

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Thursday, 19th May 2016

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(Councillor J Chapman)
(Councillor G Harper)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 19th MAY 2016

(In the Chair - the Lord Mayor, Councillor J Chapman)

THE LORD MAYOR: Good evening and welcome to the AGM. Before we begin may I ask everybody please to make sure that their phones are switched off. I do not know what the new Lord Mayor's penalty will be for a phone ringing but I think he might double it, so if you could make sure.

Also, to remind you that the meeting is being webcast and also to welcome all the newly elected Members to their first Council meeting, and those new Members are Councillor Denise Ragan, Councillor Sarah Field, Councillor Salma Arif, Councillor Ryan Stephenson, Councillor Al Garthwaite and Councillor Eleanor Tunnicliffe.
(Applause)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: It is with great sadness that I report the recent death of Mrs Denise Atkinson, MBE. Denise was a former Lord Mayor of Leeds between 1992 and 1993, and also a Deputy Lord Mayor between 1980 and 1981 when her late parents held office as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

I would just like to add a personal note to this. I knew Denise, she was a lovely lady and she really did work hard for the city of Leeds. May I please ask you to stand for a minute's silence.

(Silent tribute)

THE LORD MAYOR: I would also like to confirm that, following the dispatch of the Summons with accompanying reports on Wednesday 11th May 2016, further papers originally identified on the Summons as to follow were circulated to Members on 18th May 2016.

ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: May we now begin with the election of the Lord Mayor. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you. Lord Mayor, fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen and esteemed guests, it is my very great privilege to move that Councillor Gerry Harper be elected the Lord Mayor of Leeds. I would like to particularly welcome his partner Lynne Scholes to the Chamber and the many members of Gerry's family who it has been my great privilege to know over the last few years and particularly Rebecca, Evan and Rowan. Let's hear a round of applause for Gerry's children. *(Applause)*

This is tonight a great celebration of family. Gerry is actually one of eight siblings and I understand that several of you have managed to come here today and I am delighted to welcome you to the Council Chamber.

Not all of you will know that as a child Gerry moved to Leeds from Belfast, actually in 1967, when the family moved to Harehills where Gerry grew up. He attended Brownhills Primary and St Augustine's Primary before going to Corpus Christi High School. He began his working life in Kirkgate Market before moving to the great Leeds company Montague Burton. Amazingly, Gerry and Lynne both worked at Montague Burton at the same time back then but they never actually met during their time there together. This actually is becoming a bit of a recurrent theme. In 1997 Gerry went to work for Fabian Hamilton – former Councillor Hamilton – to open his office when Fabian was elected as a new MP in 1997. To complete the circle of the two interconnected lives, Lynne actually moved from working for the Council, where she met Gerry, and now works for Fabian herself, whereas Gerry no longer works for Fabian but is back here and now looking forward to being Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds.

I think all of us know that Gerry has been really a great servant already to Leeds public life. First elected as a Councillor in 1994 for the then University Ward, and after what we term “a rest” in political circles in 2004, he returned as a Hyde Park and Woodhouse Councillor in 2010, actually very cleverly missing all of our years in Opposition on the Council! *(laughter)*

We all know he has covered many areas of work in the Council: Youth Strategy, Chair of Highways East back in the day, twice Chief Whip and Executive Board Member for Environment and Cleansing to name but a few and many other roles as well. More recently he has had the role of Champion for Kirkgate Market and Chair of the Leeds Market Board. He has also served as a Director for the Grand Theatre and has been Chair of the City Centre Partnership Board.

I actually first met Gerry before we became Councillors, way back in the early 1990s, and we were both fighting separately but then together the anti-opt-out campaigns in our local schools where our kids were attending – Gerry's at Benton Park and in my case Prince Henry's – and since that time we have developed a firm friendship. He has always been a fearless, tireless and passionate campaigner standing up for the people he represents and for Leeds as a whole, always keen to promote and celebrate the great successes of our great city.

He has been a very powerful ambassador for young people in the city, very keen to promote our child friendly credentials. I have great hope for Gerry's year in office; especially I know he is going to be expert at managing all of us in this Council Chamber. I know particularly, on a serious note, that he will work us all relentlessly in pursuit of raising money for his charities, Epilepsy Action and Yorkshire Heart Research. Most importantly, I am sure he will put an end to the suffering and long-standing misery of so many of us in Leeds in his role as a lifelong supporter and bring back promotion for Leeds United in his year of office. *(laughter and applause)*

Lord Mayor, as a fellow resident of Otley and in recognition of a great friend, it gives me enormous pleasure to move that Gerry Harper be elected Lord Mayor for the City of Leeds for the year ahead. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Procter to second.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted also to second the proposal on the Order Paper before us today, namely that Councillor Gerry Harper be elected the Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds to hold office until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2017.

There are some comments that the Leader of Council has made which fill me with trepidation; the first that Councillor Harper will hold us all to account in the Chamber. Oh dear! You have tried your best and you have done well, Lord Mayor, but some of us who do occasionally take liberties with the red light (*laughter*) may like a softer approach to his position.

Lord Mayor, when you serve on committees and boards of the Council you get to know colleagues a little better and, indeed, these days we do not meet and see enough of colleagues in my view as we used to do under the old committee structure, but there are times when we work across party and together and it is on those occasions that we get to know best Members from other political parties.

I first came across Gerry when he was promoted to be Chief Whip of the Labour Group on the first occasion and he was new to that role. I was a little more of an old hand at it, I have to say, and on the very first encounter that we had, shall we say it did not go too well and I vividly remember Gerry, who was somewhat of an old hand in this place, bawling quite loudly at a rather young and precocious me. Unbelievable, I know! (*laughter*) The Chief Executive at the time who used to attend the Whips' Meetings in those days – no criticism – one Mr Rogerson, did not quite know what to do with himself but since then we have moved on and we worked together whilst Gerry was Chief Whip for the first time and also then later on in his career as well.

I have further sat on boards with Gerry of the Markets Committee where he and I went along to be a trader for the day in Leeds Market. I have to say, getting up at five o'clock in the morning is not particularly unusual to me; working most of the day on a fish stall gutting fish on a Monday morning would not actually be my first choice of occupation, I have to say. A valuable experience, though, because he and I took a lot away from that day and actually it informed our work subsequently. Also I am sure he would think, and I certainly think, that it led to a better understanding within this Council of the challenges faced by those who work within a building that we as a Council own.

More recently Gerry has been appointed to the Leeds Grand Theatre Board where I have served for a few years as well and he has taken to that with some aplomb. He has worked incredibly hard, which many may not know – incredibly hard – on the proposals to reinvigorate, revitalise and refurbish the Hyde Park Picture House and I have to say, without such a strong advocate both within the Board and also on this Council, I do not think what some of you may not have seen as yet would have come to life, but actually it is quite exciting and I am sure he will use his year in office to further promote that project and hopefully to its conclusion and to its success.

I was delighted, Lord Mayor, to see the official photograph of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress elect actually in the Grand Theatre showing the fantastic backdrop of the stalls.

As has already been mentioned, the two charities that are to be favoured this year, Epilepsy Action – we all know that charity has played a significant part in Gerry's life and I hope we can all assist in helping a significant sum be raised for that organisation. Also Heart Research UK, a Leeds based charitable organisation that pioneers national research work. I served for a number of years on the Board of that particular Trust and I am delighted that they are to be favoured in this way.

In conclusion, Lord Mayor, I am delighted to second the proposal that Councillor Gerry Harper be the next Lord Mayor of Leeds. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would like to support Councillor Gerry Harper to be our next Lord Mayor. I have known Gerry from the very beginning I got elected on to the Council, actually. Like Councillor Procter, my first meeting with Gerry Harper was not the most positive of encounters. It was a photo op, actually, and Gerry is very good at photo ops so he will do very well in his new role. He was stood there in all his magnificence in this greatcoat, the very embodiment of Labour establishment Leeds (*laughter*) and then I trot up as this new 27 year old Councillor and he just looks me up and down and says, "What are *you* doing here?" as if saying "We are in charge." It actually turned out I was there because at the time I was employed by British Gas and one of the things that I do have in common with Gerry is that Gerry was also employed at British Gas for a significant period and one of the reasons why we were both on this Council was because it is an organisation that takes seriously allowing its employees to take part in public service, and I think that is a very good example. To actually have one of those products turned into our new Lord Mayor I think is a pretty good investment for that company and I hope others follow suit through that example.

Actually it was through that joint knowledge that I was also a British Gas employee that actually he softened a little bit and then that great presence of Gerry, I got to know the person inside who is a very caring individual and he is a very loyal Labour person but he certainly sees the humanity in others from other Parties.

I am going to be very glad to support him on his Charity Committee this year as I did for Councillor Judith Chapman in her year and the year before that. The Lord Mayor's Charity is a very important project for the city and each year we are able to highlight something which is very significant for not everybody in the city but for a significant part of that city, and the charities that Gerry has chosen this year are particularly significant and will touch many, many people across the city and I hope that we will all join in that activity in terms of fundraising for the charity.

I also note that Gerry also came from Harehills, which is something else I have in common with him. I grew up in Harehills as well. It puts you in a very good stead being brought up in that part of the city, which is the most diverse in the city, to appreciate that very diverse nature of Leeds itself, so this is a man who is very well qualified, whether it be through his heritage but also in terms of his good-naturedness to actually be a very good Lord Mayor.

I have to mention as well the Chair of Markets. Given Gerry's background from Northern Ireland, being Chair of Markets is a little bit like when you are on the Cabinet but you were given the Northern Ireland Office. *(laughter)* It is one of the hottest seats on the Council and you certainly need to be a resilient character to Chair that Board, and actually that is other great training for Gerry. He is able to take on significant personalities and charm them, bring them round, and that is one thing that I hope will mean that his year as Lord Mayor will be very successful. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gettings.

COUNCILLOR GETTINGS: Lord Mayor, I am delighted on behalf of the Morley MBI Group to support the nomination for Councillor Gerry Harper to be the next Lord Mayor of the city.

I have sat on various committees with him but best know him as a member of the Leeds Grand Theatre Board, to which Councillor Procter has referred. He has worked tirelessly, along with other Board Members, to make the Grand Theatre more financially viable and for the second year running the Grand Theatre is now in profit by some £270,000. His gave support for a new disabled lift and this work has now been almost completed and will be opened in June, which will give disabled people a more dignified entry into the theatre.

As Chairman of the Hyde Park Cinema sub-committee he has been responsible for producing a feasibility study to bring that structure and services up to date, providing wheelchair access, a second screen in the basement and a new café bar at the side of the building. This will regenerate the cinema into a more community based centre and its committee has just submitted that scheme for Heritage Lottery funding.

From serving with Gerry on different committees I know him to be a person who knows and who speaks his own mind, a man who is well informed and a man who has plenty of common sense and the right amount of good humour. Our Group therefore heartily and most sincerely supports his nomination to be our next Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is my pleasant duty on behalf of the Green Group to support the nomination of Councillor Gerry Harper for the role of Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds for the coming year.

I always think that the worst part of the Lord Mayor's duties is chairing the Council meetings which, as we know, is not the easiest job in the world because, of course, Council can get rather unruly on occasions. *(laughter)* However, I can tell you that I was a member of the all-party group which was the forerunner of the Leeds Market Board and I saw Gerry in action as Chair of that group, which could get rather lively, shall we say, at times, particularly when the stallholders were present. He chaired it well so I reckon that he should be able to keep any unruly Councillors under control, whether he resorts to turning the microphone off or not!

I hope that Gerry and Lynne enjoy their year of office. I unreservedly give the support of the Green Group for Councillor Gerry Harper to be Lord Mayor of Leeds in the year 2016/2017. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I now put the motion to the vote. *(A vote was taken)*
The vote is CARRIED.

We will now have a brief 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 later 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.

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 Harper)

DECLARATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I would now like to ask the new Lord Mayor to conduct the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

THE LORD MAYOR: I, Gerry Harper, of 12 Manor Street, Otley, Leeds, LS21 1AX, 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: Item 2, Election of Vice Chair of the Council.
Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I put that to the vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

Vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It gives me enormous pleasure to begin the vote of thanks for the outgoing Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I am sorry, it is my fault – it is my speech next! *(laughter)* I knew I would get something wrong; I did not realise it would be so soon during the meeting! Sorry about that.

COUNCILLOR: Lord Mayor, you are the first person to have made the Leader of Council sit down in twelve months! *(laughter)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I do apologise, Judith.

ADDRESS

THE LORD MAYOR: Here we go. Good evening, everyone. Most of you already know me but if you do not, my name is Gerry Harper and I am the Lord Mayor of Leeds. *(Applause)*

Let me first of all start tonight by thanking the retiring Lord Mayor, Judith, and her Consort, Alan, for their hard work over the last year. I know it has been a very busy year for them, attending over 400 events with some real highlights, not least being on the start line of the second stage of the Tour de Yorkshire in Otley, getting up very early in the morning, I understand. It has also been great to see so many school children coming into the Civic Hall to help build their Lego Crest. I understand it took over 201,000 bricks. What a fantastic way to raise money for the charity Specialist Autism Services. I hope we will be seeing the finished crest on display soon.

Some of these things you may have heard before - but I am going to repeat them - by other Members. As many of you will know I am not originally from Leeds. I was born in Belfast but in 1967, a year before the troubles began, my mum decided to move our family to Leeds. This has been our adopted city ever since and what a great city Leeds is.

As a Leeds United fan I would like to think that when I arrived here I brought some Irish luck to them because not too long after my arrival the club earned their first major trophy, under the legendary Don Revie, by winning the Inter-Cities Fairs

Cup in 1967/68. Since then it has certainly been a roller coaster following Leeds United and, as the song says, we have been through it all together and we have had our ups and downs but I am hoping I can bring more luck to the club next year as Lord Mayor and we can get back next season to where we belong in the Premier League. (*hear, hear*) (*Applause*) If Leicester City can do the seemingly impossible so can we although, unlike Gary Lineker, I am not going to promise to Chair the Mayoral meeting in nothing but my boxer shorts next year! (*laughter*)

Unfortunately I seem to have been a jinx for the Leeds Rhinos because every time I go to Wembley to support them they lose, so last year I decided not to go any more to give them a chance of winning, and they did, so it obviously worked. (*Applause*) It was good.

I digress. Having started life as a loiner here in Leeds we lived with my Aunt Anna and Uncle Danny, who are here today, which meant there were a number of adults and lots of children in both of their homes in Harehills and Gipton. That was my first experience of children being stacked in bunk beds.

We moved later and I lived most of my youth in Harehills, attending Brownhill Primary School, St Augustine's Primary School and then to Corpus Christi High School. My first experience of the world of work was in Kirkgate market at the tender age of 14, where I got myself a Saturday job working in the Nut Shop for £2.50 a day. It was quite an experience working there with some of the great characters in the market and I was there for two years. Then I left school at 16 and went to work at Montague Burtons on Hudson Road. I applied for a job in their accounts department and I ended up as the only man in a customer accounts team dealing with outsize underwear for the ladies of Leeds. (*laughter*) I stayed there for two years, becoming quite an expert in ladies' undergarments!

Following that I applied for a completely different job and became a fork lift truck driver and warehouseman at Archibald Storage in Gildersome. Very strangely, this is where a box of Sugar Puffs played a major part in my joining the Labour Party. I was wrongly accused of stealing a box of damaged Sugar Puffs to eat at lunchtime, as I had left my sandwiches at home. I was dismissed by a new manager, who I will charitably call overzealous, and then our shop steward intervened. He stepped in, called a meeting of the workforce and I was reinstated immediately.

For the first time I understood what trade unions were all about and that made a profound impact on me, and the next day I was persuaded by the same shop steward to join the Labour Party. I am not sure if it is anything to do with my Irish roots but having proved I have the gift of the gab when it came to women's garments, I decided again to go back to office work and became the only guy on a customer service team at British Gas. I spent 17 years with the company doing various jobs and ended up as a central heating salesman and surveyor before leaving British Gas after privatisation when thousands of staff were made redundant in 1994.

I then had the honour of being elected as the Labour Councillor for the University Ward and, as many Councillors discovered, it was not easy to get a job and be a Councillor at the same time. I had a number of part-time jobs and luckily for me in 1997 my good friend, then Councillor Fabian Hamilton, was elected as a Labour MP for Leeds North-East and he offered me the post of his Parliamentary Chief of

Staff, which sounds very grand. As well as being a Councillor I worked alongside Fabian for 18 years.

When my mum made that massive decision to move all of us to Leeds from Belfast, I do not think she had ever envisaged that years later when she was in her 70s she would be joining her son, an elected Member of the Council, on the steps of the Civic Hall. We were campaigning to keep the Doreen Hamilton Centre open which at the time was under threat of closure.

Today I have reflected on my ups and downs as a Labour Councillor. I have been the Chief Whip on two occasions and an Executive Board Member and carried out many different posts over the years, most recently to the great Councillor Richard Lewis in our Development Department and, ironically, the Kirkgate Market's Champion and Chair of the Board – ended up back where I began my employment as a young man of 14. I have also met the Queen twice and Nelson Mandela in this very Chamber, which was a huge honour for me. I was also snubbed by Prince Philip and told off for shaking his hand before shaking the Queen's!

Over the years I have proved pretty accident prone, as my family will tell you all about. John and Mark might want to brush up on their first aid skills. I have been knocked over twice by cars; broke my left arm and shoulder; broke my right elbow; I fell off a wall, landing on spikes which went through my leg; I sliced my foot on a piece of glass playing football; cut off a whole fingernail in a letter box whilst leafleting (*laughter*) and had stitches in my head twice. Also whilst out campaigning I have been bitten by dogs three times and it was after that I decided to take up running so I could get away from them! (*laughter*) I think if I were a cat I would have used up my nine lives already.

None of that stopped me getting involved in some fairly mad events to help raise money for the charities of other Lord Mayors. I remember abseiling down the Civic Hall for Childline for the then Lord Mayor Councillor Linda Middleton in 1997, and recently I took part in a fire walk for Judith in Millennium Square. Being a keen runner I have also run the Jane Tomlinson 10k twice and as well as that the Abbey Dash. On one occasion I was locked up by the police – and before anyone starts to spread rumours, I can assure you that it was all in a good cause. I was given a mobile phone and a telephone directory and then had to raise £500 to get released from the cells. Luckily I am still in one piece and looking forward to the year ahead.

John and Mark should also know I have not always got things right when it comes to timing, so they may have their work cut out this year making sure I am in the right place at the right time. Eight years ago I had the police officers outside Buckingham Palace in stitches after I turned up to the Queen's Garden Party a week late. (*laughter*) I told them and they were very serious and then they just started laughing and I don't know why but there you go!

Of course, in amongst my adventures there has been a fair bit of politics, one or two lively moments in the Council Chamber and I decided my biggest compliment I had received about my political life came from the Conservative Benches. I distinctly remember Councillor Les Carter shouting at me that I was the worst Chief Whip this Council had ever had, which I took to mean that I was doing a pretty good job for the Labour Benches. (*laughter and applause*)

It is a great honour to take on the role of Lord Mayor. Past Lord Mayors have all told me I am in for an unforgettable year and I am obviously delighted that Lynne has agreed to be my Lady Mayoress for the year and we are both very excited at the prospect. *(Applause)*

We already know that I will be representing the city at some very poignant events, not least the 100th anniversary of the Somme. One hundred years ago in 1916 Sir Charles Lupton, the then Lord Mayor of Leeds, waved off the Leeds Pals as they went to war. Tragically we all know they were not to come home. This year I will be honouring their memory and that of the other fallen soldiers and civilians and I will do so with immense pride. I have also been invited to help commemorate the Leeds Lasses in Crossgates, including the 35 young women killed in the Barnbow Munitions Factory explosions.

The inspiration for some of my charities this year comes in part from within this Chamber. Firstly, Heart Research UK. Many of you will remember my close friend and University Ward colleague Councillor Brian Dale, who collapsed before what was to be his last Council meeting here in 2002. Despite the fact he was surrounded by friends and colleagues when he had his heart attack, no-one knew how to respond and give him medical assistance. He did not receive CPR until the paramedics arrived and although he was resuscitated, Brian never made a full recovery and sadly passed away a few weeks later.

Receiving quick assistance in these frightening circumstances can make all the difference and I want to raise the profile of Heart Research UK and also offer training to the people of Leeds about CPR, should they come across someone who has had a heart attack.

The other charity I will be raising funds for will be Epilepsy Action, which is a subject very close to my heart. In 2004, out of the blue, I had a number of seizures and was diagnosed with epilepsy. In the UK over 600,000 people, or one in every 103, have epilepsy and a further 87 people are diagnosed in the UK every single day. The biggest worry for many epilepsy sufferers is that so few people know how to react when they see someone having a seizure. Again, I hope to raise the profile and awareness of epilepsy action over the year and support efforts to extend training and education for the people of Leeds.

My legacy, as I have said, is not just to raise the profile and awareness of both charities but in future years to help save the lives of people in Leeds.

Finally, there is one person I would like to thank, and it is my mother - my mum, Alice Harper, who sadly passed away in 2005. She was so proud of me when I was first elected and always introduced me to people she knew as, "My son, the Councillor." She was an amazing mum, bringing up my family of nine brothers and sisters after my dad died when most of us were very young. We did not have much as a family but what we did have was her love and I am so proud of her, as I know she would have been very proud of me being the Lord Mayor of the city she made our home. *(Applause)*

I am also really pleased that my children Evan, Rowan and Rebecca are up in the balcony. *(Applause)* It would not have been the same without them.

I think I have spoken long enough for now about me. I want to say a huge thank you to you all for enabling me to take on the role as Lord Mayor of Leeds. I know it is going to be a fantastic year and I will do my very best to make it a successful one. Thank you. (*Applause*)

ITEM 3 – VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 3, vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor. Councillor Judith Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Are you sure? (*laughter*) We will get that one out of the way early, then, and I am delighted and actually feel quite emotional following on from a wonderful speech, Gerry. It is great to have you in the Chair.

I am also very pleased to be able to move the vote of thanks for Judith. I think she has had an extraordinary year. As we have heard, she has undertaken 400 engagements. I cannot even begin to believe what that must be like, representing the city on a daily basis over the year and I think we can all say you have represented us very well and we have been very pleased to have you as our Lord Mayor over the last year.

You have had many highlights. It is very interesting, actually, looking at her year and you suddenly think what a full and extraordinary year it has been. Gerry mentioned the Tour de Yorkshire and I was with Judith in Otley cutting the ribbon for the men's race and it was such a privilege and a great thing to be there, and I think the Lord Mayor being there just gave the whole event a huge lift.

Just think about the Rugby Challenge Cup Final, the Civic Reception you had to celebrate the success of the Yorkshire County Cricket and Yorkshire Women and Girls' Cricket. That was a really fantastic event. Lighting the beacon for the Queen's 90th birthday. The retirement event for another great woman of Leeds, Fanny Waterman – absolutely amazing. Then what can we say, the Leeds Award for Sir Kevin – our Sir Kev, our Kev – who is actually not a local from Leeds but he always says Oldham is his town but Leeds is his city. It was a great privilege to witness you undertaking that. Just last week, 20 years of celebrating Carers Leeds with Princess Anne.

I think the achievement you have made with your charities has been quite legendary. £40,000 already raised and I think, as the Lord Mayor has said, the innovation of the Lego Crest was something that none of us has actually ever seen before. I know that it was inspired by your daughter, Harriet, and it has meant a great deal to you personally. I think at the beginning when you realised over 200,000 pieces and bricks to put in, wondering whether this was a task that would ever be completed, but I think you finished it before time at the beginning of April and I know that you have been round many, many schools and different companies and really, I think, for me, bringing so many aspects of your year together I think you have been a great champion for all the communities of Leeds, particularly carrying on what we came to know of your work on the Council in being a great champion for children and young people. It was really heartening to see you seeing that through.

A great year you have had and you deserve a rest. I understand you managed to get an afternoon nap this afternoon, and may it be the first of many afternoons in the years ahead.

Because I am on my feet first I can tell you just a little story. We had a reception for a Chinese delegation coming to Leeds and one of the delegation was slightly late and came up on the train from London and came into the reception that we were having for them and he stopped and he looked at us. When he got up to speak he said, "Well, I have learned two things tonight. First of all, I was coming to meet the Leader and the Lord Mayor of Leeds and I have to tell you I was expecting two men." The second thing he said was that he was sitting on the train looking at his notes and he saw Councillor Judith Chapman, Councillor Judith Blake and he thought Judith must mean a very special type of Councillor! (*laughter*) I am delighted to say on Councillor Chapman's behalf he was absolutely right.

It gives me great pleasure to move the vote of thanks for a wonderful year. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. You have not switched me on. I thought it would at least be into a proper meeting before you switched my mic off, Lord Mayor!

Lord Mayor, it is a real honour and a privilege to support the vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor, Judith Chapman. It is fair to say Council meetings have not always been easy this year and while I myself have always strived to maintain impeccable behaviour (*interruption*) the opposition do have the habit of intervening when I get to my feet, as you saw. As ever, Judith dealt with every situation that came her way with a calm dignity.

As has been touched on already and as is the problem always with these speeches, you get given a bit of a script beforehand and the Leader usually uses every single last scrap of information through it, so you hastily re-write as you go along. It has been an excellent sporting year for the city. Leeds Rhinos had a particularly spectacular season and the Lord Mayor quite rightly led her congratulations to the whole team and particularly presenting the Leeds Award to Kevin Sinfield. We should probably gloss over rugby matches since then! We will move on.

We should probably also gloss over football. As an avid Everton fan and someone with more than a passing interest in Leeds United, and out of respect to the Deputy Chief Executive and Councillor Walshaw, we will move quickly on from football and the Chief Executive can stop looking so smug at this point!

It is no surprise to me that Judith has taken such a keen interest in children and young people during her year in office. I have come to know her particularly well from working on the Children's Services Scrutiny Board over the years and the two things I learned about Judith in that time that have been realised in this role is her passion for children and young people and just how she throws herself into whatever she decides to do, and there is no doubt she has put her absolute heart and soul into being Lord Mayor this year and has been a wonderful ambassador for the city.

Things have not always gone smoothly, I am told. Like my colleagues Councillor Cohen and Councillor Wood, Councillor Chapman does not have a particular head for heights. She attended a particular event to light the Menorah Candles on a particularly windy evening down on the Headrow and, as many of you who have been to that ceremony will know, the candles are not particularly low down and you have to go up on a cherry picker to get to the top and light the candles. I do not think it was the most comfortable situation you endured during your year but, as ever, she put her fear to one side, embraced the challenge, clung on tight and lit the candles and that kind of sums up and typifies the person that Judith is.

Her charity work has been touched on already. The amount of money you raised is incredible and leaves a legacy, but that is not the only legacy you have left from the Lego Crest. Anyone who, like me, has a child or nieces and nephews or grandchildren will have come across the excruciating nightmare late in the evening, walking around barefoot and standing on a rogue Lego brick, and it is to the Lord Mayor's great credit there are now 200,000 fewer of those terrible weapons lurking in our city! *(laughter and applause)*

We have many things to thank you for; that is just one of them. You and Alan have had a wonderful year, you have been fantastic ambassadors for the city and it is my very great privilege on behalf of the Conservative Group to second the vote of thanks to you. Thank you, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I, of course, have been personally very proud to have Judith as our Lord Mayor this year because, of course, she is a member of my Group and someone I have known for a significant amount of time.

I introduced not just the significance of her personally doing it but also symbolically when Judith was introduced to the Council all that time ago – it doesn't feel like five minutes, does it – back in May. I am going to concentrate this evening on the charity.

Judith is a very straight talking person and she does not take prisoners and I think it is the first time that the Lord Mayor's Charity Committee has ever had to be adjourned this year because Judith was putting people straight and told them exactly what she expected of them in terms of the money that needed to be raised for this charity because it was so important to the city.

That directness got results and so there is a little pressure now on Councillor Harper because the Lord Mayor's Charity Committee is developing as the years go by. Each year you try something new; some things work, some things do not but at the end of the day you have always got to try and beat the previous Lord Mayor and what they have achieved and this year Councillor Chapman has achieved something pretty significant.

We have already mentioned the £40,000 in terms of money but on top of that I understand there is another £30,000 in in-kind actual equipment that has been donated to the charity as well.

The charity itself, too. Councillor Harper has already mentioned how he was diagnosed late with epilepsy and this year we have had a charity which is very close to Councillor Chapman's heart because it involved her daughter. One of the significant things about this year is how she has been able to directly involve her daughter in the fundraising.

Harriet was very late diagnosed as autistic, as so many people who are autistic in the city are, and it means that generally they do not get any attention when they are children because they are misdiagnosed. It is always very brave to take on a charity which is associated with adults because children's charities tend to pull the heartstrings that much greater. I am glad to see that the new Lord Mayor has taken on that tradition. We have highlighted an area which is not given much attention and this year, Councillor Chapman, you have done that cause proud. You have not just got your physical legacy in terms of that crest where we do not know where to put it now it has been built, your Lego legacy, but the commitment that you have shown to autism as an issue that needs to be tackled in the city is significant and I only hope that Councillor Harper can continue and match what has been achieved this year through your great efforts. Thank you, Judith. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and may I congratulate you on your appointment. We Morley Borough Independents hope you have a wonderful year.

My Lord Mayor, it is my pleasure on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents to congratulate Judith Chapman in her role as First Citizen of Leeds over the past year and her husband, Alan, as Lord Mayor's Consort.

Councillor Chapman stepped into the role with such ease, which carried on throughout the year. Her many Morley visits brought favourable comments of friendliness, unassuming, assured, ability and it is these comments which have summed Judith's take on the role and which will be remembered in the years to come. I have had the honour of standing in for Judith on a number of occasions – name the same but the other Judith would have been far preferable to me! However, with so many invitations in the second biggest city outside London, she could not be there herself at all events but I know she worked nonstop, giving all who met her a special feeling of bringing the First Citizen of Leeds to their occasion, which in itself, is so very special.

The work Judith did in promoting Leeds is inestimable. As you leave your role, Judith, I am confident that you will do so knowing that you leave a job well done and no doubt look forward to a break from the many and varied commitments which come with being Lord Mayor with a city such as ours.

Congratulations on your wonderful year of office in the year 2015/16. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wilford.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I had the honour of welcoming Judith Chapman to her role as the new Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds

on behalf of my colleagues in the Green Group and I now have the pleasure of saying fare thee well to the outgoing Lord Mayor.

I am sure, fellow elected Members, that you will recall the last meeting of Leeds City Council on Wednesday 23rd March. That particular meeting momentarily became heated, to say the least but, Judith, in your role as Lord Mayor, I saw the strength of your character, personality and humour, all combined with a sense of fair play and order to dampen those heated exchanges between Councillors and continue business as usual.

What a year, especially for sport, Judith. The Tour de Yorkshire and waving the starting flag in Otley; Sophie Varley, the winner of the BBF Boxing title; Yorkshire County Cricket Club and Yorkshire Women and Girls' Cricket teams, Civic Receptions both; the Challenge Cup Final where the Rhinos defended their title; then presenting Sir Kevin Sinfield with the Leeds Award for outstanding contribution to the game of rugby league.

Perhaps more importantly, your chosen charity of Specialist Autism Services and yet another outstanding contribution, £40,000 raised – fantastic. The Leeds Lego Crest project – again I refer to my previous comments concerning this Lord Mayor's quality of character, personality and, of course, humour. It must have been fun. Lego bricks and a work of art. 200,000 Lego bricks, being completed on April 1st. No fool this Lord Mayor! Well done, Judith, for all your achievements in the role of Lord Mayor. On behalf of the Green Group many thanks for a job well done and all the very best to you and Alan, cheers.

I may also add a Green Group welcome to the new Lord Mayor, Gerry Harper. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I would like to call for the vote in respect of the vote of thanks for the Retiring Lord Mayor. *(A vote was taken)* That vote is CARRIED.

I would now like to 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: Could I now announce the Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort will now present the Lady Mayoress with her insignia of office and the Lady Mayoress will now present the Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort with a retiring gift.

(The retiring Lord Mayor's Consort presented the Lady Mayoress with her insignia of office and the Lady Mayoress presented the retiring Lord Mayor's Consort with a retiring gift.) (Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: The Retiring Lord Mayor to reply on behalf of herself and the Retiring Lord Mayor's Consort.

THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR: I have only got one button on here! That is not good news!

Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, Fabian Hamilton MP, officers, Members of Council and visitors tonight. I firstly just want to wish Gerry and Lynne all the best for the coming year and I am sure you will enjoy it as much as Alan and I have done. It has indeed been a wonderful year.

The first thing that I was told when I got my first bundle of paper was, everything is written down for you for each visit for exactly what you have to wear and what you have to say. My very first outing as Lord Mayor, feeling extremely nervous, I was told the Lord Mayor is not expected to speak. Marvellous, I thought, and I arrived at the venue to be faced with television cameras and microphones and interpreters whilst I gave several interviews which had to be translated. I thought to myself well, I have got through that so perhaps I will be able to get through the year. As a result of that, I have written very few speeches as the year has gone on and the same for tonight as well – I have not written a formal speech. In some respects it is quite good because I think a lot of you have gone through all the visits that I have made.

Alan and I do not really know what to say about this year. You think that you know what you are going to face but we did not. It has far exceeded any expectations and I am sure you are in for the most magnificent time.

Not all meetings and outings are the same and some you will probably grimace and say, “Oh dear, I will remember not to go to that again” but on the whole it has been spectacular and I really must thank in particular Councillor Elliott and Councillor Townsley for standing in for me on the events that I was not able to get to.

I need to thank my office – Erica, Bernie, Jill and Dawn (who has gone home, her husband is not well unfortunately) Andrea (who is not here) and Ian Cornick. I think they thought I was mad when I first began and I think I said to them, “Well, you do not know what you have taken on here” and they just smiled sweetly at me. Of course, it began when we wanted to do the Lego project and once again they looked at me and thought “Hmm, we are never going to get this done”, so I decided that the best thing to do was to bring Harriet over to explain to them and to the Charity Committee just what it meant to build the Lego Crest of over 207,000 bricks. Ian had in his room a piece of string attached to the wall which was supposed to give us a measurement of this Lego. It is actually 3.5m square. We went to several meetings and I was about to say something and Ian would look at me, raise his eyebrows at me and go “Zip it”, do not say a word because they knew I was going to say something. Thank you all, it has been a great year.

Mark and John, what can I say? They have driven Alan and I all over. I could not have got through the year without them. John is a fount of knowledge and he knows everybody in Leeds, so if you want anything, go to John and he will be able to take you to someone! Thank you all very much.

I am asked constantly what three events have been the greatest for you. I do not know about the greatest but the ones that will remain in my memory. The first was a reception I gave for the children of Chernobyl. They came here, they come for a month each year and they have medical, dental and optical treatment, all given free

of charge by doctors and specialists. Children come off the plane, some of them with nothing but the clothes that they stand up in. It was distressing, to say the least but, of course, I could not say that to them and the people who they visit and stay with for the month do the most wonderful job. I am very pleased to say that I mentioned it to our synagogues, the Rabbi's wife, and within 48 hours I had black bags full of clothes on my doorstep ready to take to the children so that they could take it home. They were allowed to go back with 30 kilos of luggage, so that says something. I will never forget that meeting. (*Applause*)

The second one was the Memorial Weekend, weekend 5th and 6th November. On the Saturday morning the Jewish ex-servicemen always have a service in one of the four synagogues in Leeds and this year it just so happened that it was in my synagogue. Prior to the service I was asked to talk, to make a short speech, and that is something that was really very, very heart feeling because I looked at people who I had grown up with, I looked at my parents, friends, and I looked at the new generation who were growing at the synagogue and as the first lady Jewish Lord Mayor that really was something special.

The third, and a lot of you have already talked about it, is the Lego Crest. I do not think that Alan and I will ever forget that crest. Alan came down on Boxing Day to build, we were so worried that we were not going to get it done - we had the keys for the Christmas holiday - and I must say as well, he was most helpful in keeping me grounded on this when I started to get a bit hysterical about it because I just could not see it being finished, but my daughter knew better than that and she had it worked out and on 1st April, Leeds Autistic Day, she placed the last brick into the Lego.

It is a great legacy for me to leave to the City of Leeds. It is at this stage in Simmons House, it is being displayed there and we will let you know where else it is going to move. We are hoping that we will be able to move it round Leeds six months at a time.

Obviously this work was done for SAS, my charity, Special Autism Services and, yes, very close to my heart, my daughter Harriet, and the Lego would not have been done had it not been for Harriet and her friends from Specialist Autism Services. It shows that it is OK to be different. You can still do things and you can still be known and recognised for being who you are.

I managed to raise, as you have heard, £40,000 – I am hoping it is going to reach £45,000 but we will just wait and see – plus about £30,000 in goods which we managed to get from various people. I think the best was John drew up the car at a place on Armley Road and he got out of the car and he went into this unit and this gentleman comes running out, “Oh Judith”, and I looked – not a clue who it was. “Don't you remember, we played table tennis together.” I thought, “Well, that must have been 55 years ago!” He said, “I will just get in the car and speak to you. I thought, anything as long as he gives me the microwave! Anyway, I talked to him about the table tennis I could not remember and then I saw John leave the premises with the microwave for SAS. I have to tell you I have not lifted up a bat since!

My main aim besides raising money was to spread awareness of autism and I am pleased to say that we have done this and that two social enterprises have been set up on the back of the Lego project. This is a wonderful testament to the hard work that went into it.

It has been a wonderful year for myself, Alan and our family. We will be able to look back to it with very fond memories, but I thank you Councillors for allowing me to have that wonderful year. Thank you all so much. (*Applause*)

ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
23rd MARCH 2016

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, we will move on to the actual meeting. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd March 2016. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

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 CARRIED.

ITEM 5 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 5, Declarations of Interest. To invite Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, if you have any. No.

ITEM 6 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 6, Announcements. Chief Executive, are there any announcements? No, thank you.

ITEM 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 7, Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I second, Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 8 – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8, Establishment of Committees and Appointments. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: Move in terms of the Notice again.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote on Schedules 8(a) to (c), Schedules 8(e) to 8(f) and the authority for the City Solicitor to change appointments in consultation with the appropriate Whip. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(d)(i) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS TO COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

THE LORD MAYOR: Appointment of Chairs to Community Committees, item 8. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 8(d)(ii) APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(d)(ii), appointment to Chair Community Committees. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote of Full Council in respect of the six Community Chairs. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(d)(iii) APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR OUTER SOUTH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item (d) (iii), Appointment to Chair Outer South Community Committee. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: To call for the vote restricted to Members of the Outer South Community Committee only in respect of each nomination. That is the Members of the Outer South Community Committee only.

Those in favour of Councillor Bruce please show. (*A vote was taken*) That is six.

Councillor Finnigan, all those in favour. (*A vote was taken*) Six. Any abstentions? No.

To announce the vote, it is six all so it is a draw! At this point in accordance with Community Committee Procedure Rules where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained by votes cast by those Members of the Community Committee present at the Council meeting, the vote will be widened to include all Members of Council this time.

To call for the vote by all Members of Council in respect of each nomination. Those in favour of Councillor Bruce. (*A vote was taken*) Those in favour of Councillor Finnigan. Any abstentions? That is CARRIED for Councillor Bruce. (*Applause*)

ITEM 9 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION (COUNCIL FUNCTIONS)

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9, Scheme of Delegation (Council Functions). Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 10, Executive Arrangements. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 11 – PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 11, Proposed Calendar of Meetings. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Catherine Dobson.

COUNCILLOR C DOBSON: I second, Lord Mayor.

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

I am sure you will all be delighted that that is the close of the meeting and I would like to invite you all to the Banqueting Hall for a nice dinner. *(Applause)*

(The meeting closed at 7.27pm)