

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MEETING HELD IN BUCKINGHAM
COMMUNITY CENTRE ON FRIDAY 19TH MAY 2006 AT 8 PM.**

PRESENT Councillors J. Barnett
H. Cadd
P. Collins (Mayor)
Mrs. P. Desorgher
D. Isham
Mrs. R. Newell
H. Mordue
Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
P. Strain-Clark
Mrs. H. Saul
R. Stuchbury
Town Clerk Ms. P. J. Heath
Guests of the Town Council
Guests of the Mayor of Buckingham

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs. R. Lehmann, H. Lewis, G. Loftus and Mrs. P. Stevens.

The Clerk read the apologies from the guests of the Council – Mr. A. Boswell, High Sheriff; Mr. R.Carr, CEO AVDC; Mr. C. Williams, CEO BCC; Cllr. D. Shakespeare, Chairman BCC; The Mayors of Aylesbury, Brackley, Olney, Towcester and Chairman of Gawcott PC.

2. THE TOWN MAYOR'S WELCOME AND RETIREMENT SPEECH

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Statutory meeting and thanked them for attending.

3. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FROM THE MAYOR'S CHARITY FUND

The Mayor presented cheques from his charity fund to Buckingham Red Cross and Aylesbury & Buckingham Branch of Alzheimer's Society.

Cllr Mordue as senior councillor present took the chair for the election of the Mayor and Chairman of the Council.

4. ELECTION OF THE TOWN MAYOR

Proposed by Cllr. Barnett, seconded by Cllr. Isham, and **RESOLVED** that Cllr. P. Collins shall be re-elected the Mayor of Buckingham.

Both Councillors praised Cllr. Collins on his individual strength to carry the Council forward and adopting new procedures, not all of which were popular. They wished him every success in the forthcoming year which would see the increase of the Council from 15 to 17 Councillors.

Cllr Collins took the chair.

5. THE ROBING OF THE MAYOR

The Town Clerk, with Cllr Mordue reading the regalia history, robed the Mayor.

6. THE TOWN MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF OFFICE

Cllr. Collins read and signed the Declaration of Office witnessed by the Town Clerk.

7. THE TOWN MAYOR'S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The Mayor expressed his honour at being asked to serve as Mayor of the town and pledged to represent the people of Buckingham and act as an ambassador for the town. He announced that his charities will again be the Buckingham Branch of the British Red Cross Society and the Aylesbury & Buckingham Branch of the Alzheimer's Society. The Mayor expressed his gratitude to his wife for her help and encouragement and also thanked the Staff and Councillors for their understanding, especial with his bold procedural decisions. The Mayor thanked the Twinning Association for their organisation of the visit of Mouvaux to Buckingham and the forthcoming visit of Buckingham to Mouvaux. The Mayor expressed his gratitude to Cllr. R. Stuchbury and the MP John Bercow for their work to retain the Mental Health Embleton Day Unit at Buckingham Hospital. The Mayor spoke of his personal feelings on the NHS, calling into question whether the NHS created in 1948 could deal with the expectations of today. The Mayor reminded the meeting that May 2007 will see the Council increase from 15 to 17 members and he hoped that there will be enough public spirited people prepare to put themselves up for election to enable Councillors seeking re-election to be judged on their record. The Mayor thanked Cllr. C. Strain-Clark for her work when Mayor to form the Buckingham Community Plan, whose efforts had provided Buckingham with a cinema and will (subject to SEEDA grant) launch their Circular Walk project later this year. The Mayor spoke of the pleasure he had received from attending school functions, annual awards for Moretonville Junior Football Club, Buckingham Town playing MK Dons, and the James Victory Cup game between Buckingham Town and Buckingham Athletic. The Mayor finished by urging people to attend the Music in the Market festival on Sunday 28th June.

8. NOMINATION BY THE TOWN MAYOR OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR AND PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION OF OFFICE

Cllr. Collins nominated Cllr. Mordue as Deputy Mayor and presented him with the medallion of office.

9. NOMINATION BY THE TOWN MAYOR OF THE MAYORESS AND PRESENTATION OF THE MAYORESS'S CHAIN OF OFFICE

Cllr. Collins nominated his wife Geraldine Collins as Mayoress and presented her with the chain of office.

10. NOMINATION BY TOWN MAYOR OF THE MAYOR’S CHAPLAIN

Cllr. Collins nominated the Reverend Kevin Ashby, the Rector of Buckingham, as the Mayor’s Chaplain. Rev. Derbyshire in Rev. Ashby’s absence thanked the Mayor and led the prayers for the Mayor and Town Council.

11. PRESENTATION OF THE “FRIEND OF BUCKINGHAM” AWARDS

Cllr. Collins explained that Buckingham Town Council had created an award to honour those who had served the people of Buckingham: the first recipient was Mr. T. Merrick, who had worked for Buckingham University of over 23 years and had played a key role in the building of the Swan Pool, the All Weather Pitch and the new facilities for Moretonville Football Club. Mr Merrick was awarded a silver salver and thanked the Council for the award.

The second recipient was Dr. C. Brown, who was not present, for his work with Buckingham Hospital for nearly 40 years; the silver salver would be presented at a later date.

12. THE TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Collins thanked everyone for attending and closed the Annual Statutory Meeting.

A civic reception followed the meeting.

CHAIRMAN DATE