

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Monday, 9th June 2014

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(Councillor T Murray)
(Councillor D Congreve)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING ON MONDAY, 9th JUNE 2014

(In the Chair - the Lord Mayor, Councillor T Murray)

THE LORD MAYOR: Let me begin by welcoming everybody to Leeds City Council's Annual Council Meeting for June 2014.

In front of Members there is an Order Paper and on that Order Paper, maybe for the attention of new Members mainly, can we make sure that the mobile phones, telephones, are switched off and are on silent. Can I extend that to officers and can I also extend that instruction, if you like, to guests and people in the public gallery. Thank you for doing that.

I do have some announcements to make. The first announcement is to make is that, again, Members are well aware that this meeting will be webcast. Those things up *there* and behind me are not owls, they are cameras, so this is the first AGM to be webcast.

I would like to welcome the following new Members to Council: on my left we have Councillor Billy Flynn, Adel and Wharfedale, a Conservative (*applause*); and on my right I have Councillor Stuart McKenna for Garforth; Councillor Jonathan Pryor for Headingley; Councillor Kevin Ritchie for Bramley and Stanningley; Councillor Alice Smart for Armley; and Councillor Fiona Venner for Kirkstall – all new Labour Members. (*applause*)

There is one more – the Greens have moved, I have noticed! Councillor Terry Wilford is across *there* and he is the Councillor for Farnley and Wortley (*applause*) representing the Green Party. Nice to see you, Terry.

Some sad announcements, though. It is with great sadness that I report the death of Councillor Clive Fox on 8th April. Clive served as Ward Councillor of Adel and Wharfedale Ward for 14 years from May 2000. A number of us attended his remembrance service and our thoughts, of course, are with his family.

I would also like to report that Stan Kenyon, who was the former Director of Planning, sadly passed away on 29th May at Wheatfields Hospice and the funeral is to take place this Wednesday, eleven o'clock, at St Chad's Church, Headingley. Again, our thoughts are with his family.

Following the recent tragic events at Corpus Christi Catholic College, our thoughts are with Mrs Ann Maguire's family, her friends, the community and all those who have been affected in any way or concerned or have dealt with the tragedy, so can you join with me and I would like to ask you to stand for a minute's silence.

(Silent tribute)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

I need to confirm that following the despatch of the Summons with accompanying reports on Friday, 30th May 2014, further papers originally identified on the Summons as to follow were circulated to Members on Friday 6th June 2014.

ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: I am now going to move to the next item, the item we are largely here for, the election of the Lord Mayor. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is my great pleasure to, on behalf of the Labour Group, propose my Ward Colleague, David Congreve, as the next Lord Mayor of Leeds, along with Janet Harper as the Lady Mayoress.

You might not know that I am acting as David's unofficial coach for this year as Lord Mayor, reminding him that as Lord Mayor he needs to smile all of the time (*laughter*), he needs to be nice to people all of the time (*laughter*), and that when he is doing a speech if people are looking down at the floor or falling asleep, it is probably a sign that he has gone on too long and needs to stop talking!

David is probably a bit of an enigma to many. He has a serious demeanour and he is not one for showing his emotions. It is probably down to his working class background, and particularly his childhood.

He was born in Halifax and he had to cope with trauma from an early age. His dad was killed in an horrific accident when he was very young. His mother was left to raise David and his three siblings, all under the age of nine, so life was tough.

From what I can glean, David was very much a rebel as a child, a bit of a bad lad, always in trouble. He did not want me to repeat some of the things that he got up to as a kid but suffice to say it was behaviour unbecoming of a future Lord Mayor of Leeds – behaviour that today I think would have landed him with an antisocial behaviour order!

David moved to Leeds with Christine, his wife, in 1970 and had three daughters, Becky, Rachel and Sarah, all of whom, I think, are with us tonight up in the gallery. I will let you into a secret – despite David's serious demeanour, he is very much the family man. When you see him with his daughters and now with his grandson, Dexter, you actually see he is really a big softie.

His daughters talk fondly of their dad and some of the funny things he did, not necessarily intentionally, when they were growing up, such as the time when they had gone shopping somewhere all together in the car and at the end of the day he had loaded the car up with all that they had bought, got in the car and promptly drove off, leaving his daughters somewhat bewildered on the pavement! (*laughter*) Luckily they were waiting for him patiently when he realised he had left them behind.

There was the time when he took the family on a day out to Temple Newsam one summer's day. David is a keen birdwatcher, that is one of his hobbies, and he was looking forward to showing his daughters his empathy for our feathered friends. Unfortunately for David, a goose took a disliking to him and started to attack him, so the last his daughters saw was David running away with a goose attached to the back of his legs!

His daughters also recount there was a time when their dad came running into the house very excited about a large bird of prey which was on the roof – this is Town Street, Middleton, by the way, known for their exotic birds of prey. They all gathered outside but could not see what David was looking at. After a while Rachel asked him if he was looking at the white thing. "Yes", he replied, still shushing them all to keep their voices down so as not to scare this rare bird of prey. The excitement came to an abrupt end when Rachel pointed the white thing was actually the chimney (*laughter*). Definitely a case of should have gone to Specsavers!

As David's ward colleagues, Angela and I are very aware of David's strengths and his weaknesses, and perhaps I can highlight one of each, starting with a strength.

David is really organised. He likes order, he is extremely tidy and is highly efficient when it comes to paperwork and dealing with casework promptly, knowing exactly where everything is – a bit of a contrast to Angela and myself, who are somewhat lacking in those skills, I think it is fair to say. David came into my office the other day and nearly passed out at all the piles of paperwork all over the place. I had to sit him down to help him recover. I did say at least he did not go into Councillor Wakefield's office! *(laughter)* It would have tipped him over the edge, I think, if he had done that!

The other thing you may not know about David is his, how should we put it, reluctance to part with money. We all know about the raffles and tombolas and bingo that we have to succumb to doing this role as a Councillor. David very rarely has any money on him. At best he will pull out an assortment of coins, coppers, shillings, goodness knows what – nothing resembling a pound coin ever seems to emerge. More often than not he will say to you, "Can you lend me £1?" In actual fact you are more likely to see an unknown species of moth emerge from David's wallet than you are a £20 note! I do not know if Lord Mayors are like members of the Royal Family travelling without money; if so, David has been practising all of his life! *(laughter)*

The only person who can succeed in prising money out of David is Councillor Gabriel, who we all know is not backward in coming forward. The look of horror on David's face is priceless when Angela, in her usual forthright style, will say something like, "Don't be so tight, you miserable bugger, just give me £20". *(laughter)* You can imagine it, can't you?

Lord Mayor, I think we were all delighted that a few years after David lost his wife Christine to cancer he found friendship and then love with Janet, although I get the sense I do not think it was necessarily love at first sight. Janet says her first impressions of David were that he was a bit miserable and rather rude. *(laughter)* Clearly the first date was not a great success!

However, their friendship developed after they spent time at Janet's cottage in the Lake District, although they were both at great pains to point out there was no hanky panky at first, you know!

Janet really gets David. She particularly knows how to puncture that serious side and to bring David back to earth and keep his feet firmly on the ground, and I know we are all delighted, Janet, that you are going to be Lady Mayoress this year alongside David.

Lord Mayor, I know I have made fun of David a bit tonight but really he is a decent human being, with a serious façade but with a good heart and a good sense of humour. You can poke fun at him but he still laughs – or at least I am hoping he is still laughing out there, I cannot quite see!

I know David and Janet are both immensely proud that the city is bestowing this honour on them tonight. David for one never dreamed that such a thing would happen, so on behalf of the Labour Group, to David and to Janet, the best of luck, enjoy it and have a great year. *(applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Councillor Ogilvie. Councillor Castle.

COUNCILLOR CASTLE: Lord Mayor, before I formally second this motion on behalf of the Conservative Group, I would like to thank you and Edna for being such splendid ambassadors for our city during your year of office and to wish the pair of you good health and fulfilment during the next stage of your lives.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR CASTLE: I would now like to formally second the motion that Councillor David Congreve be elected Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds for the coming year on behalf of the Conservative Group.

When David first became a Councillor in 1990, as has already been said, he came across to me as being a very serious kind of guy but I thought it was something to do with his employment in the Bereavement Services at Bradford Metropolitan District Council and I thought it was quite appropriate! *(laughter)* It was a number of years later that I got to know David better when we were both members of an all-party visit to Dortmund by officers and Councillors with an interest in planning, and I discovered that David is in fact a warm person.

The visit to Dortmund happened a year before Tony Blair swept to power in 1997 and a few weeks before I was due up for re-election. It was on the cards that I would lose my seat to Labour and I was feeling disheartened. David was very understanding and he made me see that losing my seat would not be the end of the world and that a time would come when, if I wanted, I would return to Council, as indeed happened.

There was one slight hiccup on that Dortmund visit. Our hosts had organised a full and interesting programme for us, visiting a variety of development projects. However, we were given a little free time on our last day. Our group sat in the hotel at breakfast that morning debating which museums and galleries to see before we returned home and somebody mentioned that several of the churches in the city contained Gothic art treasures, but David turned to me and said, "I suppose you will want to go shopping!" It is lucky that the late Councillor Eileen Moxon was not in that group!

Despite the best efforts of Erica and her team in the Lord Mayor's office, unexpected things can and do happen when the Lord Mayor is out and about. Having chaired North and East Plans Panel for a number of years, David will be sufficiently experienced to deal with any surprises. He is used to turning up at a site visit to find scores of local residents clutching placards, firmly believing that David personally is behind the proposals for unwanted development in their area.

On Plans Panel North and East are those two maverick Councillors Mick Lyons and John Procter. Having proved he can cope with angry local residents and obstreperous members of the Plans Panel, then David should be able to deal with anything that comes his way.

I was saddened when David lost his wife but I was delighted when I saw him and Janet appearing at functions together. I first came across Janet Harper in 1988 when she was a thoroughly professional senior officer in our Education Department. She was so professional that I was completely taken by surprise when Janet took early retirement and re-emerged as a Labour Councillor, as she had not by so much as a blink of the eyelid let her political leanings show whilst she was an officer of the Council. I have no doubt that Janet will be a source of strength to David during the year ahead.

I know that David and Janet will make an excellent team and will do a brilliant job for the city and I would like to wish the pair of them well. I formally second the motion. (*applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Ann. Councillor Brian Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Council, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group I wish to speak in support of the proposal.

Like most of us who were kids during the railway steam age, David was a keen train spotter. Cycling from Halifax to Leeds every Saturday, he would race to see the London Express arrive at 10.00am to record the name and number. The journey, at twelve years old, took him two hours each way. Later, he could boast that not only did he ride up all the hills, he got the time down to an hour each way. He would climb on the bridge at the top of Water Lane and sit by the track, sometimes going to the engine sheds in Holbeck – all the things that we wish children of today could do.

The fitness David gained when young has stayed with him. For instance, it is interesting this being David's year is the Tour de France year. He was on holiday in France with his family one summer and David decided the car could do with a wash. After a while of translating the instructions on the machine, he put the money in, pressed the button, and off the car went with nobody in it and the windows down! It was a classic. The family had never seen anybody move so quickly. He did manage to jump back into the moving car and save it just in time.

You have heard about David's life leading to him eventually becoming a resident and then a Councillor in Leeds. We all know David's concern for others but did you know that this is equally matched by his love for animals? Another story I have managed to pick up. One evening on the way back from a walk with Bruno, his dog, David spotted his family cat, Minnie, who seemed to be stuck on a wall. Fearing that she would be out all night and get cold he lifted her down and, tucking her under his arm, he headed back home, although he was quite surprised by how docile she seemed to be in his arms – usually nobody could touch her without being badly scratched, and so he congratulated himself on having established a strong bond with his challenging pet. As he opened the front door he was greeted by a familiar hissing noise – the real Minnie! David had taken somebody else's cat home.

To be Lord Mayor one does need a competent Lady Mayoress. With Janet by his side, we will have a couple well able to represent our city. Janet, if during your year you visit our twin city of Durban, that is in South Africa, would you just point out to David that the pussy cats there we normally keep in zoos!

Council, on behalf of my Group I have pleasure in recommending to you that Councillor David Congreve serves as Lord Mayor until the next Annual General Meeting of Council. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Brian. Councillor Judith Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. The Morley Borough Independents are delighted to offer support for David Congreve to be elected Lord Mayor for the year 2014/15.

It was when I became a Governor at Newlands School, Morley, that I first became aware of the Congreves. My association with Christine was happy and productive for the school where she was well loved. It was then that, as Leeds City Councillor, I met David and found he was a committed Councillor. I am sure that the

Mayoralty will suit David and his Mayoress to be, Councillor Janet Harper. It will suit them down to the ground with their sense of style and occasion. I have no doubt that they will be a great team and wonderful ambassadors for our great city. Have a wonderful year. *(applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Judith. Councillor Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is my pleasure on behalf of the Green Group to offer our support to Councillor David Congreve in his nomination for the position of Lord Mayor of Leeds for the forthcoming year.

I have not had a lot of dealings with David but we did share Planning a year or two ago and I know that he was very committed when he was on Plans Panels and word had it, though I was not on the same Panel as him, that the meetings he chaired he will be very thorough and they will go on a long time. I am sure this year he will find it totally different from being on Planning, being Mayor, a lot different from that.

The other thing is I did not know until now that David was a dancer and actually was a ballroom dancer. I, in my younger days, was a dancer as well, but unfortunately we will not be doing a dance together because I was taught when I was young to do old-time dancing and have qualifications in old-time dancing, which is different from ballroom dancing, but nevertheless it is not often that you get many men who can actually do the old-fashioned type of dancing, so I thought I would mention that.

Anyway, I am sure that Janet and him will have a great year and will be good ambassadors for Leeds. Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Green Group I support the motion. Thank you. *(applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Ann.

Council, I do not know why but I have just been reminded to take the vote by the Chief Legal Officer. *(laughter)* Are you all paying attention? Can we put the motion to the vote? *(A vote was taken)* Thank you, that is unanimous. CARRIED.

I am now going to call for a brief adjournment. Thank you, everybody.

(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.

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

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 Lord Mayor proceeded to the Chair, followed by the Retiring Lord Mayor.)

(In the Chair – the Lord Mayor, Councillor D Congreve)

DECLARATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will now conduct the Declaration of the Acceptance of Office and then sign the Register.

THE LORD MAYOR: I, David Congreve, of 31A Half Mile, Stanningley, Leeds, LS13 1BN, 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.

(The Lord Mayor signed the Register)

ADDRESS

THE LORD MAYOR: Good evening, everybody, Members of Council and distinguished guests. I would like to begin by thanking the retiring Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Tom and Edna. They have done an excellent job in a relaxed, friendly style, always smiling whether attending large or small functions. Their duties were carried out with humour and wit.

I did meet Tom and Edna on a number of occasions and was very impressed by Tom's little black book – or books, because there were four or five of them – in which he kept notes of events attended and comments and quotes, etc. I do know that Tom has always kept a diary; it could be an interesting read when published, especially if it detailed the more Machiavellian sides of politics.

I have never seen a Lord Mayor as relaxed as Tom when chairing Council, and with such fairness. Tom kept order with an easy style, which I hope to follow – difficult at times when Members are jumping up and down crying “Point of order”, “Personal explanation”, when they really mean, “I want to speak again.” *(laughter)* Keeping order is hard enough when chairing a Panel, never mind when chairing full Council. I hope Members will take note of these comments – but I doubt it!

Janet and I thank Tom and Edna, who will be a difficult act to follow, but follow we will. I do hope John as accounted for all the links on the Mayoral chain – not that Tom and Edna would spirit any away, but I need to know the number for when I am asked. Janet and I wish Tom and Edna a very relaxing, successful and happy future with their plans, family and grandchildren.

Now let me introduce myself. On looking back I feel that life has been good to me but, like many people, there were good and bad times. I was born in Halifax in 1942, before the NHS was introduced. I recall wartime rationing and the local doctor, who was a very kind man but he employed a tallyman to collect fees. The milk was delivered by horse and cart (what else). My parents, brother, two sisters and I lived in a two-bedroom cottage on a farm. The toilet was down the farm yard, no bathroom. Bath night was in a tin bath in front of the fire. I was always the last in and when I used to argue and query this with my parents, I said, “Why do I have to be last every time? Why not my younger sister?” and I was told, “You are last because you are the luckiest.” *(laughter)*

It is true. In 1946 we were fortunate enough to be given the tenancy of a Council house. We had a bathroom and inside toilet. It was luxury. Our father was

an engineer and just before Christmas 1948 he was killed at work when an oxyacetylene cylinder exploded. This tragedy affected our mother from which she never fully recovered. She did her best to bring us up as good citizens and made personal sacrifices which we did not always understand. Life was hard but had its lighter moments.

The biggest influence on me at this time was Raymond, my elder brother, who sadly died in 2012, but I am pleased that his family are with me this evening, along with one of my sisters. Raymond guided me through my childhood and teenage years, though that was not always an easy task, I can assure you.

On leaving school I obtained an apprenticeship in engineering and passed the City and Guilds Examination. At 26 years old I was a chargehand tool setter but applied for the post of Work Study Planning Engineer with the company. I became the dreaded man with the stopwatch.

With trade union support I was sent on a course and acquired a second City and Guilds qualification in Work Study. It was at this time that I met and married my late wife, Christine, who had the biggest influence of all on my life. I later worked for British Gas before I moved into Local Government in 1974 in the Management Services Division of a neighbouring Authority – dare I say, Bradford. A good Authority in those days. Around this time I passed professional examinations with the Institute of Management Services and undertook a Diploma in Management Studies. In 1984 I was appointed to the post of what became the Bereavement Services Manager of the Council. I became a member of a second professional institute when I joined the Institute of Cemetery and Crematoria Management.

During the tenure of this post I built up a national reputation for the excellent way in which Bradford dealt with burial and cremation services for the many ethnic communities. I retired in 2004 after 20 enjoyable years in the post. My experience in Local Government and being a budget holder gave me invaluable experience for being a Councillor.

I moved to Leeds in 1970 when Christine was appointed as a Newly Qualified Teacher at Newlands Primary School, Morley. She was devoted to teaching children and was eventually appointed Headteacher of the school. It was the only school she ever taught in. She was a dedicated teacher and mother, who sadly died in 2005 after a long illness. She had taught and guided children for 35 years.

Christine was the most influential person in my life and supported me in my studies and when I became a Councillor in 1990. We have three wonderful daughters, two of them are twins, and a gorgeous grandson, and they are all with me this evening.

All in all I have been very fortunate but I have worked hard and taken the opportunities that life had to offer when they arose.

I am pleased that Janet agreed to be the Lady Mayoress. Although Janet was first elected to Council in 1994, I did not know her in the early years. Indeed, she tells me I was not very nice to her, but I don't remember that! (*laughter*) Janet was elected in 1994 as a Councillor for Pudsey North and for Armley in 1999. Janet was born in York and came to live in Leeds in 1962 when her husband was appointed the manager of the West Yorkshire Bus Company based in Leeds. In 1984 Janet worked as a librarian at Armley Library before moving to the Council's Education Department. After setting up the Governors' Unit she became personal assistant to the Chair of Education and then personal assistant to the Chair of Resources.

Janet has been the only woman to lead the NALGO Local Government Branch in Leeds and is a JP. Janet retired from work in 1994, six weeks before becoming a Councillor. We are pleased that Janet's two daughters, son, grandson and granddaughter are with us this evening.

I know that Janet will be a wonderful Lady Mayoress and we are both very excited and looking forward to what I am told will be an unforgettable year in office, although I must remember to smile more, so Councillor Wakefield and Councillor Ogilvie tell me. I will do that; after all, it is a wonderful and humbling experience for this lad from Halifax to become the First Citizen of Leeds.

My chosen charity is the Leeds Children's Hospital. I think after the unwarranted bad publicity that the Children's Heart Surgery Unit has gone through, we as Leeds citizens need to show that we recognise the magnificent work undertaken by all staff, consultants, doctors, nurses and volunteers who support vulnerable babies and children through the trauma of their illness, and the care and understanding shown to their parents and families.

The hospital is split across the Leeds General Infirmary site and ultimately needs to be in its own building. The cost of essential equipment is extremely high – for example, an incubator for a baby costs £25,000 and they wear out.

We had a very, very impressive visit to the wards, Janet and I. There are no plain walls there, the walls have lots of art work and murals on them and some wonderful quotations on the walls and I have made a note of some of these quotations, I was so very much impressed. It is a friendly, warm, caring environment but most impressive of all are the children who just get on with things. There are so many worthy charities but I am delighted to support Leeds Children's Hospital during my term of office.

I would just like to leave you with this thought. It is one of the quotations from one of the walls in the wards but it also sums up my philosophy as well. It is, "Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass, it is about learning to dance in the rain."

Thank you. (*applause*)

ITEM 2 – VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: We will move to the Agenda Paper. Vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor. Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and can I congratulate you and Janet on reaching this high office of Lord Mayor and I really do hope you have an enjoyable year.

I like the idea of moving a vote of thanks for the ex Lord Mayor, because I get the last word in, they cannot come back!

Before I do I would like to put on record our appreciation for Tom Murray's 22 years of service to the people of Garforth and Swillington, because this is his last day as a Councillor. (*applause*)

We all know his charity is born by his experience, because he was really passionate about education and giving children the best opportunities, and if anybody

was going to say they remember the legacy of Tom, it would be the absolute commitment to children and education.

I read his speech recently and his last words were, “Edna and I are going to give it our best shot”. I do not think there is anybody in this room, including me – and I know them well, the family and friends – who really expected to see the energy coming out from those two that we have seen. I made a comment about his football record before. Tom only moved twice on a football field – once at half time and once at full time! There was no such thing as a wing back for Tom, he just stood there as a footballer while the world passed him by - and the ball, by the way.

What I did not take into account is that with him he had this year his little energy ball called Edna Murray, who was the Billy Bremner of the team, and really they were an amazing couple together. A remarkable 396 activities or events have been attended by those two. It takes some absorbing and when you look at the activities, or hear about the activities, they range from galas, community events, church events, school events right through to some of the great highlights of last year, and that was the opening of the Trinity, the opening of the Arena and, of course, their trip to China. I think they have had a fantastic year and they have certainly been where the success and enjoyment has been.

One event that stands out in my mind that they attended, and I was only told this quite recently, when they attended an event in Shadwell and it was a Jewish community event. As usual, John Wilson, with his commanding presence and his booming voice, managed to get people to show the reverence and order and respect for the Lord Mayor’s office that you usually get at these events – that is John’s strength. The person hosting the event came on and introduced Councillor Tom Hanks. *(laughter)* I have seen Apollo, I have seen Forrest Gump, I have heard the voice of Toy Story and I can understand why they made that mistake – it’s easy, isn’t it? There’s not much difference!

The one thing that I really think has been an outstanding feature of their term of office has been them welcoming into this Civic all those volunteers that work so hard unsung, unrecognised, throughout the year. The Governors – there are over 3,000 Governors. We met, Councillor Harland and Lewis, we met one yesterday in Methley and they said how touched they were by the generosity of the Lord Mayor to invite them, along with other volunteers in the city, and just recognise the work they do for the people of this city, whether the elderly, young or so on. I thought that was a great gesture.

Of course, I have to say something about the chairing of this Council, because I have had a number of letters from President Putin, who is very keen to know how Tom managed to chair a Council without a single vote! *(laughter)* That takes some doing and he wants Tom to go over and coach him on chairing their Council as well!

In fact, when he went to China I am still getting enquiries, could he go over there and teach them how to chair meetings there, because we have never had a vote! This is the first time today, when we elected Councillor Congreve to Lord Mayor, that this Council has had a vote, so congratulations, Tom, a lot of us will envy that.

You know, their actual passion for what they do can never be questioned. As I said before, his actual passion, commitment and drive for giving children in this city the best educational opportunities he can give were reflected in his charity, LOFTY. Today I understand that their activity and drive has raised over £80,000 for the children of this city. I think that is an enormous achievement. *(applause)*

Of course, we all know it has been one of the longest years of term of office because of the AGM and the elections, so I think both of you have worked tremendously and been great ambassadors of the city, great commitment from you and you fully deserve your rest and holiday that you are going to have and may you enjoy your long retirement both of you and thank you very much for your service. *(applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I was delighted to be asked to second the vote of thanks for three reasons. Firstly, there is no limit to how long I can speak this evening, so I hope you are all sitting comfortably. *(laughter)* Second, it is the one occasion of the year when I am almost certain Members of the opposition will not shout at me while I am trying to speak *(laughter)* and, thirdly, over many years, before I came to this place and since I joined I have become extremely fond of Tom and Edna and it is a pleasure to second this motion.

The problem with doing this is following the Leader, he stole my best joke already – I think we have the same gag writers. I had the Tom Hanks one as well, so I am hastily re-writing.

First of all, Lord Mayor, I would really like to offer my congratulations to you and I wish you both a wonderful year of office. I think you are going to be fantastic and I wish you all the very best.

I would also like to congratulate the shortly-to-be Deputy Chairman of the Council, Councillor McKenna, who has obviously experience of that in the past. *(applause)* I would like to, while I am on the subject, offer my congratulations to one of the new Labour Whips, Councillor Andrea McKenna, and also to your successor, Tom, Stuart McKenna. It has become apparent to me that there are now nearly as many Councillors in this Chamber called McKenna as there are Liberal Democrats! *(laughter and applause)*

Thank you. My job, of course, is to pay tribute to the outgoing Lord Mayor and it was pointed out when you were welcomed last year that we were going to have Tom Tom in charge of the city for the year ahead with Tom as Chief Executive and Tom as Lord Mayor. One of your first treats, of course, was to get a new car, a new U1. Unfortunately it was not fitted with a Tom Tom, it was fitted with a Bonnie Tyler sat nav which I am told kept telling you to turn around and every now and then it fell apart! *(laughter)* I am here all week and I told you to sit comfortably!

This was when I was going to move on to the Tom Hanks joke but I am going to have to skip by that one now.

Seriously, it has been a wonderful year for Tom and Edna. I have had the pleasure of welcoming them to Wetherby on a number of occasions and you have had a wonderful career, as Keith said. He mentioned your 22 years' service as a Councillor. I was 15 and one of your constituents when you were first elected here and I have tried many times to get rid of you since then. *(laughter)* I came close but it took you coming to Wetherby to open the world's largest bike shop to finally get you on your bike! The bad news, Edna, is that while you came in U1 I am afraid he picked up your new vehicle while he was there and you are going to be travelling everywhere by tandem for the rest of your time. *(laughter)*

Keith has covered a lot of what I wanted to say but one of the things I want to touch on and one of the reasons I have got on so well with Tom over the years is our

shared passion for improving outcomes for children and young people. Not only has he served as a Councillor for 22 years and dedicated himself to that but I understand you spent 25 years as a teacher before that, nearly half a century, and I think on this of all days it is good to remember that dedicated service that people give to improve the lives and the vast majority of people are doing it for the right reasons and it is good that you went on as well and spent nearly half a century trying to improve outcomes for children and young people in this city and all over. I do not know what your plans are but I am pretty certain you will be carrying on in that vein if I know anything about you. Well done to you both.

Edna, you have been lovely. You have been wonderful, so charming and radiant as you have gone around the city. You have both been so kind and generous with your time. I came and showed some residents of my ward around the Civic Hall not long before the end of your Mayoralty. Your office was open and we stuck our head in and you came down, as you do, to say hello and, "Oh, come in, just have a quick look" and nearly an hour later, after you had showed us all round the Chamber, totally unannounced, both of you so very generous and warm with your time and I know that.

You have been wonderful First Citizens of Leeds. I wish you both every happiness in the world because you have really earned it and I hope you have a really happy retirement.

It is my pleasure on behalf of the Conservative Group to second the vote of thanks. Thank you very much. (*applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Downes.

COUNCILLOR DOWNES: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Just before I also move to giving a vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor, just a very short word of congratulations to yourself, Lord Mayor, on your appointment. I had asked to speak in favour of you from our times on Metro and was going to tell people of our late night drinking session in Lyon which went to at least five o'clock in the morning, but that will have to wait for another time! We were in the tallest hotel in Europe and I am scared of heights but I remember having a good session with you that night and everything that people have said about you is true, about your good nature and your warm-heartedness, so I wish you a very successful year as Lord Mayor.

Moving on to Councillor Tom Murray, now retiring as a Councillor after many years of service. Your passion for helping young people was shown this year when you congratulated one of my constituents, Charlotte Williams, who is the current Children's Mayor of Leeds. I was fortunate enough to speak to her only last week and she was speaking warmly of her time with you and the help and guidance that you have given her and the support that you have given to her. She said that it was interesting because she is going to be Children's Mayor until November so she will be meeting Councillor Congreve shortly and she said it is great to have been with two Lord Mayors and it is nice that it is done that way.

You came to my ward just before Christmas when I was the MC of the Yeadon Tree of Lights. Edna came too and we had a wonderful evening of entertainment. Charlotte was also in the school choir that performed that night. She was not actually on duty that night. You did that with your usual enthusiasm and I am pleased to say that the lights did switch on – they have not always done but this year they did – at the flick of a switch. I thank you very much for that.

Somebody said to me recently "You cannot give more than your best" and that is exactly what you have done in your year as Lord Mayor and the First Citizen of

Leeds. I think you can retire now as Lord Mayor and as a Councillor with immense pride for what you have done for this city. Thank you. (*applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, my Lord Mayor, and many congratulations to you and the Lady Mayoress, Councillor Janet Harper, for the coming year.

The Morley Borough Independents give our congratulations to Tom and Edna Murray, who have had an outstanding year in the office of Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds. They have both been approachable, enthusiastic and dignified in their roles of office; in short, excellent ambassadors for our great city.

I have followed with fascination, with many others, the Lord Mayor's tweets. What a wonderful way to enable our Leeds residents to have access to information at the tap of a key, giving an insight of what their First Citizen was undertaking.

The Lord Mayor's idea of LOFTY – Leeds Offers Fun for the Young – has meant many events being held to raise money, hard work but rewarding and, as I understand from Councillor Wakefield, £80,000 has been raised – absolutely fantastic. Congratulations, for I am sure that so many young lives will benefit from this.

Tom and Edna, you are both well deserving of all accolades heaped upon you both. Well done and congratulations on a brilliant year. (*applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Lord Mayor, first of all can I join with the congratulations on your election to office and to Janet, who have I have known and worked with over the years a long, long time.

Tom, unfortunately going last lots of the good things have been taken. Tom is something special. He sat there and I, sitting in the middle there where I was for all the last year, I could see him in action. There were never any problems. He just calmly sat there and smiled and looked at people and, generally speaking, we behaved, which we do not always do, do we? He managed it.

Going back to what the Leader was saying earlier on, he has an amazing way of – how shall I put it – making meetings much more efficient, moving the thing on at a rapid level. He did that in such a good way. I will not go as far as saying what Keith said that we never had any votes but he did move things along.

Tom is an individual, I think, that we all respect. I do not think there is anybody that has not got time for Tom and that was clear last year from what people said about him when he was elected and, of course, today is your last day. You are going into retirement as a Councillor and I will say, you will be missed by all of us because as a colleague you are great to work with.

As I say, on behalf of the Green Group anyway we congratulate you on your year's office. Thank you. (*applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED unanimously.

Now it is my privilege to present the past Lord Mayor's badge to the retiring Lord Mayor. *(Presentation)*

The retiring Lady Mayoress will now present the Lady Mayoress with her insignia of office. *(Presentation and applause)*

The Lady Mayoress will now present the retiring Lady Mayoress with a retiring brooch. *(Presentation and applause)*

Now the retiring Lord Mayor will reply on behalf of himself and the retiring Lady Mayoress.

COUNCILLOR T MURRAY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Speaking on behalf of Tom Hanks *(laughter)* I would like to thank you all for your kind comments, which I think would be difficult to follow because it has been a great honour and privilege for us to be the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress of Leeds. I think we have had a wonderful and unforgettable year. Leeds, we live in a marvellous city. David, say Leeds and you smile.

THE LORD MAYOR: Leeds!

COUNCILLOR T MURRAY: There you are! I think, David, there is a lesson, following the advice from your coach over there, every time you get photographed say "Leeds" and you will smile.

Of course, it worried me a lot. It worried me a lot because we have done that much smiling, Edna, I thought I might end up with a permanent smile and that does not fit my image. I am really just a grumpy old man, John, as you know!

I like what Judith said about when you are the Lord Mayor, when you are the Lady Mayoress you have got to be the ambassador of this city, have you not? That is the role. You act as an ambassador and as an ambassador of this city I am obviously expected to be diplomatic on duty. Of course, I am not – I am just totally biased. I am in it for what Leeds can get out of it and I am often selling Leeds, so we are picking good news that I saw the research, recent research (I will have to find out who did it) price comparison website Money Supermarket named Leeds as one of the best places in the UK to live. *(applause)* I like saying this bit because of what happens next. We are miles ahead of our rivals. The Yorkshire Evening Post, who we can all believe never tell a lie, put it as we are smiles ahead of our rivals Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool and, of course, Manchester. *(applause)* The region, of course, has been rated as one of the world's top attractions, the third best place in the world to visit this year. There is a lot going on.

Grand Départ, the Leader has mentioned, Trinity, he mentioned John Lewis and, of course, you did mention one of the highlights of our year was supporting the Leader in opening the new Arena. Bruce Springsteen, he was fantastic, we had a great night it would be difficult to beat. No complaints, except one and that was from Bruce Springsteen himself, of course, he got a traffic ticket, didn't he! *(laughter)* H got a parking ticket. Great publicity.

Of course, on another visit to the Arena with the BBC Sports Personality of the Year, another big event, Leeds broadcast nationally, huge coverage and, of course, we were there welcoming in the athletes and welcoming the personalities. I would just like to mention a relative won, a fellow called Andy Murray. *(laughter)*

The best thing I think about being Lord Mayor in Leeds is simply the fact that you meet, you greet the folk of Leeds. You learn a lot of its history, it is a joy. Like

David said, I have captured in a year and over time a lot of those memories in my little black book, which is here. I think that there must be hundreds of events in here because I have recorded a story for most of the events. Are you sitting comfortably? I am going to start on page one! *(laughter)*

Page one, Mary. Mary was a 100th birthday party and it was at Murray House in Belle Isle. Mary grabbed the chains. I have recorded in my little book here, "Went to my first event wearing the chains and a woman threw herself at me." The first time for years! *(laughter)*

Anyway, I must have done about ten 100th birthday parties and, fellas, there is some bad news here because the bad news is that out of the first ten they were all women. Four of them were called Mary *(laughter)* and one of these Marys, after I had finished my speech, said "Oh, that was lovely" and I thanked her and she said, "Oh, no, not you, the apple crumble and custard, it was lovely." *(laughter)* The book is full of sweet little moments like that.

I must mention a bit of good news, guys, because the oldest bloke I met was a fellow called Jack, he was 101, I played snooker with him in the local club and he was still playing at half ten when I left. He is an amazing guy.

One of my lasting memories, I think of the year is attending a synagogue in North Leeds and the rabbi finished his sermon by saying, "Leeds is a tolerant city." True. Afterwards I met a guy who owns and runs a lot of bars in Leeds in Lower Briggate who said, "Remember, Tom, Leeds is an inclusive city." It is. I would add to that by saying, and the Leader hinted at it earlier on, because as Lord Mayor I have learned a lot. I have learned from 30 facts about volunteering that 90% of the population on the earth agree that a society with volunteers is a society that care. Well, if that is the definition, Leeds certainly qualifies.

In our city we have not just got hundreds of volunteers, we have met and seen the work done by thousands. I say they are special. I say that they are diamonds, in fact. Obviously some of them in Garforth are a bit rough, Mark, *(laughter)* but, as the Leader said the folk give something back nearly every week and every month and sometimes for years.

We supported Councillor Alan Lamb as the retiring Mayor of Wetherby. He thanked 35 volunteering organisations who worked in his ward, didn't you, Alan, and it was because of being at that event that gave us the idea to do it city wide. We had an event, it was a big thank-you in the Civic. We could have filled the place three or four times over. That is the demand that there was there. Folk in Leeds are very generous, that is what we have found.

Some folk in Leeds are not only generous but they are mad. It is mad what they do to raise money for charity, it has been mentioned already. We met a group of guys who ran a marathon, starting at Land's End and then at the end of the marathon in the afternoon got on their bikes and did 100 miles. Then they went to bed. They got up, ran a marathon, got on their bikes, did 100 miles and went to bed. Got up, ran a marathon, got on their bikes, did 100 miles and did that for seven days running from Land's End to John O'Groats, so when I asked them "Would you like to do a bike ride for the Lord Mayor's Charity? How about doing Stage 1 of the Tour de France?" they were not interested. What they did is they cycled from Leeds to Dortmund in a day. Amazing. Amazing guys. That is what they did, they cycled all that way and coming back other riders joined them and altogether we raised £14,000 from that event for LOFTY – the Leader mentioned it, Leeds Offers Fun for the Young. I think we have helped to support Leeds being a child friendly city.

I need to say a lot of thanks, a lot of thanks to people, too many to name, too many to mention. I think they know who they are so this is a big public, from up here, thank you for everything that people have done, the hard work, the effort and support that they have given.

I would like to go back to the rabbi. The rabbi said Leeds is a tolerant city. He was referring to peace – peace in the families, peace in the streets, peace in localities, peace in communities. The thought occurred to me, he has never chaired Council. *(laughter)* It may be peaceful outside but on occasions it is not too peaceful inside, is it, John?

I have often welcomed visitors to the city to the Civic by saying, “Welcome to this big, attractive building. Big decisions are made here – they are not always attractive” but the people in this room know and understand and deal with the problems, difficulties and challenges this city has. You know the questions, the big questions, and you know the answers. The answers are different over *here* to over *there* and they might be different from over *there*, so that is why we have these deputations, that is why we have the questions, that is why we have Scrutiny of Minutes, debates and White Papers and I have been involved in much of that over the years.

I cannot remember much praise, apart from tonight. I can remember lots of flak and I remember lots of flak but long may it continue. I want to wish you all the best in the future, keep up the good work, the hard work, and let me wish David and Janet a great year inside and outside here. I think they are in for an exciting time in this great city of ours.

From me it is not just goodnight, in effect it is also goodbye. Thank you.
(Standing ovation)

THE LORD MAYOR: I have got to say that was an excellent retiring speech and well said. Thank you, Tom.

ITEM 3 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the Election of Vice Chair of Council. Councillor Wakefield.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: Lord Mayor, I second.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED unanimously.

ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26th MARCH 2014

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th March 2014. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 26th March 2014, be approved.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is unanimous. CARRIED

ITEM 5 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: I now invite Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests. None.

ITEM 6 – ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: I move to announcements. There are no announcements.

ITEM 7 – ELECTION OF LEADER OF COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the Election of Leader of Council. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move that Councillor Keith Wakefield be elected Leader of the Council.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Lord Mayor, I second.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That vote is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 8 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee. Councillor Wakefield.

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

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I second.

THE LORD MAYOR: Quick off the ball there, Councillor Nash. I now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED unanimously.

ITEM 9 – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Establishment of Committees and Appointments. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move Item 9 (a), (b), (c), (e) and (f), in the terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby

COUNCILLOR SELBY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call for the vote on Schedules 9(a) to (c) and Schedules 9(e) to 9(f) and the authority for the City Solicitor to change appointments. All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED unanimously.

ITEM 9(d) – APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR COMMUNITY COMMITTEES – INNER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the appointment of Chairs to Community Committees. Firstly, we deal with the Inner West Community Committee.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move this in the terms of the Notice and this to be Councillor Caroline Gruen.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote of full Council in respect of the nomination for Councillor Caroline Gruen. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 9 (d) – APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR COMMUNITY COMMITTEES – INNER NORTH WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Appointment to Chair of Community Committees, the Inner North West Community Committee. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move this in terms of the Notice and this to be Councillor Akhtar.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote of full Council in respect of the nomination for Councillor Akhtar. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 9 (d) – APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR COMMUNITY COMMITTEES – OUTER SOUTH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Now we move to the appointment to Chair Community Committees - Outer South Community Committee. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move this item in the terms of the Notice, which you will see has to be determined by Council as there are two nominees.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I now call for the vote of Full Council and we will take two votes. The first vote is Councillor Bruce. Those in favour of Councillor Bruce please show. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED on that one.

I will now take the vote on Councillor Finnigan. *(A vote was taken)* It is clearly carried against the motion.

I would now like to announce that Councillor Bruce is the Chair of the Outer South Community Committee. *(applause)*

ITEM 9(d) – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

THE LORD MAYOR: Appointment of Chairs to Community Committees. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move this item in the terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 10 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION (COUNCIL FUNCTIONS)

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the Scheme of Delegation (Council Functions). Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move Item 10 in the terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 11 – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to the Executive Arrangements. Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move Item 11 in the terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote that the Executive Functions be noted.
(*A vote was taken*) That is clearly CARRIED.

ITEM 12 – PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

THE LORD MAYOR: I move to the Proposed Calendar of Meetings.
Councillor Nash.

COUNCILLOR NASH: My Lord Mayor, I move item 12 in the terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Selby.

COUNCILLOR SELBY: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote. (*A vote was taken*). That is clearly CARRIED.

That brings us to the end of the meeting. I would like to thank everybody attending and invite Councillors and distinguished guests to join me in the Banqueting Hall for a celebration. Thank you very much and thank you for behaving, for the first and last time! (*laughter*)

(The meeting closed at 7.25pm)