

## WARE TOWN COUNCIL

The **ANNUAL MEETING** of the **WARE TOWN COUNCIL** was held in the Council Chamber, the Priory, Ware on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 7.30 p.m. when the following business was transacted.

**PRESENT** Cllrs. T. Milner (Chair), Mrs. E. Bailey, Mrs. P. Ballam, T. Bedford, D. Day, R. Lester, Miss K. Little, A. Mills, G. Powell, J. Wing

**ATTENDING** Mrs. J. Buttery (Town Clerk), Mrs. D. Richardson (Minutes Secretary)  
28 members of the public

Before the meeting the Reverend D. Proud led the Council in prayer.

### 1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. M. Pope.

### 2. **ADDRESS BY TOWN MAYOR**

The Town Mayor gave the following address:

"First I would like to welcome members to the start of this current council. We have some familiar faces and also some brand-new. I would like to wish you all luck over the next four years. I am sure we will face some challenges but I have no doubt with hard work we will overcome them.

Since the last full Council we have had an election and I am sure that we have all been busy during this period. However, even though there is an election you are still the Mayor and have engagements to attend. I want to highlight a couple of events that I have been to.

On Friday I attended the official opening of Hertfordshire Constabulary's new operations building and new memorial garden. They were opened by HRH the Duke of Kent and was a well organised event. As most Mayors and Chairmen in Hertfordshire are handing over their office in the next couple of weeks it was also the last meeting of the current Chain Gang. So it was a good opportunity to wish familiar faces well for the future.

Yesterday I attended a lunch hosted by the Ancient Order of Forresters held at Fanham's Hall Hotel. This seems to be turning into something of a tradition for being the last official engagement of the Mayor. It was an enjoyable occasion and the AOF kindly gave me a cheque to go towards my charities. Their donation brought my total raised to over £7000. As many of you will know I handed my cheques over to the Ware and District Scouts and Guides and the Alzheimer's Society prior to this meeting.

In some ways it seems only five minutes since Cllr. Alexander put these chains on my shoulders. In others it seems that I have been Mayor for years. However, it is only when you wear this half a kilogram of gold for the first time that the responsibility of the office really hits home. At the Mayor Making last year I mentioned that I felt the eyes of past Mayors weighing me up to see if I was worthy of this office. I hope I have measured up. I do however look forward to joining them in weighing up the future wearers of this chain.

I want to thank everyone for all their support this year, my Deputy Mayor, Mark Pope, Councillors and staff and especially our Town Clerk, Janet Buttery.

It has been an honour and a privilege to have been Mayor and I have really enjoyed the experience. It is however also a demanding role. I am sure previous Mayors would agree with me that the role of Mayor would be much harder without the support of the Mayor's Consort. So I want to thank my wife Amanda for all her support and guidance this year, it would not have been half as successful without her.

I would like to invite you to toast the new Mayor with a drink after this meeting.

Thank you".

### 3. ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR THE 2007/2008 CIVIC YEAR

Cllr. T. Milner invited nominations for the office of Town Mayor for the year 2007/2008. Cllr. R. Lester proposed Cllr. G. Powell for Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2007/2008. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. A. Mills. There being no other nominations, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. G. Powell be elected Town Mayor for the 2007/2008 Civic Year.

Cllr. T. Milner handed the mayoral chain to Cllr. G. Powell. Photographs were taken.

**4. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Cllr. G. Powell said he would do his best to serve the town as faithfully as possible. He congratulated Cllr. T. Milner for raising so much money.

Cllr. G. Powell read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Town Mayor and took the Chair.

**5. PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S BADGE TO OUTGOING MAYOR**

As his first duty Cllr. G. Powell presented Cllr. T. Milner with a Past Town Mayor's Badge.

**6. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR THE 2007/2008 CIVIC YEAR**

Cllr. G. Powell called for nominations for the office of Deputy Town Mayor. Cllr. T. Milner nominated Cllr. Mrs. P. Ballam, saying that Cllr. Mrs. P. Ballam had been Mayor previously and he had no doubt she will be a credit this year. The nomination was seconded by Cllr. T. Bedford. There being no other nominations it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Cllr. Mrs. P. Ballam be elected Deputy Town Mayor for the 2007/2008 Civic Year.

Cllr. G. Powell presented Cllr. Mrs. P. Ballam with the Deputy Town Mayor's badge and chain.

**7. ADDRESS BY TOWN MAYOR 2007/2008**

Cllr. G. Powell gave the following address:

"Reputedly the longest continuously inhabited settlement in Europe, Ware is a very special and unique town. Its people are equally special and equally unique in the nicest possible way. I often describe myself as an adopted son of the town and its people having been born and brought up in that great metropolis some 20 miles south of here. My roots go back to people who were very much like the people of this town; they worked with horses, they were in the catering trade, they were postmen, policemen and prison

wardresses but they all had an affinity with the countryside in just the same way as the people of Ware. None of my forbears achieved high office; not because they were incapable of doing so but because they got on with their lives and would rather help their neighbours in the way that people used to without reward. That too is Ware. To have the honour and privilege of Town Mayor bestowed upon me is something that my late parents and other forebears would be extremely proud and I too feel extremely honoured. I see the position of Town Mayor as not only being the first townsman of Ware for the period that I am in office, but in particular to have responsibility to reach out to everybody who lives and works in the town and thus continue the remarkable sense of community that exists here.

Displayed on the walls of this Council Chamber are 74 photographs dating back to 1869 of those who have held the position of Chairman of the predecessor authorities to the Town Council, as well as the more recent Town Mayors, along with those who have served the town as Clerk. This formidable array of talent is not an easy act to follow but I shall do my utmost not to disappoint them in what I do and say. I am also mindful of the fact that at every meeting of the Town Council and its Committees the watchful eye of Mrs Page-Croft is upon us without whose generosity we would not have the beautiful Priory and its grounds.

I would like to thank Terence for the hard work that he has put in as Town Mayor during the past civic year and congratulate him on the amount that he has raised for his nominated charities. I will not be jumping out of aeroplanes and the only eight miles high that I am proposing will be with music.

On a more serious note I have asked the Rev Derrick Peel to be my chaplain for the year and he has most graciously agreed. I would not suggest that any bribery was involved but St Mary's Fabric Appeal is one of my chosen charities along with the Ware Drill Hall Association and the Isobel Hospice. The date of the Civic Service has yet to be arranged, but it will be held at St Mary's and I truly hope that it will be genuinely ecumenical and bring together people of many faiths and creeds.

I look forward to my year in office and hope to meet as many people and organisations as is humanly possible and if that means visiting every one of the public houses in the town as well as fulfilling my official engagements then so be it".

**8. APPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE, FINANCE & RESOURCES, CHARITIES AND CEMETERY COMMITTEE, TOURISM, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE AND WARE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

Cllr. T. Milner proposed the nominations be taken en bloc for the various committees responsible to the Council. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Wing. It was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations on the schedule attached to these minutes be approved.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was noted that an amended sheet of nominations for representatives on outside bodies had been circulated before the meeting. Cllr. J. Wing said there are two spaces on the amended sheet that are noted as + 1 Lib Dem. Cllr. J. Wing said he would like to take the position on the Museum Committee and for the Ware Transportation Forum he proposed Mike Salter. Cllr. J. Wing said it was unfortunate that he had not been able to comment before the meeting with regard to Town Twinning representation and found it unfortunate in view of the history that there is a majority group membership on the Town Twinning Committee. Cllr. T. Milner proposed the amended list be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. R. Lester. It was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the nominations for outside bodies be approved.

**10. DEEDS AND TRUST INSTRUMENTS**

The Town Clerk reported that the Deeds are in the safe and anybody wishing to view may do so. She presented the Register of Deeds for inspection.

**11. REPORT ON ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2006-2007**

Received and noted.

**12. NEW BANK MANDATE**

All members present signed the new bank mandate.

### 13. **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Cllr. G. Powell reported that due to an oversight two meetings and a function had been arranged for 9<sup>th</sup> July. It had been suggested that the Planning meeting be brought forward to 2<sup>nd</sup> July and that Full Council be moved to 16<sup>th</sup> July. It was

**RESOLVED** to change the date of the Planning meeting to 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 and Full Council to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

The meeting closed at 7.58 p.m.

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