

Minutes of the Annual Mayor Making Ceremony held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 5 May 2008

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds, Brian Elliott, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer, Ian Potter, Shaun Rogers, David Russell, Sam Souster, David Wright

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; George Brown – Town Sergeant; David Paine – Second Mace Bearer; Judy Pettitt - PA/Secretary to the Town Clerk; Revd Canon Hugh Moseley - Mayor’s Chaplain; Rex Swain - Town Crier; approximately 80 members of the public - including Distinguished and Invited Guests

The meeting commenced at 11am.

Prayers were said by the Mayor’s Chaplain.

1 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN 2008-09

The retiring Mayor, Cllr Paul Osborne observed that the two years of his Mayoralty had been very busy. (Often accompanied by the Mayoress) He had attended around 300 functions/events in/around Rye. He praised the voluntary and community groups operating throughout the year for the benefit of residents. He thanked the Mayor of Hastings and Chairman of Rother (both present) and the Rye Deputy Mayor, Cllr Souster for their support over the past year – as well as his fellow Members.

Gifts were presented to his wife, Lyn (retiring Mayoress), Judy Pettitt (Personal Assistant/Secretary to the Town Clerk), Richard Farhall (Town Clerk), David Pawsey (Town Hall Keeper), George Brown (Town Sergeant), David Paine (Second Mace Bearer) and Rex Swain (Town Crier).

Cllr Osborne invited nominations for the position of Mayor/Chairman for 2008-09.

Cllr David Russell proposed, and Cllr Potter seconded, Cllr Souster. There being no other nominations the Mayor declared Cllr Souster to be elected and *adjourned the meeting for robing.*

The meeting reconvened.

2 OATH AND DECLARATION

Cllr Souster swore the Traditional Mayoral Oath and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 1951 PENNIES

Cllr Osborne placed the 1951 Pennies into the Mayor’s safekeeping for the ensuing year. The Mayor passed the Pennies back to the Clerk (to look after them on the Mayor’s behalf) who proceeded to explain their historical significance.

4 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Granville Bantick, Sonia Holmes and Jo Kirkham.

5 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR AND VICE CHAIRMAN 2008-2009

The Mayor called for nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor and Vice Chairman for the year 2008-2009.

Cllr Palmer proposed and Cllr Jonathan Breeds seconded, Cllr John Breeds.

There being no other nominations the Mayor declared Cllr John Breeds to be elected and *adjourned the meeting for robing.*

The meeting reconvened.

6 OATH AND DECLARATION

Cllr John Breeds swore the Traditional Oath and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7 TOWN CLERK'S OATH

Mr Richard Farhall swore the traditional Town Clerk's Oath.

8 APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR'S SERGEANT AND MACE BEARER

The Mayor appointed Mr George Brown to the Office of Mayor's Sergeant and Mace Bearer.

Mr Brown swore the traditional Mayor's Sergeant Oath.

9 APPOINTMENT OF SECOND MACE BEARER

The Mayor appointed Mr David Paine as Second Mace Bearer.

10 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN

The Mayor appointed the Reverend Canon Hugh Moseley as the Mayor's Chaplain.

11 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CADETS

The Mayor appointed Able Cadet Frederick Crouch and Able Cadet Tyler Harvey, presenting them with their badges of office.

12 MAYOR'S ADDRESS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and, on behalf of the Town Council, thanked Cllr Osborne for his exceptional contribution to the town and Council over the past two years. He thanked also the retiring Mayoress, Lyn Osborne and Cllrs Russell and Potter for nominating him for the Mayoralty.

He stated that he wished to retain his predecessor's strong links with the TPCC and would continue the process of devolvement of services initiated by Cllr Osborne, subject to practical, financial and legal issues being addressed satisfactorily. Other priority areas of work included marketing the town, ensuring production of a Local

Action Plan and continuing to develop mutually beneficial working relationships with principal authorities.

He believed the current Town Council benefited from a mix of experienced and enthusiastic new Councillors.

The Mayor presented Cllr Osborne with a Past Mayor's Badge and appointed Mrs Rita Cox as his Mayoress. The Mayor's Sergeant presented her with her badge of office.

13 CLOSURE

The Mayor closed the meeting at 6.42.

Date Chairman

Members of the public, Distinguished and Invited Guests joined the Mayor and Council in a short service in the Parish Church. The guests returned to the Town Hall for a glass of wine and to throw hot pennies to a group of young people below, where members of the 3rd Battalion of the Cinque Ports Volunteers stood guard, accompanied by the Town Crier.

The Maces led the Mayor, Council, Distinguished and Invited Guests to the George in Rye for the Mayor's Luncheon.

The Distinguished Guests attending the meeting were: the High Sheriff of East Sussex; the Chairman of Rother District Council; the Chairman of East Sussex County Council; the Speaker of the Cinque Ports, the Right Worshipful the Mayor of New Romney, the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Hastings, the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Winchelsea; the Worshipful the Mayor of Lydd; the Worshipful the Mayor of Tenterden; the Member of Parliament for Hastings & Rye.