

**COUNCIL**

**24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

**VERBATIM RECORD**

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**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR  
(Councillor J Dowson)  
(Councillor G Latty)

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**VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL  
ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018

*(In the Chair - the Lord Mayor, Councillor J Dowson)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Welcome, everybody, to the AGM of the Council. Firstly I need to remind you in the usual manner that if you have got your mobile phone turned on, if you could please now make sure it is turned to silent. Also, the reminder – and you will have noticed we have extra webcams in the room today, so be aware that you are being looked at from around the world, I understand, tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Firstly, I would like to confirm that the following dispatch of the Summons with accompanying reports on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018, further papers originally identified on the Summons as to follow were circulated to Members on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

I also have one announcement to make. I do not know if many of you can remember back twelve months. Part of my speech when I became Lord Mayor was to talk about when I first became a new Councillor and how I was guided by, I think I called them a fearsome cabal of women, and there were some very strong women who actually were wonderful when I started and held my hand. I am very sorry, and it is with great sadness that I notify you today of the death of former Deputy Lord Mayor Honorary Alderman Marian Monks, who passed away earlier this month.

Marian was Deputy Lord Mayor in 2000/2001 and served as a Councillor for Barwick and Kippax ward for over 20 years. She also served as a Leeds Magistrate for 17 years and her spare time was dedicated to supporting the local community within Kippax. I understand that Marian also enjoyed theatre, music and travelling and she was also an avid supporter of our beloved Leeds United.

I am sure that Members of the Council will join me in sending our sincere condolences to her son, Martin, and his family and I would like to now please invite you to join me for a minute's silence.

*(Silent tribute)*

ITEM 1 - ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Carter.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: My Lord Mayor, thank you. Can I begin, if I may – and I do not want to steal anybody else’s thunder but I would like as Leader of the Opposition to thank you for the way, the professionalism and courtesy with which you have chaired these Council meetings. For Opposition Councillors it is always important that the Lord Mayor conducts the meetings in what we regard as a fair and impartial way and you have certainly done that, so I want to use the fact that I can speak first to thank you on behalf of my Group and myself for that. I will let other people sing the rest of your virtues, Lord Mayor, later on.

I am delighted to have been asked by Graham Latty to move this resolution in Council today. I have known Graham and Pat Latty for very many years as not only Members of the Conservative Group here on the Council but personal friends. You think you know all sorts about people until you are asked to make this particular speech and then you do a bit of digging, and you find all sorts of things out.

I did know, for example, that Graham was born in Leeds; what I did not know was that whilst his father was away serving king and country in the Second World War in India (strangely enough as my father was), Graham and his mother lived on the other side of the Pennines in Blackpool for a number of years. However, he returned to Leeds and attended Talbot Road County Primary School, then Roundhay School, followed by four years at Leeds College of Art.

Sometimes when we have moments in the Council meeting when all of us, I think, think you wish you were somewhere else, I sometimes imagine what Members of the Council might have been in another life if they were not here. On a very select evening like tonight I will not go into some of the views I have about what other Members might be more fitted to be doing! However, I never thought for a minute that Graham Latty studied to be a sculptor. I never thought that he was possibly a budding Michelangelo in his youth and I think most of you would agree you would not think that Graham had studied art for four years and particularly was interested in sculpture. If he had not got another year’s deferment from National Service he might have finished up as a sculptor or an art teacher, but national service came along in the RAF where he says he did not manage any dizzy heights. However, he was one of the National Servicemen who was posted to Christmas Island.

He was given the Post Office to run on Christmas Island. Apparently it was in a tent, it was half tent and half his living quarters but, showing good entrepreneurial spirit as we would expect, he ran a sideline painting the insignia of the island on pieces of oak which he then sold at £3 a piece to other National Servicemen. Now think back to National Service and £3 was a lot of money. I was going to say he made a bomb!  
*(laughter)*

On a very serious note he was one of the National Servicemen who did serve on Christmas Island when this country tested two atom bombs and two hydrogen bombs, and we all know now perhaps the safety that would be imposed now was not the same then

and those National Servicemen, people called up for two years, to be exposed in those conditions is quite frightening.

Another claim to fame is that Graham, I think, will be the only former publican to be Lord Mayor of Leeds. I am sure someone will correct me and give me a whole list of ex-Lord Mayors who were formerly publicans. He spent four years, in his own words “disastrous years”, as a publican at a pub I know quite well, the White Swan in Middleham, good racing territory. I do not think his time at Middleham was particularly happy or successful for Graham. It is, of course, as I said, a racing village. Most of his customers were lads from the stables. They never had any money, they got paid on a Friday and lost most of it on the horses on a Saturday and promptly ran slates over the week which sometimes they cleared off at the end of the week- literally, cleared off at the end of the week. Not a successful venture.

In 1979 he met and married Pat – as he says, and I am sure we agree, the best move he ever made. He took the job of political agent to the late Sir Giles Shaw MP in Pudsey, which gave him a taste for politics, and he was elected to Leeds City Council 18 years ago.

He is quite rightly very proud of his role on Leeds City Council, and particularly since he was joined by his wife, Pat, as a Councillor in 2010. Graham has been my Chief Whip for five years – not an easy job being Chief Whip, particularly if it is Chief Whip for me, but he has brought professionalism, dedication and loyalty to the job, things that both he and I value very highly. He has also been very heavily involved with adult health, health in general and social care and his work on the Council in Planning I think is one of the highlights of his time on the Council. He has always very much enjoyed being part of City Centre Plans in particular.

He and Pat between them have five children, 15 grandchildren and a narrow boat moored near Rugby. I guess he will not be seeing much of the narrow boat in this next twelve months. He and Pat are a very popular couple here on Leeds City Council, with friends across the political divide on all sides of the Chamber.

I always think it is essential that the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress or Consort, whichever they might be, are a team and work together as the First Citizens of our great city and I know Graham and Pat will do just that, not least because of their love for this city and all its communities and their commitment to our city’s success.

My Lord Mayor, it is my very great pleasure to move that Graham Naylor Latty be elected Lord Mayor in the forthcoming municipal year. I move, Lord Mayor.  
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor McKenna.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I guess coming second I have a lot in this that Andrew has already shared with you. Can I say, Lord Mayor, it is

also my pleasure to say what a wonderful job you have done as Lord Mayor in the last year. Being a former Lord Mayor myself, we judge you, you know. It is a bit like Strictly Come Dancing, we do not stick 6, 8, 9 up but right from the word go you were scoring very, very high on the ex-Lord Mayors. Alan has been such an able support for you. You have raised loads of funds for your charity, Candlelighters, which is one of the premier charities in our city, and I did have the pleasure of going along to a number of your charity meetings and I realised the good work you have done, so thank you very much. You have had a marvellous year.

While I am on my feet, Lord Mayor, can I just remind the Chamber that a Leeds lad, Josh Warrington, became Lightweight World Boxing Professional Champion in the last week. (*Applause*) The only Leeds person ever to hold the world title and I hope maybe we can set trains in motions where we might have a civic reception for him. I shall talk to Graham about that. Thank you.

When Graham asked me if I would do him the honour of saying a few words about him at the Mayor Making I happily agreed and I asked him for some biological (*sic*) notes. He is a hard man to pin down and he is a hard man to get anything out of. After a round of emails with him I got very similar information to what you have done.

Born in Street Lane, Talbot Road County Primary School, Roundhay High School, Leeds College of Art. In his National Service he did say that he had a cushy time actually, Andrew. He was an artist designing displays illustrating aspects of the RAF and then they transferred him to Hendon where he was part of the recruitment team and he says himself, "It seemed strange to me that a conscript like me was trying to get people to sign their lives away."

It does sound Graham had an easy number but things were about to change. As Andrew said, he was transferred to Christmas Island and ran the Post Office. He said he took to it like a duck to water and was able to make a few bob painting souvenirs for the lads in his spare time and apparently he had a lot of spare time at that time.

Life is full of surprises. As Andrew said he was there in 1957 when the A-bomb – two A-bombs and two H-bombs were tested. Interestingly, I asked Graham for a bit more about that and it was fascinating. You hear all the after effects from people who are still suffering, we have read it all our life really, haven't we? Graham describes the mushroom cloud as being – and he can be very poetic, actually, I will not give you the full thing but just a few words. He is very poetic, which was surprising maybe because I did not know that. He described it as absolutely terrifyingly beautiful. Hopefully none of us or future generations will ever see what Graham witnessed during that year.

Again, he was involved in politics, he joined the Young Conservatives at an early age, he was agent to Giles Shaw. In 1997 he was the election agent, which he neglected to tell my buddy next to me, for Peter Bone, which was won by Paul Truswell. Paul was the first Labour Councillor in there for a long time, ever. Denis Healey failed to win that seat in 1945, Paul. Quite a thing, really.

He tells me that during the election he actually had a row with Peter Bone on television during the campaign.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Me and him both.

COUNCILLOR J McKENNA: Yes, interesting. It is interesting. He went on to say in 2000 Graham was elected to Leeds City Council and he said, "I found something in life that I should have done many years earlier." Having served with him, I think he could have done it many years earlier.

Graham has been a member of Planning Panels for many years and, like me, he sits on City Plans Panel and is in fact the former Chair of that panel. He also is involved in Development Plans Panel and is Opposition Chief Whip. Councillors who sit on Planning will know that this is a big time commitment and these meetings frequently last all day. Nevertheless, Graham has fully engaged in this process and in the many years we have sat on the same panel together, he has argued successfully from his background as an art student for better design from developers, with frequent success.

Graham is also insistent that all new houses should have chimneys. Yes, we all know that on Planning. He has on many occasions persuaded developers to put up artificial chimneys to improve the roofscapes of these new houses. No mean feat, that.

Imagine the surprise of the panel when we visited the Leeds University's new Laidlaw Library, which had just won a design award thanks to the panel's insistence on better design. We had also requested some art work for the front of the building. The panel loved the piece of art on display with the exception of Graham, who was very critical of it. I can tell you that the art work which you can see at the library today is an oversized chimney which represented Leeds's industrial past. We thought it was rather ironic that here was a chimney he had not asked for and he did not like it! *(laughter)*

Serving on Development Plans Panel Graham has consistently argued against housing development in the green belt in Guiseley and Rawdon. He talks of his ward as being swamped by new houses in their precious green belt. Again, I was shocked to learn at the last Development Plans Panel that only seven houses – seven houses – have been built in the green belt in his ward. We are still awaiting the Planning Inspector's report to find out if the eighth house will ever be built! The political art of overstatement springs to mind but I guess it was a successful campaign.

I shall miss Graham's involvement on Plans Panel but I guess the volume house builders will be secretly pleased, as artificial chimneys may no longer be an issue on the panel.

As a former Lord Mayor, I know that Graham and Pat will have a great year discovering aspects of Leeds that they never knew existed as they perform their Mayoral duties. I would urge them to try to accept all invitations from all the schools and



voluntary organisations that help to make our city a much nicer place to live in, if they can do so.

Graham, like me, is very lucky to have his wife Pat as a serving Councillor as he will be able to call on the Lady Mayoress on occasions, as I did with Andrea, who was also a serving Councillor at that time. As Councillor Pat Latty, Lady Mayoress of Leeds, she will be happily accepted by the people of Leeds and half of them will think she is Lord Mayor anyway because she is the Lady Mayoress, and it was the same with Andrea again.

I know Graham will be a great ambassador to our city and I ask you to join with me in wishing them every success in the coming year. Thank you, Lord Mayor. I also know that you will do an excellent job in your new role as the Chief Whip of the Labour Group, where you will be taking up your seat shortly. Best of luck with that one, Jane!  
*(laughter) (Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Campbell.

COUNCILLOR CAMPBELL: Lord Mayor, honoured guests, fellow Councillors. For the benefit of visitors and guests can I just explain that there is a very strict hierarchy at this meeting in relation to who speaks when in relation to the support of the new Mayor. You will have noticed that I have got the third slot which, of course, means that all the background detail which is thoughtfully provided for us by the incoming Mayor has been used up by the first two speakers. I am not actually going to repeat any of that; I am just going to tell you a couple of anecdotes about my relationship, I suppose, with Graham.

I first met Graham some time in the mid-1980s when the City Council was going through one of its periodic upheavals caused by the need to reorganise the wards to get the electoral numbers right. We have just been through one of those, actually. Someone who shall be nameless came up with the bright idea of a new Otley and Wharfedale ward, which was a bit of a misnomer, really, because Wharfedale, for those of you who know it was, for the purposes of Leeds City Council elections, stretched to include both the airport, which is in Yeadon, and Rawdon traffic lights and Rawdon clock which is a good deal further away and part of what was always thought of as Aireborough.

That said, we Liberal Democrats took up the challenge, set out to do a little bit of light canvassing in what for us was uncharted territory, and I can recall walking up a path through a very neat garden, knocking on a door and the door was answered by a gentleman. I can only describe him as that because although it was fairly late in the evening he was wearing a blazer and a tie. I have to say that I have never, ever seen Graham without a tie. I am looking at Pat and wondering if she has ever seen him without a tie! *(laughter)* Perhaps we can come to that later! I suppose that is the Graham trade mark, the blazer and tie.

Anyway we chatted, as you do, and I explained to him why I was there to try and persuade him to vote for us, and he politely declined explain that for some reason I could not understand at the time and never have since, that he was going to vote Conservative. Several visits later – a good canvasser, as you know, never gives up – it became fairly clear that he was not going to change his mind but I think the clincher for me, of course, was when he stood against us as a Conservative candidate. Fortunately he did not win but he must have acquired a taste for elections because after several more attempts he was elected to represent Guiseley, a community for whom he has done sterling service ever since.

Jim, of course, has managed to steal my reminiscence about Plans Panel because Graham has been a stalwart member of Plans Panel. I think his trenchant opposition to poor development and his long running opposition to over development of Guiseley (not necessarily entirely in the green belt) is well known by all of us actually who sit on Plans Panel with him.

As those of you who have ever been to Plans Panel will know, each of us there has our own little foibles. Some of us are passionate about trees; some of us talk too much (and that might be me) but for Graham, as Jim said, it is chimneys. On many an occasion we have sat through a meeting with poor developers sitting there and thinking to themselves, “Oh my goodness me, we are going to have to go back and redesign this whole thing to get a few chimneys in there”, but as he says, the university very kindly, in my opinion, produced a piece of art work which I am sure they thought would be fully supported by Graham. If you go up to the Laidlaw Library there it is now this representation of a chimney to represent the industrial heritage of Leeds but, as I say, Graham never seemed to be too enthusiastic about it for some reason, though he has taken a good deal of good natured ribbing from us, I think, over the years about it.

As I say, Graham is a tireless worker for the city and will undoubtedly be a Mayor in the classical mode.

I cannot finish though without saying a few words about Pat. Actually, before I do, could I say thank you to the Conservative Group for nominating Pat and Graham. I am just wondering if they have taken austerity to heart in giving us in fact the Mayoral equivalent of a two for one offer!

Pat will make an excellent Mayoress. I often think of her as everybody’s favourite auntie. She will always listen to you, she always is there to offer advice when you need it – and sometimes when you do not – and probably has a boiled sweet somewhere in the bottom of her handbag to give you if you are feeling a little upset and need cheering up.

On the Community Committee she has been a tireless worker for young people and has always been a sensible voice in our discussions. Basically, she is just very good with people.

Graham and Pat, the dream team, on behalf of the Liberal Democrats can I offer our best wishes and wholehearted support. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Councillor Graham Latty to serve as your successor, and his wife, Councillor Pat Latty, to succeed as Lady Mayoress. Graham asked that I should speak on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents as we have worked together on a number of City Council committees over the years including City Plans Panel, Development Plans Panel, Whips Committee and Elections Working Group. Although I have to concede some seniority, it would be fair to place both of us within the ranks of silver Councillors. You do not find many men of either of our ages joining the French Foreign Legion – we do not need to. Wisdom comes with age but so does the ability to forget.

With that in mind, the gods have arranged a special challenge for Graham. Following the May elections there are no fewer than 27 new Members in this Chamber, all of whose faces and names he will have to match and memorise. Just to make it a little more difficult, I will ask Mr Tomkinson to have a raffle before each meeting in which names will be drawn at random against seat numbers. *(laughter)*

It was the Liberals who started this. They came within 211 votes of bringing back former Councillor Brian Jennings after a break of several years, which would have been enough to convince any new Lord Mayor that he was suffering nightmare flashbacks *(laughter)* rather than a mere lack of concentration which might have brought with it a risk of nodding off during Council meetings.

When I agreed to give this speech of welcome Graham said that he would send an autobiographical note to help fill it out. With his typical modesty the note was brief and hardly did justice to the man, unlike some potted life histories in which a name is followed by an alphabet soup of claimed qualifications and decorations and claimed exploits which would put Winston Churchill or Earl Mountbatten to shame.

He is a Leeds man who went to Leeds College of Art. There is a photograph of him in the College Centenary booklet published in 2003 – disappointingly it shows him as we know him, neat in collar and tie at a reunion in 1996, not dressed as a gorilla or disguised as a baby in a pram during the 1950-something college rag.

As we have heard during his Royal Air Force National Service he was sent to Christmas Island which is where atom bombs were tested. Servicemen dressed only in tropical kit, including shorts and probably pith helmets, witnessed the explosions with no more protection other than being ordered to do an about face to save their eyes from the withering nuclear glare. Come to think of it, giving out the occasional withering nuclear glare could be a Lord Mayoral asset if debate gets out of hand.

From muttered comments made when I sit next to him in Plans Panel, I know that Graham does not suffer fools gladly, dislikes pomposity and has an aversion to pretentious waffle. I would add that he bounces these comments off me rather than directing them towards me, or so I am led to believe.

Graham and Pat are long time users of the Canals and Rivers Trust network. Local Government austerity means that any plans to commission a Lord Mayoral barge painted with roses and castles, silver stars, owls and sheep picked out in gold leaf, would have to be set aside, or paused, as the bureaucrats say. From my knowledge of Graham and of Pat they will be exemplary First and Second Citizens who will do their jobs courteously, thoroughly, quietly and conscientiously.

On behalf of the Morley Borough Independents I take the greatest pleasure in marking the beginning of their Lord Mayoral year and trust that we will be able to welcome them to Morley during that year. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dobson.

COUNCILLOR M DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Before I start I would just like to echo earlier comments from colleagues about your year, which has been exemplary. I think the three things I have noted down here are fairness, poise and dignity in the Chair and I really do appreciate that, so thank you so much.

Moving on to Graham and Pat, because they are a double act, I think that is fair to say, I think the point has been made, we are going to be getting two for one. What two fine people to take up the office of Lord Mayor and his consort this year.

From our perspective as Garforth and Swillington Independents, we are delighted to support Graham in his year and in his position to be elected as Lord Mayor, genuinely.

My reminiscences with Graham are somewhat different, actually, and probably more recent because even though we have been friends, I would like to think, through the time I have been on Council, we have only ever crossed paths professionally once and that was a really interesting year on Health Scrutiny back in 2010/11. At that time we were up against some pretty tough issues in Leeds, people may recall. There were big issues in Leeds with Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust around renal provision and dermatology provision, and then the really big issues around children's heart services in Leeds.

It was really fabulous having a sensible head and pair of hands on the board like Graham because any Chair will tell you who has chaired a board, you are only as good as the team of Councillors who work with you on Scrutiny. He was really exemplary for two reasons.

First of all, like every Chair we used to have the pre-meets and in those pre-meets you would decide the strategy and you would decide who was going to land the killer

punches at times, and you would always give them to Graham for one reason, because he is so gentlemanly and well mannered he kind of got away with things that for the rest of us would have probably looked overtly aggressive. He was always there, willing and able to ask the difficult questions and keep asking them and probing for the proper answers that we required.

I have to say, he used to sit to my right with the late Graham Kirkland and they were like Statler and Waldorf off the Muppets, really, the pair of them. They used to very much jump in whenever they wanted, I used to try and chair the meeting but I would give up in the end and I would just let them have their say and it worked very well.

The other thing he did which was so important to the Scrutiny process, he never played politics with it, he supported the work of the board and he supported the chair, so for that I will always be eternally grateful to him.

His work and his passion for Guiseley and retaining the uniqueness of Guiseley is legendary. His work to try and stave off, I did not know it was only six or seven, I thought it was many more if we are to believe what he tells us. It is nice to know actually that people are going in to bat for their communities so strongly like Graham Latty. I imagine he will be very much missed from Plans Panel.

He will always be welcome – Pat, you too – this year in the People’s Independent Republic of Garforth and Swillington (*laughter*) and we hope to see you there very soon.

Finally again, just to say congratulations, you will have a marvellous year and as Garforth and Swillington Independents we are delighted to support. Thank you.  
(*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is my great honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of the Green Group in support of the motion that Graham Naylor Latty be elected Lord Mayor of the city of Leeds.

I have to say that going last on occasions like this usually means that all the best bits have been taken and quite a lot of it has been, but I have got something up my sleeve that nobody else has spoken about. As is normal for myself, my speech will be short and sweet, I hope.

Graham has had a varied life, being educated at Roundhay School, then studying sculpture at the Leeds College of Art, National Service in the RAF which many years ago when I first met him, he told me all about Christmas Island. As Members will know I am strongly involved in Nuclear Free Local Authorities and while Graham and I do not necessarily share the same views on nuclear weapons, it was very interesting talking to him about that.

Really, I first got to know Graham through Planning where we both were members of West Plans many years ago now. I immediately found somebody you could disagree with, sometimes fundamentally, but still remain on extremely good terms. He is somebody who got elected to the Council for the right reasons, to serve our citizens and doing the best for the community he serves.

I remember once when the arrangements did not work out for site visits and the bus did not turn up, which happens occasionally. We went to Plan B which was, as a Green was not really acceptable to me, we went off in about four or five cars. Graham, myself and this young Labour Member went off in one car. The Labour Member in question was a bit upset, the week before he had been deselected. Graham was so kind and nice to him and understanding about him, in fact actually I thought he was trying to get him into the Conservative Party but I do not think Andrew would have been pleased about it because the guy in question was slightly left wing, but there we are.

Of course, one of the things Graham is famous for, as has been mentioned, is he is champion of chimneys on houses. After all, they are useful for putting TV aerials on and dishes, if nothing else. I do not remember him doing that much in the early days but it might be either my memory – because my little grey cells are not as good as they once were – or that at that time developers were putting chimneys on houses. Either way, in recent times he has become on City Plans vociferous in support of the common chimney.

I say to my colleagues on Plans Panel, beware, the Lord Mayor expects that all houses that get planning permission during his year of office have to have chimneys on top.

On City Plans we will certainly miss Graham's input and companionship over the next twelve months, but hopefully after his well deserved year of office as Lord Mayor, he will once again come back to Planning.

Graham tells me that he has always been interested in politics but said that he joined the Young Conservatives mainly because that was an easy way to meet girls. Now, I hope he met Pat at the Young Conservatives because otherwise I might have caused a domestic in the Lord Mayor's household with that, but hopefully that is all right.

He also told me he did a stint as agent for Giles Shaw. Now, Giles Shaw was not the tallest man in the world and Graham, who is five foot seven, said that he was greeted each time as "Hello Big G", which made him feel quite tall. Big G, you can feel big now because you are going to be Lord Mayor.

I know the team of Graham and Pat will be good for this city and Graham's pleasant gentlemanly way will be appreciated by all that meet him. I look forward to him coming and visiting my ward, I look forward to seeing him at some of the many events. Graham I believe will be a fine Lord Mayor and I hope both he and Pat have a really good year. The Green Group supports the motion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Now, colleagues, for the very last time during my tenure as Lord Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to put this motion to the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

Now, there will be a short adjournment.

*(The Retiring Lord Mayor left the Chamber preceded by the Sergeant at Mace, and proceeded to the Ark Royal Room, followed by the Chief Executive, City Solicitor and Group Leaders.*

*The Sergeant at Mace removed the chain from the Retiring Lord Mayor. The procession left the Ark Royal Room and returned to the Chamber.*

*The Chief Executive and City Solicitor returned to their seats.*

*The procession proceeded to the well of the Chamber.*

#### CEREMONY

*The Sergeant at Mace assisted the Retiring Lord Mayor to affix the medallion to the retaining chain.*

*In order of precedence, Group Leaders each placed one loop of the chain around the Lord Mayor's shoulders and/or shook hands with the Lord Mayor.*

*Photographs were taken.*

*The Group Leaders returned to their seats, leaving the Retiring Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor for remaining photographs.*

*Preceded by the Sergeant at Mace, the Lord Mayor proceeded to the Chair, followed by the Retiring Lord Mayor.)*

*(In the Chair – the Lord Mayor, Councillor G Latty)*

#### DECLARATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will now conduct the Declaration of the Acceptance of Office. If I can invite the Lord Mayor to read the Declaration.

THE LORD MAYOR: I, Graham Naylor Latty, having been elected to the office of Lord Mayor, hereby declare that I take the said office upon myself and will duly and faithfully fulfil the duties thereof according to the best of my judgment and ability.  
*(Applause)*

*(The Lord Mayor signed the Register)*

## ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: The next business, Item 2 on the Agenda, is to elect the Vice Chair of Council. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR J DOWSON: I would like to move that Councillor Gerald Wilkinson will be appointed at the Vice Chair of the Council and to hold office until immediately after the election of the Lord Mayor at the Annual Meeting of Council in 2019.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Delighted to second, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: In that case we will have a vote on the appointment of Vice Chair of Council. *(A vote was taken)* I think that is carried, therefore Gerald Wilkinson is appointed as Vice Chair of the Council. *(Applause)*

## ADDRESS

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, it looks as though now, the minute you have been waiting for – I am going to address the Council. Believe you me, and I think Jane will probably agree with me, when you sit down to do this you think it is going to be easy; then you realise you have got to talk for a few minutes and you do not know what the heck you are going to say! If you are expecting a deep political or philosophical sort of address, I do not know if the Rose Bowl is still open but you might be better off going for a cup of coffee! *(laughter)*

What I came to the conclusion about with this speech was, this evening is a Mayor Making so I thought well, I might as well talk about what made this Mayor – what happened to bring me to this point.

I certainly would never have thought I would be sitting in this Chamber – it is the sort of thing that happens to other people. It is not so much the Lord Mayor but it is the First Citizen of Leeds which is rather a wonderful title and a wonderful position to be in. I used to believe – I still do – that there is always somebody, whatever height you get up to, there is always somebody who can tell you what to do or tell you you are doing it wrong. As First Citizen I have got to go to London to find somebody to say that, haven't I? *(laughter)* That will be a bit of a change.

Anyway, Lord Mayor of Leeds. To me that is very, very special because Leeds is not just any old place. It is where I was born – actually, that was in Three Gables



Maternity Home – I am pretty sure it was three, it might have been four but I think it was Three Gables – and I know I was born round about four o'clock in the afternoon because my mother used to say that she missed having tea because I decided to show up. It always seemed to me a bit like a black mark that, because if you missed your tea in those days you got nothing else until breakfast. It was not like nowadays where we graze all the time.

Leeds is where I was educated. I know I have given the people who spoke for me earlier on lots of information. I am beginning to regret it, actually, because I might have given everything away that I want to say now. Although I am talking about Leeds as a special place, I actually started school in Blackpool, at Claremont Road Primary School. It was war time and my mother and I were living with my grandmother who had what then we called a boarding house and now it would be much grander, it would be a small private hotel I am sure. She had a load of servicemen billeted on her and so she needed help and, again, being war time they did not know what to do with all the people who were being conscripted and so they tended to be placed out, billeted out in private houses and boarding houses and hotels etc.

One thing I remember about Claremont School is that because it was wartime everybody had to carry a gas mask - I am sure there will be one or two here who will remember that with me – because there was always the danger, the fear that there might be gas. My mother in her wisdom got me a Donald Duck gas mask. This was just a brightly coloured Donald Duck face with a flapping beak disguising the fact it was a gas mask. Of course, we used to have gas mask practice at school and who was the only one with a Donald Duck? *(laughter)* I stood out like a sore thumb, talk about embarrassing. I just mention that because these are all character building, aren't they? I have had an aversion to Donald Duck ever since! *(laughter)*

Anyway, after the war – just before the end of the war – we came back to Leeds and I went to Talbot Road County Primary School. Now it was mid-term and so because the classes were all formed, I was given a choice of which class I could go into. I was born in December, you see, and you were a bit old for one year and a bit young for the next year, so I could have gone into either of two classes. One of them had my cousin Brenda was a member of that class, and the other one was Joyce Webster, she was in the other class. She was not a relation and I quite fancied her – bearing in mind I am only about *this* old – and so I chose that class. I never ever got anywhere with Joyce, it did not do me any good!

Anyway, I suppose you have heard more about my school days so I will try not to bore you. I have just made a note here about school days and when you come towards leaving school, you get to 16 and the possibility of leaving or going on to the Sixth or whatever, in those days (it is probably a lot better now and my wife Pat would probably tell me that it is a lot better now) there was not much in the way of telling you what you could do when you left school. We still thought in those days of going to a bank or a building society or insurance company, some thought about going into the Church, some thought about going into the services.

I took the coward's way out – I went to college. I had been pretty good at art at school so I went to Art College. I studied sculpture for four years there and that is one thing that, carrying it forward to present life, I am a pretty enthusiastic member of City Plans Panel and when City Plans Panel is not getting bogged down in big housing numbers and things like that, it deals with quite often iconic buildings in Leeds and that is the stuff you can get your teeth into. That is really to my mind what City Plans was all about. I am supposed to be non-political this year and this is not political; I just think City Plans has gone off the rails, it is getting bogged down in big housing estates which I think is something entirely different.

As a sculptor it made me think – and I do bore people a bit sometimes about this – to look at Leeds a bit like a sculpture park. I have said this in Panel and I get some funny looks and some quizzical looks but I regard the buildings that look like the Rusty Tower, like the library that we have looked at. All sorts of wonderful buildings and we are the sculptors placing those buildings in the right place in Leeds in the right relationship to other buildings and it is the responsibility there of making Leeds look like something, look like a proper city, some where you come over John O'Gaunts and look down at Leeds and it looks something good.

You go over the top, Nont Sarah's or somewhere, go over towards Manchester and as soon as you see Manchester you know what I am talking about because that looks like somebody shook it up and just dropped it. No good at all.

Anyway, that was College, that was being a sculptor. I got deferred for four years but the fifth year I did not get deferred, I got caught for National Service, which in the long run was an extremely good thing because I was going to be and thought I would be a teacher, an art teacher, and the fifth year would have been what they call pedagogue year and I would have done teacher training as a teacher of art, but the hard-hearted Air Ministry wanted me, took me into the Air Force and I was able to use the fact that I had actually done something, getting into Art College and what not, because they at that time were trying to encourage people to join the Air Force, sign up. You got the rather ridiculous situation of an impressed man, a National Serviceman who had not really wanted to go in in the first place, involved in designing displays to get people to sign up for the rest of their life, which I just thought was a bit of a strange quirk, but it was jolly enjoyable.

What happened next? They sent me to Christmas Island. I am starting to ramble, but I am enjoying it! (*laughter*) When you are doing National Service and you are going to go abroad, you are put on what is called PWRs, Preliminary Warning Role, and that tells you that you are going to go abroad. At the same time you get the choice of where you would like to go. I thought I would like a bit of sunshine, I do not want anywhere dangerous, so I put down Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus, and so they sent me to Christmas Island, which was about as far away – it was literally as far away as you could get because if you went any further you were coming back.

When I got there they realised I was even less use on Christmas Island than I had been when trying to find something for me to do after square bashing and so they gave me the Post Office tent to run. That was absolutely ideal, it was fantastic because I was able to do all sorts of art work and things, which I suppose at the time it was not strictly legal because I made these things that I sold to other airmen; shields, which one of the chippies there made for me out of oak that was going spare. Nothing goes spare when you are in the services. It all belongs to somebody, probably the Queen, but he made these shields for me and I painted the crest of Christmas Island with what is called a grapple bird, which was a big black bird, which was the insignia of the island, and jolly tasty they were and people liked those and I sold them for a few bob! I actually came away from Christmas Island with more money than I went out with, which I thought was a plus.

I eventually got sent back and I finished off at the same unit I had been at before and I was designing displays but this time for the School of Work Study at Air Ministry.

Anyway, they finally let me out and I had to find something to do and I got a job with a company called Mercantile Credit. They were people who lent money through retailers to people who want to buy something, as you would call it chucky or on the knock or finance, hire purchase. We provided the money, we did not get our hands dirty lending to individual people.

I quite enjoyed that. That became, in actual fact, the backbone of my career and I pursued it in one way or another with one or two little exceptions I stuck with finance all through my working life. I got round the country a bit, went to live in Leamington Spa because I had an office in Coventry and then in Birmingham. I got promoted from there up to York and went to live in York, ran the office for Forward Trust in York there, that was part of Midland Bank. I used to go into the Three Cranes in St Sampsons Square after work and I just got a taste for going into pubs. I am not talking about alcoholic taste but I enjoyed them, I enjoyed the company, I enjoyed playing darts and I thought I could do this, I could do this as a living. It would be all right, this.

So I set about taking a pub and I got the White Swan in Middleham in North Yorkshire. Andrew will know there I am sure because that is horseracing country and what a wonderful place to live. Take your dog up in the morning up on to the gallops and you could see for miles, nobody else around. A few horses would come by etc but absolutely super, but financially ruinous. The lads hadn't any money, when they were not on the slate they were in the bookies shop and I never made anything from a financial point of view at all, so after a valiant attempt – it also, I have to say this although my daughter is sitting up there, it did lead to divorce and that was an unpleasant part of it.

However, I got out of the pub trade and went back into finance again and it was because of that that I met my wife, because I went into being what was called an 'F and I' man, a Finance and Insurance man within the motor trade and worked for an agency and they were sending me up to work on Teesside. I thought, where am I going to live on Teesside? Did not want to go right up there, I wanted to be a bit nearer to Leeds so I took

a bungalow on a short lease in Kilburn, underneath the White Horse. That was a long drive into Bradford where they finally sent me because they changed their mind just after I had signed the lease and moved me to Bradford, so I worked for Jack Tordoff there and I worked for him for quite a while. I used to drive to and fro every day and in the evening on the way home I used to pop in the White Hart in Pool in Wharfedale, which our lady past Lord Mayor will know – I am sure you have never been over the doorstep! I used to pop in there and who should be behind the bar but the Lady Mayoress of Leeds.

She thought I was a bit of a twerp, actually; she thought I was a bit of a hooray Henry because I used to drink beer with a touch of lemonade in, which was a landlord's trick because if you put a drop of lemonade into a beer you can drink anybody's beer – even Sam Smith's! *(laughter)* It becomes palatable! I would go to the bar and say "A bitter top, please" or "bitter with a touch", depending how you – and when I ask for a bitter with a touch, you know Pat, she thought I was being suggestive!

Eventually I talked her round into speaking to me, showed her Kilburn and the rest is, so to speak, history. I think that popping in there was probably the best thing I ever did in my adult life.

Anyway, I was taking an interest in politics now and a chap called Clive came and knocked on my door, our late lamented Clive who died two or three years ago. He knocked on my door and he seemed to know that I had been a member of the Party when I was in Leamington and he said, "I want you to join here" – Conservative Party, by the way, just in case there is any possible doubt about that!

I invited him in and we gave him a cup of tea and I signed up and Pat signed up. I suppose politically we never looked back then, we became enthusiastic members locally and eventually the job as agent to Giles Shaw cropped up and I applied for that and actually then Andrew Carter was the Chairman of Pudsey constituency and it was in his gift and I think he probably was not too sure at the time because we had one or two acerbic emails backwards and forwards – or no in those days it was letters, I do apologise, not emails – but eventually we became friends and that is another of the good moves in my life because I have enjoyed Andrew's friendship ever since.

Anyway, he gave me the job and Giles Shaw the MP used to trot into the office every Friday and I would be waiting there and it was wonderful because he looked up at me, and not many people do. He would say, "Hello Big G" and that made me feel really special, really tall because I always said to Pat, if I could change anything in my life I would have been two inches taller, but you cannot do that, can you, so I am thinking about Cuban heels might be an idea!

Giles Shaw retired and we had to choose somebody to replace him, and nowadays it is a name we will be familiar with but it was not one you would be familiar with in those days, in 1997. We chose Peter Bone to be our candidate. He is rebellious now and he was rebellious then and he and I did not have the happiest of relationships, but there is

a gentleman sitting not far from me who actually enjoyed thrashing Peter Bone at that 1997 election. There are ways I think he might have done us a favour.

Anyway, there was one thing that I have to tell you about Peter Bone which was actually on the television. By the way, he had a film taken of his campaign by some Channel 4 company and he was going out to dinner one night and they were filming him getting ready and it was actually on film, on television, Peter Bone in his underpants pulling on his dress trousers, and he thought this was great! I just thought it was embarrassing, quite frankly! He did not like having his lunchtime arranged. Being a good agent every day of the campaign I had somewhere for him to go for lunch – clubs, pubs, restaurants, cafés, you name it. Every day what did he do? He went to a café on Horsforth High Street and met his wife and flatly refused to go to any of these things. That ruined the relationship.

Anyway, that is politics, that is what got me interested as a participator rather than a sort of manipulator and I started standing for Leeds City Council. The first time was for Otley and Wharfedale and I did not get in. Then somebody you might know, a chap called Hughes-Rowlands rang me up, he was a member of this Council at one time, and he rang me and said, “Would you like to be candidate in Aireborough, Graham?” I jumped at it and it took me three or four goes but in the end I wore the beggars down and I actually got in. For me, that was the start of a really long and happy association not with the Council but with Aireborough. It was and is I think a fantastic place.

Just before I talk a little bit about Aireborough because I am going to finish on Aireborough, I have talked about Pat and I as a couple but behind that couple there are five children and I think at the last count it was about 15 grandchildren. We have, I hope, reached the end of the line with that because it costs you a fortune at Christmas time! *(laughter)*

Tonight I am awfully pleased tonight there is my daughter Ruth up there; Simon one of my sons, he cannot be here, he is in Thailand and I am sincerely hoping he is watching this on the webcam; we have got Alison; we have got Elizabeth; and then we have got Michael who is out in Abu Dhabi. So we have got the two boys cannot be here but we have got all the girls with their children. We have got lovely grandchildren and a fair selection of them are up there tonight. There are two little ones who promised me they will behave tonight – there is a ten and a six – and up to now they are doing pretty well. We will wait and see what it is like at the table, won’t we, at the meal time!

I am so proud to have them here, very, very proud. *(Pause)* I swore I would not do that! Also here is a part of the family I adopted when I married Pat and that is the Middlesbrough crew. We have got three of the Middlesbrough people here tonight and it is lovely that they have come down because families do get a bit disparate and you do not always see them and to have something like this happen to a family and that they will come all the way from Middlesbrough – I mean, it is a good hour in the car you know! – is absolutely great and I am pleased and thank them for coming.

Right, family. Because I have wandered about a bit I think I might have said some of the things I wanted to say, but that getting elected brought me through the doors of the Civic Hall for the first time as a Councillor – I had been on a trip round the Civic Hall once but I will tell you what, that first day I got a feeling that when you walk in here you put on a sort of cloak of responsibility, of, I don't know, just a feeling of belonging and I have never lost that. I think it is fantastic place, I think what we do is absolutely marvellous and let's face it, about 40% of the population keep voting for us so some of them must think it is a good thing. I do, I think it is an absolutely wonderful place and through it I have met lots of other people.

Being on Plans, step back – being a Councillor, a lot of my colleagues, a lot of people refer to Councillors as politicians. I firmly believe that is a load of rubbish. We are not politicians. We are people trying to run Leeds, make it as good as we possibly can for the people who are forking out out of their pockets every year to run Leeds and it is down to us to do it, not to go politicking and worrying about what is happening in Westminster. The Party differences, we never feel them in committee, do we? We are all doing the same thing and enjoying it, I hope. It is a shame to spoil it by brickbat throwing. OK, it is fun at Council but that is different, isn't it? I suppose we have got to do a little bit at election time, pretend that we are political then, but all you want to do is get back and carry on with the work.

I have told you about sculptors and sculpture and that sort of thing. Member Development – yes, I must tell you about Member Development Panel. Not Development Plans but Member Development. When power had changed hands for six brief years, I chaired Member Development for a certain length of its time and we did all sorts of things at getting Members developed, but one thing we did, we got ourselves some sort of recognition. I cannot for the life of me remember what it was but we do have a piece of glassware which we were presented with and I remember going into the middle there and getting it and it is in one of the cases outside the Banqueting Hall. Following that, the following year, power changed hands again and Madam ex-Lord Mayor took over my job on Member Development and do you know, it took me a long time to get to think about talking civilly to her again because it was a job I really enjoyed and she took it! Actually she was given it but I think we buried that eventually, didn't we? Yes.

Health, I got involved in Health as well as Planning, the Health and Wellbeing Board. That was a real eye-opener, the Health and Wellbeing Board. It has been five years just about since it started and at the very beginning, with clinicians, third sector, private sector and Councillors all trying to sit round a table and work together and actually start talking about the same things for the same reasons. It took a bit of time but I think Rebecca will say that we have just about got there and they do talk now to each other and actually believe each other is not out to run the other's business.

Right, I became a Deputy Whip to John Procter – the man who knew where all the bodies were buried (*laughter*) and a jolly good bloke to teach you how to be a Deputy Whip. Actually I almost ended up being Chief Whip because he was always doing

something else. Finally then I did take over as Chief Whip and that has been a cracking time in my life, I have thoroughly enjoyed that.

I think that all in all I could not have asked for a nicer path through Council up to this point. This now gives me chance to do something that I have envied Lord Mayors over the years. I am able to have a charity. My charity is going to be St Gemma's. *(Applause)* I am glad you have clapped because we have got the head girl from St Gemma's here tonight, Kerry is up there together with her deputy and I seriously hope we are going to make some money for them over the year.

We are setting out with the aim of being able to finance one member of staff. What the member of staff is that we raise the money for depends on how much money we raise, so the more we get the more chance we have got of getting somebody further up the pay scale.

I hope that there is going to be the support there and certainly I shall be putting my all into doing as well as I can for St Gemma's. It is the sort of place none of us ever want to think about going, isn't it, but we thank God for it if we do need it, so let us try and do something for them.

OK, I think I have rattled on long enough. I could tell you all sorts of things. *(laughter)* I was just going to say that I fancy something to eat myself! Actually I fancy a G&T more! I am looking forward to something to eat so I do think that I will wrap it up now.

I said I was going to close on a note of Aireborough. Aireborough elected me, it lost its name but we have got it back as a housing area. It is a lousy way to get your name back but we got the name back in that sense. I confess I rarely refer to Guiseley and Rawdon, I prefer to refer to it as Aireborough and people there feel it is Aireborough. It did elect me, it has given me a home, I have lived there for 40 years. I love Aireborough as though I had been born there and I want to go on doing good things for Aireborough but I do think that this Mayoralty in my eyes is a tribute to Aireborough for what it has produced and how it has enabled me to be here. I am just going to set out and try and make them proud. Thank you very much for listening to me. *(Applause)*

Incidentally, you are saying I have gone on a long time and you want to eat, it seemed a heck of a long time that people were saying things about me – I thought it would be over in ten minutes but it went on for over half an hour! They had a hand in it as well!

### ITEM 3 – VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 3 is a vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor, who has promised to be brief! Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I think I am the first one to say thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I join others who have given you and Pat their best wishes for you for the year ahead and we all sincerely hope you have a very successful year and particularly I think all of us are delighted to hear the charity of your choice. I cannot actually promise that those of us on this side of the Chamber will all behave as perfectly as we are behaving this evening but we will certainly do our best and it is phenomenal looking around just to see how many new Members we have got in the Chamber this year. It really is. Someone said to me actually we ought to introduce wearing name badges, which I am sure we can do without.

I hope and I know you will all join with me to express and extend a vote of thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor, Jane Dowson. I have to say, looking back and this week in particular, a real moment of poignancy and sadness and Gerry Harper's last act as Lord Mayor was leading the tributes and the remembrances after the Manchester bombing. Jane really showed us what she was made of in the first few weeks of her Lord Mayoralty when she had to stand in front of all of us after London Bridge, Borough Market, Finsbury Park and, of course, the Grenfell disaster. Jane, you showed us your compassion, you showed us your dignity and we all want to stand together and say an enormous thank you for leading us through those very difficult moments. *(Applause)*

I did look back to the words I said welcoming you as Lord Mayor last year and I did predict that you would be a whirlwind and I did repeat that several times in my speech. I have to say, boy, have you lived up to the expectation that we had of you. I think we will all remember your year, Jane, for your enthusiasm, your extraordinary energy and real commitment to do right by the people of Leeds.

I have to tell you – she might go on to tell you something about this herself, I have to say – she attended, and I hope Graham and Pat are listening to this - over 850 events over the year. *(Applause)* Last Friday alone in one day – and appropriately she named it Just One Day – she took part in 20 engagements just last Friday and all, obviously, for the charity of her choice, Candlelighters – an extraordinary day and so much participation.

I cannot do her year justice and I am sure you understand that and I really want Jane to really tell us her highlights of the year. We will all remember her phenomenal contribution to the ongoing commemorations for World War I and she has shown enormous support for the military and I am hoping that she will continue to support the military as she goes forward – I am sure she will. She went to visit Passchendaele in Belgium to personally thank the Mayor of Zonnebeke for looking after the City of Leeds Memorial Plaque at the Tyne Cot Cemetery and to lay a wreath there on behalf of the City at the Menin Gate. She unveiled three Victoria Cross World War I memorial stones in Hunslet, Armley and Garforth and I often thought over the year, having been at several events with her, I did wonder what was going through the heads of the staff from the Lord Mayor's office who were supporting her because I do not think they ever quite knew what to expect.



You have a triathlon event and you expect the Lord Mayor to turn up in their chains to help to celebrate the wonderful event for the City of Leeds, but this is no ordinary Lord Mayor. Jane actually, not allowed to wear the chains on this event, dived into Roundhay Park lake to actually swim the length of the swimming stage of the triathlon just to take part herself. I think most of us who were at the phenomenal party that she hosted for Leeds Rhinos celebrating their grand final victory will know just the incredible passion that she brings and really doing every single member of the team real justice in celebrating their success on the field.

We know how extraordinarily fortunate it was that Jane's Mayoral year coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the West Indian Carnival. I did not notice you getting dressed up in quite the same way that you have been known to on previous occasions but I know the coincidence of having the West Indian cricket team here at the same time and the Civic Reception you put on for them and hosting the Premier of St Kitts and Nevis on the weekend of Carnival must have been one of the real highlights of the year.

I predicted that you would put children and young people at the heart of your year from the work that you have done for us on the Council over many years, and you really did live up to that expectation. I expect you might know how many children you actually met in your year but so many of them out in their own schools and at community events, but also the way that you welcomed so many young people into the Civic Hall and your legendary tours around the building I think will go down in history.

I had not realised actually, I do not know if all of you do, what a phenomenal singer Jane is. Absolutely extraordinary. We were at an event with the Friends of the Leeds Piano Competition and Jane stood up and nobody quite knew what to expect, they had actually enjoyed Ed Balls talking about his experience on Strictly and the fact that he learned to play the piano whilst he was the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, but I do not think any of them were expecting Jane to stand up on the stage and absolutely belt out singing in a way that you have to experience to believe. I think she was at it again this week, I did see a picture on Twitter of her singing on the stage of the Town Hall, so maybe we will have more events.

She has embraced the year of Suffrage for all of us, the women on the Council, what a fantastic role model she has been and I know that she has followed down to London to actually see the spot where Leonora Cohen had thrown a bar at the Crown Jewels. Really phenomenal work and I think we are not alone in Middleton Park ward from turning up to community events to find Jane there ahead of us with the spade ready to plant the tree and all of the other things that we have asked her to do.

I actually do not know how much money Jane has raised for her charity of choice this year. I am sure she is going to tell us herself but I am expecting it to be another record breaker.

I know she could not have got through the phenomenal work that she did this year without the fantastic support of Alan. I think we should give Alan a huge round of

applause. (*Applause*) You might get Jane back, Alan, to those quiz nights and all of those other events but we will see, she might have other ideas in terms of what she is going to do. Jane, Eva would have been so proud of you and I know Alison is here tonight and your family really should know just what a contribution you have made to our city. We are all hugely proud of what you have achieved and it has been an enormous pleasure I think for all of us to work alongside you.

I think a lot of us in this Chamber will remember the incredible poise and politeness with which you chose to close down the speeches of those of us who have a tendency to speak beyond the red light, and that phrase that she perfected, just as someone was absolutely in full flow, “That was lovely, now we will move to the next speaker”, will go down in history, I think. It is for that reason that I have actually asked Jane to be our Chief Whip for next year. She will bring all of the experience she has had as Lord Mayor and a real ability to build friendships, to build relationships and all of the things that we need to sustain us going forward.

An enormous thank you, Jane, from all of us. Really a job well done. I know you have enjoyed it immensely but we have enjoyed having you and can I ask all of you to join me in showing our appreciation for what you have done. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all can I add my congratulations to you and Pat. On a personal note you have both been incredibly kind and great friends to me over my time on Council. It was a privilege to serve as your Deputy Whip for a number of years, not least because I did not have to do anything because you took care of everything, so it was the easiest job in the world. You and Pat are the kindest, loveliest people and you will be fantastic ambassadors for the city. We are very proud to see you there. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

I am really proud to second the motion and the vote of thanks to the outgoing Lord Mayor, Councillor Dowson. What a year you have had. It really seems most appropriate to raise a glass to you – not least because you have banished all the plastic from this Chamber and it might be a small act but it kind of typifies to me the way you have fulfilled the role this year, that you have not missed any opportunity to use the position you have taken for the year to advance any cause, in whatever way that you can, whether it be removing plastic from this Chamber, whether it be promoting the Armed Forces, whether it be promoting LGBT rights, whether it be promoting our young people, children and families. Whatever it is you have gone heart and soul into it and it has been incredibly impressive. From whichever side of the Chamber we are on we have all been unbelievably proud of you and Alan and the way you have represented this city over the last year. You have done an incredible job.

One of the things, as many have said when you go second or third or fourth or fifth in these things you start running out of things that someone else has not covered, but I am aware that you opened a number of skate parks in your year in office. I am told you

are going to demonstrate at dinner a 360 degree backslide pop shove it and I thought your new skill of a kick flip might be quite useful in your new role as Chief Whip! *(laughter)* We will see.

A personal highlight for me was when you came to Wetherby in January when we always do a late Christmas dinner for 200 older people, which I had the privilege of cooking, and you came and helped to serve it. Again, it summed up to me the kind of Lord Mayor that you had been that long after we were cleaning up I looked out and you were still there. Hours and hours and hours you had spent going round with everybody and the number of things I have been at that you have been at, that kind of typifies the way you have behaved and conducted yourself, that you have given absolutely everything you have got to the role of Lord Mayor.

There are lots of things we could say but I am sure the chefs are getting worried about the chicken at this stage so I will leave it to say what a wonderful job you and Alan have done, we are all incredibly proud of you and it is a pleasure on behalf of the Conservative Group to second the vote of thanks. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Personally, Jane, I am very disappointed. I have flicked through this photo album and I am not in it once with you! *(laughter)* I gave you a perfectly good photo opportunity with outsized vegetables at the Rothwell Horticultural Show! *(laughter)* Any road, we will make up for it.

Some of you might know that I am one of the Trustees for the Lord Mayor's charity so at that part of the year when actually somebody who becomes Lord Mayor disappears off the political scene for a little while in terms of committees and that kind of thing, you miss them and you do not get to see much of them, I am quite privileged because I get to see quite a lot of the Lord Mayor through the work that I do with them on the charity. It is my little bit of CSR as an elected Member. I think that it is good that you can support your First Citizen to make the most out of their fundraising activities, so that is what I do.

One of the things that is apparent about Jane from the very beginning is that she approaches everything seriously – not seriously as in sour faced and let's keep to the business, but seriously in terms of, "We are going to make this work, you are part of my team and what you give me I will give you back." That is one of the things that I am very grateful for throughout this year is that Jane Dowson, as Lord Mayor of this city, has shown the service and commitment which is due to the role.

The office itself is, of course, the embodiment of civic pride. Too often occasional individuals take the office, the pride ends up being conceitedness. That is not something that you could accuse Jane Dowson of in her year that she has held so far.

I was thinking of words to describe Jane and they have all been used so far – I have got businessfied, I have got dignified, presence but I have to say eloquent. Whenever you turn up to an event - and you have turned up to several in my own ward and I have seen the ones that you have done for the city itself - you do not usually have notes but you give something which is eloquent and which is not too long, which is a great secret, but also it is from the heart. When you stand up as a Lord Mayor of Leeds you are proud of that and you want to give the people who are in front of you the best possible version of you as the personification of the city that you can, and your year has been exemplary.

I have seen 20 Lord Mayors. There are a few in here as well – all very, very good, I am not going to say you are the best but you certainly made your mark and made it unique.

Lord Mayor, you have got a hard act to follow. I have seen how people react to Jane Dowson, I have talked to people who have had events months ago and then you mention you are on the City Council and they go “Oh, we had the Lord Mayor. Oh, we have booked the other Lord Mayor as well – can Jane come as well?” You have to explain to them that, actually, ex-Lord Mayors do not like to tread on the toes of the new incumbent and it is not fair to do so but I know that her support will always be there.

In terms of the support always being there, Candlelighters as a charity, it was an inspired choice this year. When you are working on a charity it is good to have something to work for and a particular goal, and the cottage was a great concept for people to buy into and all I can say is, in terms of your efforts in the fundraising for Candlelighters this year, I have never seen such a grateful bunch of fundraisers as those that work for that organisation. If we feel a certain sense of loss and renewal, they will just feel loss, I know that, and you will be sorely missed by them.

However, there was a mention by Councillor Blake about Just One Day. The fact that you think it is Jane Dowson’s idea just sums up how much effort she had put in this year in terms of making the concept work. The concept of Just One Day is actually about everybody in the city supporting the Lord Mayor to fundraise on just one day, generally May 18<sup>th</sup> or around that period, as a celebration of your civic pride by joining the Lord Mayor in what they hope to achieve for an organisation that puts something back into the city. You had a great organisation last year. This year Councillor Latty, Lord Mayor, yours is another organisation whose reputation goes before it but the fact that you have chosen it they will be very grateful for.

Now I am rambling, Lord Mayor! What I will say is, I was honoured to serve you this year and the legacy that you have created will mean that Councillor Latty as the new Lord Mayor will have a much better footing to go forward and achieve what he can for the city and I think we should all be grateful for that. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Could I say that you and Pat are well deserving of the honours bestowed on you today. Congratulations.

I am delighted to congratulate Councillor Jane Dowson and her Consort, Alan Bellhouse, on a most successful year in office. Jane took to the road as Lord Mayor of Leeds as if it belonged to her and throughout the year has proved that it did. She has been well received wherever she has gone and the information from around the vibrant, diverse, inclusive city of Leeds as being of a job well done.

For her chosen charity, Candlelighters, Jane has worked tirelessly – a wonderful charity and a wonderful result, no doubt, which we shall hear later from Jane, for Leeds parents and children with cancer.

Many congratulations once again to you both, Jane and Alan, on a fantastic year, from the Morley Borough Independent Group. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Field.

COUNCILLOR FIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. On behalf of Garforth and Swillington Independents we would like to thank Jane for her service to the city over the past year. As Lord Mayor Jane has worked tirelessly and undertaken a great number of duties with enthusiasm, dedication and obviously a love for Leeds and its people. We would particularly like to offer her thanks for her attendance at the unveiling of Garforth War Memorial. She spoke very movingly and I know everyone who gathered appreciated her heartfelt words, particularly the relatives.

We would also like to say thank you on behalf of East Garforth Primary School. When the children visited the Civic Hall and the Council Chamber, they spent a fantastic morning with a Lord Mayor who both inspired them and showed a great rapport with young people and I am sure they will remember it for a very long time.

On a personal note I would like to say thank you to Jane for her gracious and very compassionate approach to her role. Sometimes it is the little things we remember in life and for me it is two things with regard to Jane. One is when we were at the Garforth War Memorial ceremony and the weather was terrible and she invited me to share her umbrella as we stood in the rain. Finally, at full Council just last month I had come straight from St James's where my late mum was sadly spending her final days with cancer. I remember I had a little note passed to me and it was from Jane, offering me the use of the Lord Mayor's office if I needed some quiet time. I think I will always remember that. I told my mum later that day and she said, "That is a woman with a good heart", which I think is a fitting tribute to a Lord Mayor. Thank you, Jane. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all I would like to congratulate you and Pat as the new Lord Mayor and Consort of Leeds. I am sure

that you will honour us all with being very good at the job though obviously you will have a long way to go, I think, to beat Jane. I am sure you will and I am sure you will also try to keep all of us in this Chamber in order as well.

On behalf of the Green Group I support the vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor, Councillor Jane Dowson. During her year of office I saw Jane when she visited the Bramley Festival, as I was helping on a stall there. Jane visited the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Manor House Care Home in my ward of Farnley and Wortley in April this year, but we did not see one another as I arrived after she had gone, due to the fact I had to attend a meeting first.

However, it does seem that she has been seeing quite a bit of my husband. I pause there *[laughing]*. Yes, I am sure lots of things are going on in your mind at this particular point! *(laughter)* Now, Jane is going red at this point as well, I see! Now we have all had a bit of a laugh, I must point out that this was to do with her duties as Lord Mayor. All disappointed now I know, but anyway, never mind!

In fact, my husband tells me that she attended the annual commemoration of the dropping of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. My husband made the Hiroshima Declaration in his capacity as Chair of Peacelink, whereas Jane drew the short straw and did the declaration that was several pages long. She officiated at the installation of the city's Peace Pole with my husband at the Quaker Meeting House near Leeds University. She chaired a meeting of Mayors for Peace in the Civic Hall East Room with my husband in attendance. *(laughter)* Certainly my husband will miss Jane though, of course, he will see her, I am sure, round and about. I should say, my husband, for people that are visiting that do not know, is Councillor David Blackburn.

I am told that in her year of office Jane has attended well over 850 engagements in the year – possibly the hardest working Lord Mayor ever, so well done, Jane.  
*(Applause)*

I have to say that I was very impressed when she introduced water jugs and glasses to the Council Chamber to replace the plastic bottles of water previously provided - saving the Council money, yes, but, more importantly, doing her bit for the environment.

Also, I cannot finish my speech without mentioning what a grand job she has done in chairing the Council meetings. She has been a very fair chair. The Green Group thanks you and your husband, Alan Bellhouse as Lord Mayor's Consort, for all the work you have done in your year of office for our fantastic city and I know I will be seeing quite a bit of Jane in this coming year as Chief Whip. Thank you again, Jane. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, we will now have a vote in respect of the vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. In that case, the Retiring Lord Mayor has been thanked.

I will now present the past Lord Mayor's badge to the Retiring Lord Mayor.

*(The Lord Mayor presented the past Lord Mayor's badge  
to the Retiring Lord Mayor)  
(Applause)*

#### LADY MAYORESS/LORD MAYOR'S CONSORT

THE LORD MAYOR: The Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort will now present the Lady Mayoress with her insignia of office.

*(The Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort presented the Lady Mayoress  
with her insignia of office)  
(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Now, the Lady Mayoress will present the Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort with a retiring gift.

*(The Lady Mayoress presented the Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort  
with a retiring gift.)  
(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Retiring Lord Mayor, would you care to reply.

#### RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR (Councillor Dowson): There is something about going last in a line of speeches because a lot of what I was going to say has already been said but I shall plough on regardless and I shall try and get through it as quickly as possible so we can all actually end the meeting and go through and celebrate with Graham and Pat who, I am sure, will be the most marvellous Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress over the coming year.

Firstly, I think I would like to thank you, my fellow Councillors, for giving me the opportunity to be Lord Mayor of what we all know is the best city in the country. *(hear, hear)* It has enabled me to promote Leeds locally, nationally and internationally, representing fellow residents, our wonderful cultures, our universities and colleges, businesses and the arts – indeed, everything that makes living here so fantastic. It has been especially poignant to be a female Lord Mayor in the centenary of some women getting the vote for the very, very first time.

I think it is safe to say that my year, as it got busier, so did the work of the office and the drivers and as Councillor Blake has said, I have been told it is one of the busiest years ever with around 850 engagements, which came in daily and I did try and respond,

sometimes with quite short notice, so thank you to Erica, Bernie and Jill, I think you have done an amazing job. *(Applause)*

Obviously on one very busy week I got through four different drivers. They made sure I got from A to B and then C and D and E and so on on time, so a huge thank you to Mark, our Sergeant at Mace, Marcus and Dennis and a very special thank you to Victor, who is actually retiring today. *(Applause)*

I think it is fair to say that it would have been impossible for me to do that number of engagements without their excellent driving and knowledge of some roads that I did not know even existed in Leeds, so well done all of you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the two Children's Mayors, Grace Branford and Isla Bentley, who have held office during my term, as they have both been excellent ambassadors for young people here in Leeds. *(Applause)*

Now, Councillor Golton has already mentioned the photographic memoir of my year that you have all got on the table in front of you. Stewart, I do apologise for not including a picture of your oversized vegetables. *(laughter)* I thought I would just mention a few of the things we have done in the whole year, but I will try and rush through them quite quickly.

Firstly, Councillor Blake already mentioned the visit to Belgium. It was a huge honour to go to Belgium and commemorate and remember servicemen from our area who gave the ultimate sacrifice, lay wreaths at Tyne Cot and the Menin Gate which were truly memorable. We took with us members of the British Legion and our new associated ship, Audacious, with us and we put a really good show up for Leeds because those places just are so emotional.

Each service is different at Tyne Cot, each night is different depending on who wants to go and on our visit the Caledonians were there playing the bagpipes and it was one of those hair standing up on the back of the neck moments when they started to play. I will remember that always.

There were some lighter moments. Feeding the penguins at Lotherton Hall, that was a really nice occasion because I got to name two of the penguins – one Stanley, after a lady who lived in the area, after her granddad, that was a competition she won, but also I named another penguin Lucinda after our colleague because she had actually driven that project through and I thought it was fitting, so when you go to Lotherton look around for Lucinda the penguin. *(laughter)*

I thought we were going to get into trouble last week, we had a really, really wonderful LGBT event, Friends of Dorothy, launching the charity for older members of the LGBT community to have somewhere to go, people to talk to and so on about their experiences but unfortunately the Planning Inspectorate were in here and had to come out



at one point because we were making so much noise and having so much fun it was disrupting the events in the Council Chamber.

At a meeting at York Street doctors' practice, which is a doctors' practice that looks after our homeless people in Leeds, I met a gentleman who was a Companion Emmaus and that started a friendship that actually I will continue after today. They invited me to look around their York Road base. I joined them for a Christmas dinner and we exchanged gifts and I even went to open their shop at Halton Moor, at which point I purchased an absolutely amazing hat which you will all get to see perhaps a little later. Our fantastic Third Sector organisations have just been amazing in Leeds and I have been grateful to all of them for inviting me to many, many of their events. You are truly amazing.

The wonderful Growing Zone in Kippax where June and her volunteers encourage young adults with learning difficulties to grow and blossom, just like the flowers and vegetables they tend on the allotment plot they cultivate. I visited them and they visited me here on several occasions and it was so much fun.

So many of our amazing and wonderful diverse communities invited me to commemorate special community days with them and I would like to thank them for making me feel so welcome.

We had so many international visits in the city I lost count but because I represent Chapel Allerton, the home of Carnival, as Councillor Blake said most notable for me was the visit of the Premier of St Kitts and Nevis who came over to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carnival with us.

Leeds Rotary and Lions organisations who give so much of their time and energy to help others, thank you for your friendship this year. We have some great Neighbourhood Networks providing many opportunities for our elders in the city, and I did want to visit as many as possible and they were all absolutely fantastic.

I think I visited and listened to almost every amateur orchestra and choir in Leeds and it is worth noting that for every single note played by a professional musician in Leeds, nine others are played by amateurs. Leeds City Council through art forms and the music hub support so many adults and children who want to learn to play an instrument and we have so many opportunities for them to play music in our city. CLYO – which is the City of Leeds Youth Orchestra – is a case in point. They are the most fantastic musicians. They will be going on a tour this summer to Italy and have raised money for the trip throughout the year to make sure that every single member of the orchestra can afford to go. As Dougie Scarfe, the conductor says, if one goes, we all go. What a great philosophy and way to run an organisation.

I saw theatre groups of all ages enjoy giving performances across the city to audiences and friends and relatives who loved every minute, as did I. I was there to witness Leeds Lieder and the Piano Competition ignite the world of music by embracing

new technology on a world stage. Needless to say, our major venues and companies across the city had another successful year. Particularly they reached out into our communities by working with children and schools, with elderly groups and dementia sufferers. Our ballet companies were particularly successful – Northern Ballet with its production of Jane Eyre and Phoenix with the award-winning production of Windrush – but it is the dementia sessions that I found at the Playhouse particularly emotional. As you may know and you have heard, I love to sing and the highlights of the year do include the performances and singing on stage which I really enjoy. I will have to wait and see what the audience thought though, but it was a great time for me.

I rang bells in the belfry at St Ann's Cathedral, I scooted, as Alan said, at The Works and the opening of several new play areas, I was there to witness the Rhinos win the Challenge Cup. I unveiled new memorials to our fallen heroes and, as Councillor Blake said, took part in a team triathlon with Councillor Illingworth riding his bike on the cycling stage and Councillor Venner running in over that beautiful blue baize. I wanted to prove a point, that it does not matter what size, shape or age you are, you can still take part.

I would have actually loved to swim with the chains on and I think I could have done it, but Mark vetoed that idea very quickly because unfortunately he would have had to accompany me in the water! *(laughter)*

That is just a small snapshot of all the amazing events Alan and I have been to and some of the wonderful people we have met over the year. I am often asked what is the best thing about being Lord Mayor and the answer is very easy – it is the people. It is the people of Leeds, who are just so amazing. They are generous, both financially but more importantly with their time. Volunteers are the backbone of Leeds and I cannot praise them highly enough. I found a quote early on in my year which some of you may have heard me say before but I genuinely believe it to be true, so I will say it here one more time. Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless. My heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for what you do – you are truly amazing. *(Applause)*

Now, my Charity Committee and Trustees have been incredible this year and in particular I would like to mention just three. One has already spoken, Councillor Golton, and I asked him to take charge of the initiative Just One Day, which has been around for a number of years but has never really taken off. He went to see the Chief Executive, we went to see businesses, the charity were absolutely fantastic and we pushed this concept, because what you find, and you will find as you go round, is lots of organisations are already raising money for a charity that they have chosen for the year but what we are asking is that if you live, work or play in Leeds, do something just on one day for the charity that looks after you here in this city. Stewart, I would like to thank you personally for enabling us on Just One Day to turn Leeds pink. Thank you. *(Applause)*

I would also like to thank Ryan Stephenson. Ryan came on board about half way through the year but he has actually come up with so many fantastic ideas and made sure

they happen, which is essential. It is really easy to come up with ideas but actually putting the time and effort in to making them happen, so I would like to thank you, Ryan. A lady called Sofia Rebelo I would like to particularly thank. If ever there was a human dynamo this woman is that. She is inspirational, she works so hard to engage with organisations who may have never thought of charity events before. Luckily for me lots of them actually involved cocktails! Everyone has played their part so thank you to Bob, Jim, Sarah and Jo for being a vital part of a remarkable year.

I did not know when I chose Candlelighters as my charity – I knew they were a great organisation but I did not know just how fantastic they would be. I did not want to pick anyone out because everyone has worked so hard day in, day out, but I think I do need to offer my sincere thanks to Marie Peacock, who never made me feel any of the crazy ideas were too much. She was unflappable and so supportive.

We did try to encourage lots of different fundraising ideas, some of which you may have seen in the press or, indeed, taken part in and here are just a few examples of some of the remarkable things people did this year. We had the Leeds City Council graduates funding challenge, which was a huge success and a great learning curve for the graduates themselves. They even attracted television coverage for their exploits and one group, under pedal power of a rickshaw, careered around Leeds with a gigantic pass the parcel.

Eric, at the Town Hall, who many of you will know, has taken a whole year to collect the signatures of just about every major act that has appeared at the Town Hall so that we can actually auction that and raise money, so thank you to Eric. Lotherton Hall started the ball rolling with a wonderful fun run for small children based on its Christmas theme called the Reindeer Run. It was amazing seeing so many children with antlers running around and having a great time. The staff were so helpful and really went that extra mile to help the charity. We also had the Bunny Hop, a similar race at Easter at Temple Newsam, and a huge thanks to the staff there too.

So many schools and businesses got behind the campaign, it was wonderful to visit as many as I could and say thank you. Hotels and restaurants were amazing and the hospitality staff even held a charity boxing match in the Town Hall for Candlelighters.

Leeds City Council staff really took the charity to their hearts, with money being raised in so many ways across different departments in the city. We have had a marvellous author write a children's book about the cottage, which we hope will be published for the opening, and that will hopefully be in September. What I do hope I have been able to do though is open some doors, reach new supporters and leave a legacy that will help support Candlelighters for years to come.

As Councillor Golton has said, the cottage campaign was really fantastic. As well as money we attracted offers of direct support from kitchen and bedroom furniture manufacturers, garden companies to name just a few. We also had the incredible offer of match funding from the Kentown Wizard Foundation of up to £250,000 and I want to

thank him so much for his amazing generosity. It is a fantastic gesture and it has made all the difference.

You will remember back in May last year the cottage had already been bought at a cost of £250,000. It was estimated we would need to raise another £250,000 to refurbish it. That was a lot of money to raise in such a short time. Well, I need to tell you that not only did we do it but have also now raised much more and the funds are still coming in. The money directly raised by the Lord Mayor's appeal is in the region of £135,000 which can be doubled by the Foundation, so that means a grand total of £270,000. That is just remarkable and thank you so much, everyone, who has worked so hard baking cakes, running, making cocktails, throwing darts, dressing up, selling toys, boxing, having fetes, galas, royal wedding parties and Marcus is even going to jump out of a plane in a couple of months' time to raise money. Thank you so, so much.

The total currently raised for the cottage across all funding sources is £655,000.  
(Applause)

You will be pleased to hear I have got to the final section, but to me it is the most important section, and that is to thank my family. (Pause) I am off again – I did it last time when I started off twelve months ago and I am going to go again.

I really am sad my mum and dad could not be here to see me become Lord Mayor. I know they would be so proud but looking back, even I have to pinch myself to realise that it has all been true. I would like to thank my family for all their support and, as Councillor Blake said, my daughter Alison and her husband Brian are here. My son could not make it and his partner Vanessa, but I know they are watching on the webcast.

Some of you will remember seeing my grandchildren at the AGM last year and Charlotte has made it up to be with us again. They have been wonderful. I have missed my family so much this year and I want to thank them for being there for me.

Being Lord Mayor is a great honour but it is more than that. It is a full-time job, it takes over your life so it will be great to get back to being a mum and a grandma.

Finally, to Alan, my wonderful husband. Those of you who know him will appreciate that his humour and good nature have kept me going this year. I am not ashamed to say it is his love that has given me confidence to be who I am. Darling, I love you. (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Follow that, as they say!

#### ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 4, the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cohen.

COUNCILLOR COHEN: Seconded, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now have a vote to approve the Minutes of the last meeting. No hanging about! *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED.

#### ITEM 5 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 5, Declarations of Interest. Members are invited to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None to disclose.

#### ITEM 6 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 6. The Lord Mayor or Chief Executive to make any announcements as appropriate. Chief Executive?

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: None, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: And I do not have any.

#### ITEM 7 – ELECT THE LEADER OF COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 7, we elect the Leader of the Council. Councillor Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am going to drop the half hour speech on this item *(laughter)* and just to say, it is a great privilege to move that Councillor Judith Blake be elected Leader of the Council. *(hear, hear)* *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now have a vote to elect the Leader of Council. *(A vote was taken)* In that case that is CARRIED. Judith Blake is the Leader of the Council.

#### ITEM 8 - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Seconded, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will have a vote on the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

#### ITEM 9 – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9, Establishment of Committees and Appointments. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will have a vote to approve Schedules 9(a) to (c) and 9(e) to 9(f) and give Authority to the City Solicitor to change any appointments in consultation with the appropriate Whip. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED

#### ITEM 9(d)(i) - APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEES - UNCONTESTED

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9, Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I am now going to ask for those Members listed to vote in respect of the appointment of the Chair of their respective Community Committees.

Nomination: Councillor J Akhtar to Chair the Inner North West Community Committee and that Committee can vote. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. Councillor Akhtar is elected the Chair of Inner North West.

Nomination: Councillor Wadsworth to Chair the Outer North West Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED In that case Councillor Wadsworth is elected to Chair Outer North West Committee.

Nomination: Councillor Taylor to Chair the Inner North East Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. In that case Councillor Taylor is elected to Chair the Inner North East Committee.

Nomination: Councillor Wilkinson to Chair the Outer North East Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. In that case Councillor Wilkinson is now the Chair of Outer North East.

Nomination: Councillor A Hussain Chair the Inner East Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. In that case, Councillor Hussain is elected to Chair the Inner East Community Committee.

Nomination: Councillor Gabriel to Chair the Inner South Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. In that case Councillor Gabriel is the Chair of Inner South Community Committee.

Nomination: Councillor Heselwood Chair the Inner West Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. In that case Councillor Heselwood is the Chair of Inner West Community Committee.

Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

ITEM 9(d)(ii) APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR OUTER EAST COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEE – More than 1 nomination

THE LORD MAYOR: There are two nominees for the Chair of Outer East Committee: Councillor Field and Councillor Harland.

We will have a call for a vote, and this is restricted to Members of the Outer East Committee, in respect of each nomination.

Those for Councillor Field. *(A vote was taken)*

Those in favour of Councillor Harland. *(A vote was taken)*

Councillor Harland is the Chair of Outer East. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: That is it as far as Community Committees are concerned.  
No.

9(d)(ii) APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR OUTER SOUTH COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEE – more than 1 nomination.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: This is another one with two nominees, Councillor K Bruce and Councillor J Elliott. Could I have those in favour of Councillor Bruce?

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Could we have a recorded vote Lord Mayor, please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Recorded vote. Seconded?

*(A recorded vote was held by Members of the  
Outer South Community Committee)*

THE LORD MAYOR: There were 12 present, the vote is 7 for Councillor Bruce, nobody abstained and 5 voted for Councillor Elliott. *(Applause)* In that case, Councillor Bruce is elected as the Chair of Outer South Committee.

ITEM 9(d)(ii) APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR OUTER WEST COMMUNITY  
COMMITTEE – more than 1 nomination

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, this is Outer West Committee. We have two nominees, Councillor [D] Blackburn and Councillor Carlill.



Could I have a vote from Members of Outer West Committee, those in favour of Councillor Blackburn. *(A vote was taken)*

Those in favour of Councillor Carlill. *(A vote was taken)*

In that case, Councillor Blackburn is elected as Chair of Outer West. *(Applause)*

We seem to have got to the end of that.

#### ITEM 10 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION (COUNCIL FUNCTIONS)

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 10, Scheme of Delegation. Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, I will call for a vote to approve the Officer Delegation Scheme. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED. That approves the Officer Delegation Scheme.

#### ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 11, Councillor Dowson.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, a vote to note the Executive Functions. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

#### ITEM 12 – PROPOSED CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Dowson, Item 12.

COUNCILLOR DOWSON: Move in terms of the Notice, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harper.

COUNCILLOR G HARPER: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will vote to approve the meeting dates of the 2018/19 Municipal Year. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED.

You will be delighted to know here endeth the lesson and we can all go and have something to eat or drink. Thank you very much indeed. *(Applause)*

*(The meeting closed at 8.35pm)*