmroyd Christmas Market and finishing Hebden Bridge was a fantastic event which re-energised the community and was swiftly followed by 'Get Your Skates on,' ice skating in the Calder Valley and then straight into the next round of lights at Christmas for 2022. Roger is now involved with celebrating 50 years of Calderdale.

Roger makes things happen, bring different groups together for the benefit of the people of the Calder Valley because he wants to.

The Service to the Community Shield and a gift was presented to Roger.

Roger addressed the meeting and thanked the council and those who have supported his efforts in recent years. He listed, Hebden Royd Town Council, Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, the Welcome Back Fund and Hebden Royd Business Forum. Roger also personally thanked Sarah Johnson, Peter Haigh, Mike Stevens and Pat Devine.

## **6. SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AWARD – YOUTH SECTION 2022/23**

Cllr Boggis recounted his 34 years of involvement with local amateur theatrical groups while growing up in Mytholmroyd initially with an appearance as Eugene in a production of Grease. He had worked and performed with many groups in many shows. He now appears with Senior groups who are always looking for new members and its groups like SMAJIC (St Michaels Amateurs Junior in Concert) that develop and nurture new amateur dramatic talent. Cllr Boggis stated SMAJIC members are amazing, also thanked those that work hard behind the scenes to make the group happen and be such a success in particular Geraldine Wrathall and Eric Alston both long standing members of the group.

Geraldine Wrathall thanked the meeting and outlined her joy at seeing SMAJIC join Elizabeth Wrathall, the first recipient of the award on the shield together. Geraldine shared that it was both on stage and behind the scenes work that attracted volunteered member with new members always being welcomed

without any auditions. Past members have ‘graduated’ into film, radio and television work as well as technical roles.

Geraldine said if a young person wants to sing and dance they can, members are from all socio-economic groups and they receive tremendous support, learning life skills and making lifelong friends. Members work hard, have high standards and have fun while progressing. She thanked Hebden Town Council for recent financial support earlier in the year, contributing to a new environmentally friendly lighting rig.

Never wanting to miss an opportunity to publicise an upcoming production the meeting was invited to attend the Wizard of Oz, SMajic’s latest production.

Smagic performed ‘Teamwork’ also from Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang having received the Junior Shield and a gift from Cllr Boggis.

## **7. LONG SERVICE AWARD**

Cllr Needham introduced Roger Greenwood to thank him for 20 years of service to Hebden Royd Town Council. He outlined his carefully considered guidance and advice to the Town Councils Staffing Committee applying his experience when working with Yorkshire Local Councils Association, the National Association and through his working life working for HM Revenue and Customs.

Cllr Needham said however big the stage Roger was calm and undoubtedly offered sound advice, he appreciated this advice, and the charm and grace that he brought to every meeting.

Roger was presented with a gift to recognise his contribution and stated that it had been a pleasure to work with Hebden Royd’s Councillors and Council Officers, having initially joined to help untangle the ‘fisticuffs’ of 20 years ago. He had joined to stop bad feeling on the council and this being portrayed in the community. He had hoped to stay just for just 2 to 3 years but had managed 20 years, with the later years being far less eventful.

Roger closed by saying thank you for his invitation to Hebden Royd tarmac free zone, and that he hoped members will get things sorted very quickly

## **8. RETIRING MAYOR**

Hebden Royd Mayor, Cllr Bernice Hayes invited the retiring Mayor Cllr Jane Hoyle to address the meeting having presented her with her Past Mayors Badge, a record of her Mayoral Year and some flowers.

Cllr Hoyle could not believe that her year was over, but at the start of this new council year she wanted to welcome seven new councillors and also thank the seven who were stepping down. Tony Hodgins, Rob Freeth, Val Stevens, Geoff Wood, Sarah Courtney, Scott Patient and Dave Young had all made fantastic contributions and would be missed.

Cllr Hoyle highlighted the hard work of the council’s committees and thanked their chairs for guiding them.

Cllr Hoyle shared mementoes from her year as Mayor, with the Mayors Charity Calder Valley Search & Rescue (CVSR) benefitting from three events, the Civic Service, Ceilidh and the Mayor Summer Fundraiser. Cllr Hoyle presented a cheque for £3000 which was received by Team Leader Jonathan Cole who thanked the Cllr Hoyle for the funds which will help keep the groups wheels turning.

Cllr Hoyle listed her highlights as:

- Jubilee events for the Queen, and sadly following her passing, the proclamation of the new King in Halifax.
- Yorkshire Day, with breakfast on a steam train running between Oxenhope and Keighley.
- Attending a screening of ‘Alice - a fight for life’ at the Picture House. A moving film in aid of raising awareness of mesothelioma, a cancer associated with contact to asbestos.
- Attending the emotional vigil for Brianna Ghey, a moving event.
- Opening the 2023 Hebden Bridge Festival.
- Twinning visits from St Pol and Warstein, especially ‘Bingo’!

Finally, Cllr Hoyle thanked the new Mayor Cllr Bernice Hayes for being her right-hand woman, she has really enjoyed working with her and stepping in when she had been unable attend. She hoped she would have a great year!

## **9. MAYORAL ASPIRATIONS FOR 2023/24 & ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAYORS CHARITY**

Cllr Bernice Hayes thanked Cllr Jane Hoyle for her commitment for to preparing for meetings, for making links to other councils and for the Christmas Cards produced by her consort and husband Kevin. She had been fully committed to the role and accepted that she will have large shoes to fill.

Cllr Hayes said she was very proud for the opportunity, outlining that her simple aspirations which is to support new councillors and to work and learn from existing councillors. Aiming to be transparent and collaborative, learning and developing, allowing all to contribute. The Mayor suggested that councillors should gather to discuss their aspirations and how they can support the local community with all councillors being able to contribute.

Cllr Hayes quoted the Nolan principle on openness:

*Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.*

Cllr Hayes was clear in saying that it doesn’t matter if you have served for just a few weeks or for many years you have a voice and that the community that we represent has a significant role to play.

Cllr Hayes has in the past 12 months worked diligently to support those less fortunate than most through the cost-of-living crisis and had helped establish

Calder Food Support. She thanked a number of people for helping with this charity's growth and development:

- Rachel from Tesco for their continued contributions.
- Chris Mounsey for his generosity.
- Diane and Andy Bolton for organising the monthly quiz.
- Clair Michell for volunteering at both St Michaels & Luddendenfoot.
- Nic Cutts for support at the Kershaw Community Room.
- Rosemary Hedges for her generous help.
- Roy and Geraldine Wrathall for providing space at St Michaels and for their delivery service.
- HB Group Practice for facilities to help distribute.

Cllr Hayes announced that Calder Food Support will be the Mayors Charity for 2023/24.

The Mayor of Hebden Royd, Cllr Bernice Hayes closed the meeting and encouraged those attending to enjoy the refreshments and stay after the meeting.

The meeting finished at 8.40pm.