

COUNCIL VERBATIM
25 MAY 2017

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LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Thursday, 25th May 2017

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

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

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, 25th MAY 2017

(In the Chair - the Lord Mayor, Councillor G Harper)

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Could I ask you all, please remember to turn off your mobile phones.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Announcements. We have one announcement and it is a sad announcement.

I was horrified and saddened to hear of the terrorist attack in Manchester on Monday evening. On behalf of everyone in Leeds I would like to express our heartfelt support and sympathy to the people of Manchester. We offer our condolences to everyone who has been affected by this awful situation and this also includes victims and their families from Leeds, as well as paying tribute to the work of the emergency and public services responding to it.

As a northern city like Manchester, we pride ourselves on welcoming and celebrating diversity and today we stand together with them in solidarity. Leeds will continue to work closely with as many people and organisations from Manchester, as well as forging ever stronger alliances in the face of adversity.

Together today we stand together in solidarity with the people of Manchester and I would ask that all join me in a minute's silence to show our support and love for those affected.

(Silent tribute)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I confirm, following the dispatch of the Summons with accompanying reports on Wednesday 17th May 2017, further papers originally identified on the Summons as to follow were circulated to Members on 24th May 2017.

ITEM 1 - ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we go to Item 1, the Election of the Lord Mayor. Councillor Judith Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I would just like to start by paying tribute to you, Lord Mayor, for the way that you conducted the minute's silence in

the city this morning. It is great credit to all of us as Members and I know many people were very much comforted by your speech this morning.

It is my very great privilege to move that Councillor Jane Dowson be elected Lord Mayor of our great city.

I think all of us know that with Jane we are going to be in for a very exciting year ahead. Jane has always been something of a whirlwind and we all certainly know when Jane is around and all her ideas and enthusiasm for working in her patch is something that inspires us all.

I am particularly delighted as well to welcome Alan Bellhouse, Jane's husband, as her Consort to the Chamber. He is going to be such a great ambassador for us all and we are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead.

I think the words that come to mine – whirlwind, exciting, passionate and how many of you saw Jane fully taking part in the carnival procession through her beloved Chapel Allerton and how fitting, how absolutely brilliant that this year is the 50th anniversary of the oldest carnival in Europe and that we will have Jane Dowson as our Lord Mayor to help us move the celebrations forward.

It is very interesting to me because I mentioned last year with Councillor Harper the connection when I first met him was Prince Henry's Grammar School in Otley and, of course, Jane herself was a pupil at Prince Henry's in Otley, and I think the threads that Jane and I have picked up over the years go back to that really sense of Jane being rooted in her community. I think we know that she has taken all of the experience of growing up in Pool and living in Otley to her role as an elected Member.

I am very pleased to welcome her family here tonight and I am sure they are aware of Jane's contribution to the city of Leeds but I hope by this evening everyone will be aware of the fantastic contribution that Jane makes.

I just want to make reference to the closest way that I have worked with Jane over our times together as being elected Members and that is the time when I was the Executive Member for Children and Families. Jane took on with relish an incredibly difficult role of being the Deputy Executive Member with responsibility for Education.

We are going to miss Jane enormously in that role. I cannot describe to you what a rock she was to me as the Executive Member but her contribution to the city as a whole in her many, many roles going round the city, sitting on so many committees and different meetings, really being a proud ambassador for children and young people in our city.

I think it is because of Jane's enthusiasm that we were able to really get out into schools talking to young people themselves, listening to what they had to say to us, that we have managed to get the Child Friendly Leeds model off to such a brilliant start. It is

hard to think that we are heading towards the fifth anniversary of the Queen coming to Leeds and many of us have very precious memories of that time, and Jane was absolutely at the heart of all the success that we brought to the table.

She is well known in that role and I know in her role as Lord Mayor that going out to visit schools, as so many Lord Mayors have done, will be an extraordinary passion for her and I think we can look forward to many successes going forward.

The thing that some of you might not know is that Jane is also a fierce contributor to the quiz scene of Leeds. I have managed to avoid being in an opposite team to her but I am not sure if she will have time to keep that habit going. Also, I do need to warn you that she does have a habit of bursting into song as well, so I think we can expect some very interesting moments going forward.

Lord Mayor, it is with great pleasure that I recommend to you all that we accept Councillor Dowson as our next Lord Mayor – such a passionate contributor she is going to be with Alan at her side, an extraordinary ambassador for children and young people but for all of our communities in our great city and I am looking forward to her year in office with great excitement and enthusiasm. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Alan Lamb.

COUNCILLOR LAMB: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is a pleasure to second Councillor Dowson to be the Lord Mayor of Leeds. Before I make my remarks, if I can just on behalf of the Conservative Group thank you for what you did at lunchtime today and also the way you led the tribute just now and the minute's silence. It has been a terrible week for everybody but the best thing we can all do now is to come here and do our job of getting on with democracy and keep going on. Thank you for what you did, Lord Mayor.

If I can also congratulate you on your year of office – a particular highlight for me was cooking Christmas dinner for you in Wetherby and you did a great job serving some of our old folks as well. It is the first time I have known the Lord Mayor come to that event so it was great to have you there. Thank you very much.

Turning to Councillor Dowson, it is a slightly uncomfortable position I find myself in because, as many of you will know, I have spent the last ten years, most of it, shadowing a combination of Councillor Blake and Councillor Dowson and now I have to find myself agreeing with Councillor Blake and being nice about Councillor Dowson (*laughter*) which are not things that I am terribly accustomed to but I will do my best.

I tried to think of some of the things that Councillor Dowson and I have in common. Number one is a shared love of cake, which will come as a surprise to many. Number two, which might be even more surprising, is a shared love of singing and music and if there is a high enough bid at some point during the year for her charity, whatever

that may be, I will be happy to duet with her at some stage! *(laughter)* If the bid is even higher, I will stop! *(laughter)*

The third thing that I know we have in common is our shared passion for improving outcomes for children and young people. It is always interesting when you get to know someone, for most of my time Councillor Dowson sat over there and it is a bit strange not to have her looking disapprovingly at me from over there. She has got a wicked sense of humour is what I have learned in the many hours we have spent interviewing for various roles and doing all sorts of things on the Council. There are various Councillors who shall remain nameless, but I am sure it will not take you long to figure it out, whenever they are on their feet to speak there is a wicked look from Councillor Dowson to me and it is almost impossible not to crack up, and she shares that kind of thing all of the time.

When you get to know somebody, particularly when it is an opponent and you spent a lot of time, and particularly in this of all weeks you remind yourself that we have a great many shared objectives. We frequently disagree on how to achieve them but that is our job and that is how it should be, but you get to know what is truly in someone's heart, and in Councillor Dowson's case it is her absolute passion and commitment for young people in this city and it has been a privilege to play a small part in working alongside her and Councillor Blake and all of the other Executive Members in trying to make Leeds a child friendly city. We cannot possibly have a better ambassador as Lord Mayor this year for our children and young people.

I was talking to some of her ward colleagues, and so if this story is in any way inappropriate it is their fault not mine! Some of you will know about 18 months ago that Councillor Dowson broke her arm quite badly, which was very sad, I knew it was bad because in one particular Scrutiny meeting she had to leave and I came out to see how she was and that is not the character. If she has had to step out of a meeting you know it is bad.

The circumstances to which the broken arm came about were somewhat amusing and I do not know if many of you know the story, that she was doing, I am not sure, Councillor Rafique was not sure if it was a 10k or a half Marathon in her typical way to raise money with a great deal of enthusiasm. Her family and grandchildren live in, I think, Northampton, and so to keep up with her training she went to the gym in Northampton and if you can picture the scene of Councillor Dowson the treadmill, my vision was something between a Victoria Wood sketch and the Green Goddess *(laughter)* and she was working away on the treadmill, which happened to be next to the fire exit which was open, and somehow she managed to stumble and fall off and out of the fire exit and on to the stairs and break her arm. Thank fully it was not much worse than it was and I am blaming Councillor Rafique for that story!

Lord Mayor, in conclusion, I am sure, I do not know Alan but I am sure if you are alongside Jane you are going to be a magnificent Consort and you are going to have a fantastic year. It is an absolute pleasure on behalf of the Conservative Group to second

the motion that Councillor Jane Dowson should be Lord Mayor of our great city of Leeds. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stewart Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Jane Dowson is somebody who I have been familiar with for over a decade. (*laughter*) It is not confession time! I did not think I was going to blush during the speech but there you go! Actually, we have been quite close in warm surroundings but I would be referring to the Town Hall during classical concerts where we often make sure we are on the front row because I have got bad eyesight and she just likes to be seen flapping her fan very grandly!

It is during occasions like that that you get to know your colleagues from the other Benches and appreciate them as human beings so that when, as Councillor Lamb pointed out, they are looking at you glaringly from the other side of the Chamber, you know that they are doing it with love! (*laughter*)

COUNCILLOR LAMB: I'm not sure that it was, Stewart!

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: What we do know, though, is that Jane is such a formidable character that those disapproving looks that you have encountered previously will not be something that you will not be getting again; it is just that they will not be politically motivated, they will be about your behaviour, but you know what you are talking about. I look forward to that because Jane is a formidable character blessed with good moral sense and that is what propelled her through Children's Services to champion those children in education and to champion children now in the charity that she has chosen which is, of course, Candlelighters. Actually, I look forward to some pretty substantial Chamber debates where Councillor Dowson is stamping her authority.

What I will say as well is, culturally we know that Councillor Dowson actually comes from Pool, which is one of the sleepier parts of Greater Leeds, but one of the great things about Jane is that she exemplifies the ability for Leeds that, no matter whether you come from one of the leafier bits or one of the inner city bits, we can all enjoy that great cultural offer that there is in the city and she stopped being a country mouse and certainly took on the bright lights of the big city and enjoys all the culture that we have and the classical concerts were an example of that. I look forward to her continued championship of the arts as we go further forward towards that Capital of Culture.

Lord Mayor, it just leaves me to say on that cultural aspect, I sing as well, in the shower, just to let you know, Councillor Lamb, so I am going to up you your duet with Councillor Dowson and I am going to go for an all-party chorus.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Not in the shower though!

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Because one of the things that is very important, of course, during a Lord Mayoral year is there are opportunities for us to take the mickey

out of ourselves to raise money for a very well deserving charity that the Lord Mayor will be leading and hoping that the rest of the city takes on board as well, so I look forward to working with you, Councillor Lamb, but most of all, of course, look forward to a year led by the First Citizen of the City being Jane Dowson. Thank you, Lord Mayor.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Judith Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is my pleasure on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents to support the nomination of Councillor Jane Dowson to be elected the Lord Mayor of Leeds for the coming year.

Jane shows a compassion for her fellow man in whatever role she is given. The office of Lord Mayor will offer her the opportunity to meet our Leeds citizens from all walks of life and her sense of community will show through. With Alan by her side the two of them will work together and prove to be wonderful ambassadors for Leeds, our vibrant, diverse and inclusive city.

We hope that Jane has a wonderful and successful year of which she is very deserving. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Terry Wilford.

COUNCILLOR WILFORD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. On behalf of the Green Group I would like to welcome Councillor Jane Dowson as Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds. Jane has a proven track record for her commitment towards making Leeds a Child Friendly City, predominantly in her many roles as Executive Member for Education and as Deputy Executive for Children and Families. We are in safe hands.

Jane supports the city of Leeds's bid to become the 2023 European City of Culture and this can be merging her cultural interests, for instances as a supporter of the Leeds Grand Theatre, City Varieties and West Yorkshire Playhouse. From what I read Jane enjoys sport, music and can on occasion be found in public with her singing, so along with my colleagues we are singing out your praises as Lord Mayor and we wish you and your partner Alan every success and enjoy your year in office. Thank you.
(Applause)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you all. Shall we now put the motion to the vote.
(A vote was taken) That is CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

I now call for a brief adjournment. Thank you.

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

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

The Chief Executive and City Solicitor returned to their seats.

The procession proceeded to the well of the Chamber.

CEREMONY

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

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

Photographs were taken.

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 J Dowson)

DECLARATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will now conduct the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

THE LORD MAYOR: I, Jane Dowson, having been elected to the office of Lord Mayor, hereby declare that I will 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: We move straight on to the Election of Vice Chair of Council. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move that Councillor Jim McKenna be appointed as the Vice Chair of the Council and to hold office until immediately after the election of the Lord Mayor at the Annual Meeting of Council in 2018.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We would like to call for the vote for the appointment of Vice Chair of Council. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED Therefore I declare Councillor McKenna Vice Chair of Council. *(Applause)*

ADDRESS

THE LORD MAYOR: Right, it is up to me, with my fan minus, my singing voice because I have got cold, and there is some cake later, Councillor Lamb, so you will be pleased to hear that.

First, I am really pleased to welcome both my family and Alan's family into the Chamber. I will be telling you later about my four grandchildren but I would just like to make an announcement of my own, if that is all right, because we have another grandma in the Chamber today. I would just like to tell you that Councillor Blake, who started off late, now has four grandchildren of her own. She has had one today, so one more grandma. *(Applause)* I think she will probably want to rush away after Council to enjoy with her family that experience.

I would like to welcome everyone to this really warm afternoon here in the Civic Hall. Councillor Harper has passed the baton brilliantly and I thank him for that, but at the most difficult and tragic of times. We now know that children, parents and grandparents from our city have been killed or injured in the Manchester terrorist attack. I wanted to start today not only as Lord Mayor of Leeds but as a mum and a grandma to pass my own condolences to those affected. My thoughts and prayers are with all those killed, injured and traumatised by this terrible act. As a city I know we will do all we can to support Manchester. *(Applause)*

I feel honoured and humbled to have been elected as the 124th Lord Mayor of Leeds and I wanted to start by paying my own tribute to Councillor Harper. Gerry and his lady Mayoress Lynne, who looks stunning this evening, I think they have been absolutely fantastic. *(Applause)* I know they have had a very busy year, they have attended hundreds of events staying much longer than expected and often taking part in the festivities. I have seen him singing and dancing all over the city in person, but also on Facebook and Twitter – modern technology!

In my own ward we have seen him sing Christmas carols with the children from Holy Rosary Primary School, at a community event at the Islamic Centre, at our Community Committee event he eagerly volunteered to join Councillor Taylor and me learning and performing a Bollywood dance routine on stage with the professionals – in his case very well and, Eileen, you were not too bad either.

He has also worked tirelessly throughout his year to raise funds for Epilepsy Action and Heart Research UK, these two great causes so very close to Gerry's heart. A particular highlight for me was very recently we had the Leeds We Are United event bringing communities together to share food and enjoy entertainment from around the world performed by cultural organisations based here in Leeds. He really has done the city proud – thank you, Gerry. (*Applause*)

However, I think you will all agree with me that he has let us down very badly in one particular promise. Some of you will remember, Gerry, what happened to Leeds United? You promised us the luck of the Irish would propel us into the Premiership. What did happen? Supporters have waited years for a return to top flight football and we absolutely believed that you would lead the charge so, Councillor Harper, unfortunately it is now up to me to invoke the luck of the Loiners! If Andrea Radrizzani wants me to go down from time to time to give a stirring and stern team talk, then I shall be only too happy to do so! I know you are a super fan and, as someone who knows a little bit about football and has a bit of extra time on his hands now, I do understand that currently they are looking for a new manager! There we go, new job.

I was elected as a Councillor in 2004 with my ward colleague Councillor Rafique, and Councillor Taylor joined the team a few years later. I believe we represent the most diverse population in the city and I think in the country outside London. Representing such a vibrant ward is exciting, it is frustrating, it is heartbreaking and it is wonderfully joyous in equal measures and, believe me, it is the best job in the world. Being a Councillor is not an easy job and it is often the small victories that give you the most satisfaction – being able to help individuals as well as progressing larger schemes.

As ward colleagues in a close team Eileen, Mohammed and I have many adventures but one particular I would like to tell you does stand out, and it involves my ward colleague Councillor Taylor. Eileen and I agree to join Arthur France's Carnival Troop one year and I think we all know Arthur in the room. We were measured up for what Arthur told me would be a demure costume befitting the older woman! Then I proceeded to go on holiday, agreeing to pick up the costume at the carnival on the day. Needless to say when I put it on it was not the demure costume I was promised but a most revealing garment. Arthur howled with laughter as only he can and we joined in the hilarity, and I can assure you I have only just managed to keep those photos out of the public domain! (*laughter*)

What I discovered back in 2004 in this Chamber was a wonderful cabal of fantastic and fierce women politicians of all parties – women who absolutely called a spade a shovel and who quite frankly at the beginning scared the wits out of me. Many of you will only know the names but others will have known them well as friends and as colleagues – women like Marian Monks, Christiana Myers, Lorna Cohen, Denise Atkinson, Eileen Moxon, Linda Middleton and we could go on, couldn't we?

I remember Denise insisting on coming into the Council Chamber on several occasions to vote despite being seriously ill. I can still imagine her sitting in her

upholstered chair just over there at the back of the room near the stairs, and the Lord Mayor shouting over, “Councillor Atkinson, how would you like to vote?” but we all knew how she wanted to vote.

I will never forget Eileen Moxon leaping to her feet when Councillor Carter made the error of talking about firemen. “Fire people”, she shouted, in her thick Belfast accent – in her own special way a champion for equality and always generous in her support of other women.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: She backed into my car!

THE LORD MAYOR: Did she back into your car, Councillor? I am so sorry!
(laughter)

The legend that was Suzi Armitage. I think we all remember Suzi very fondly and, despite several bouts of cancer, she always came out fighting, never giving up. What a wonderful woman, wonderful people, wonderful inspiring women and real role models for an impressionable new Councillor – that is probably where I got the stern looks from. I sometimes wonder what the new Councillors here will think of us one day.

It was Councillor Wakefield, the Leader back then, who noticed that education was a real interest of mine, leading to over six years in the Children’s Services Directorate, working first with Councillor Blake, then Councillor Yeadon and now Councillor Mulherin, never thinking that one day it would lead to this.

We have some fantastic young people in Leeds and the ambitions of the city served them well – the Best City in the UK, the European Capital of Culture 2023 and a Child Friendly City, to name but a few.

Throughout October and November last year over 10,000 votes were cast for the Children’s Mayor of Leeds 2016/17. The result of the vote was revealed during the Final’s Night on 8th November, the winner, Grace from Drighlington Primary School, receiving the most votes and becoming the 12th Children’s Mayor of Leeds. I really look forward to working with Grace and whoever the 13th Children’s Mayor will be at the start of their term this November.

Because of my association with Children’s Services I decided that I would choose a children’s charity as the Lord Mayor’s Charity this year. It was very difficult to choose my charity as there are so many in Leeds who make a real difference to the lives of children and young people and their families in our city. I knew I wanted to help a smaller charity and Candlelighters came instantly to mind.

For those of you who do not know about Candlelighters, Candlelighters is a local Leeds based charity founded in 1976 to care for the wellbeing of children, young people and their families who live in the Yorkshire area diagnosed with cancer, leukaemia and

central nervous system tumours, their treatment often bringing them across the road just over there to Leeds Children's Hospital.

The support does not end when the child's treatment does or if a family sadly loses their child. It continues for as long as the family needs them in many different ways, whatever is needed whenever it is needed. On the wards of Leeds Children's Hospital they fund 665 hours of various hospital roles every week including play leaders, advanced nurse practitioners, social workers and family support workers, as well as purchasing IT equipment, toys and other little extra comforts. On top of this each year Candlelighters ploughs hundreds of thousands of pounds into the research and study of children's cancer, something that they and we are very proud of.

There is no time limit on coming to terms with the extraordinary journeys and experiences that families face, neither is there a time limit on grief. Candlelighters support families for life.

That brings me to the cottage. During a child's stay in hospital it is essential that they can have their family by their side. Let's face it, being in hospital can be a traumatic and scary experience for any one of us but for a child having their loved ones there to comfort them and to add a sense of normality to their lives is invaluable, especially at a time when it can feel everything around them is falling apart. The extra accommodation that the Candlelighters' cottage will give enables children with cancer staying in hospital the chance to have both mum and dad there as well as their brothers and sisters.

Now, this is the challenge. £500,000 – that is what is needed from voluntary contributions and by starting to raise the money now they will be able to commence the building works on the cottage and aim to open its doors in early 2018. The cottage is based near the Swarthmore centre, right next door to the Children's Hospital – a perfect location for families to be able to stay somewhere where they can take respite before going back to see their children.

I hope this is something the whole city can get behind. It is a project that has a time limit and it is something that we can all work towards and see the benefits.

What I have not done yet is tell you much about my fantastic family. I think as Councillor we all rely on the understanding and support of our partners and families, the late nights, the weekends, the full days – it is definitely not nine to five.

My dad was a miner in his younger days up in Bishop Auckland. He then met mum, moved to Leeds and the rest, they say, was history. I often think of dad but he died when I was a child, so long ago now I have to look at photos to remember what he actually looked like. Mum was a stay-at-home mum but after dad died took on several cleaning jobs to keep a roof over our heads. This is why I left school at 16, starting work to contribute to the family budget. It is from them I get my work ethic.

I am absolutely certain when I was born into this very working class family, mum and dad had no ambitions for me to actually leave the village, let alone become Lord Mayor of this great city. It is also why, given the opportunity in my forties, I took the chance to do a Higher Diploma and then a Management Degree at Leeds Beckett University and then, a little later, a PGC, believe it or not, in Local Government Modernisation, finally getting the education I missed when I was younger.

I remember Gerry talking last year about his mum and how proud he was of her and how proud she was of him. My mum, Eva, was also a very special woman and just like Gerry's, she was so very proud of me. She was often heard introducing me as her daughter, the Leeds City Councillor. Some of you did know her because I did try to bring her to functions and I remember fondly her coming to the Freedom of the City event for Alan Bennett. She spent the entire evening not with me but sitting with Councillor Blackburn's mum, as they compared walking sticks and pills. *(laughter)*

I was lucky enough to talk to Alan Bennett; he was fascinated by these two old ladies and did say he would make a note. Who knows, the two of them may well be featured in a future play!

She never gave up on life although I know on many occasions it may have been an easy option. She had so much get up and go and if life did get overwhelming she never let us know. She was still going to the Rhinos' games with my daughter in her seventies; she drove a motor bike until she was in her eighties, revelling in the nickname Eva Knievel. She caught the bus into Leeds to meet her friend and play bingo into her nineties and when she was diagnosed with dementia she still wanted an electric scooter, which I can assure you she did not get as we feared she would set off and never remember how to get home. She was kind and she was loving and I miss her every single day.

Now, I consider I have been lucky in life. I am a sort of glass half full kind of person, that is me, and I got this optimism from mum. Now I have two wonderful children, Alison and David - they are here today with their partners - and I have four beautiful grandchildren, just keeping up with Councillor Blake there - Holly, kind and gentle; Nick, a footballer with development papers (sorry, Gerry) for Northampton Town but who thinks he would really like to be a sports journalist; Charlotte, the little star who cannot go past a mirror without wanting to perform a song or a dance; and little Luna, who you can hear in the background who normally is the calmest, tenderest, mildest and sweetest baby, which I am sure she will show you later. I love them all dearly.

They are all very tolerant and find great amusement in their crazy grandma who revels in open water swimming and taking on challenges. I hope they all inherit the very best from my mum and if they do they will not go far wrong, and I hope they are very proud of me too.

That brings me to my Consort, Alan, my husband. What can I say? All of you will know that being the husband of a politician is not easy, routine does not exist, the

phone never stops and you are on your computer or I-pad all the time, no two weeks are the same. He handles it all with a smile and a joke. There is a shoulder if I need one and, now retired, more importantly he always has my tea ready, whatever time I get home! *(laughter)* He has taught me so much about history and classical music which I now love and enjoy and he loves art too, but organisation is not necessarily one of his strong points and I will tell you a story about today perhaps later at dinner.

He took me on a long weekend to Amsterdam to see one of his favourite paintings, the Death of Icarus by Bruegel and we turned up and looked at the wall only to find that it was on loan to Brussels! *(laughter)* Oops! I know he will be a wonderful support.

Finally, I promise you this, that I will do my very best over the next twelve months to represent Leeds well, to promote business, enterprise and arts in the city so that our aim of becoming a compassionate city with a strong economy and the best city in the UK becomes a little closer. Thank you. *(Applause)*

ITEM 3 – VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: I would now like to call on Councillor Blake to thank the Retiring Lord Mayor. Councillor Blake.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor – the first time I have said that to you, Councillor Dowson.

Before I talk about Councillor Harper I just want to echo everything you have said about your mum, Eva – an absolute stalwart in the Labour Party out in our neck of the woods and everything you have said absolutely true and I know she will be smiling down on you very, very proud of everything that you have achieved. It is very interesting to me, I think I was just saying to Mark, at least he knows all the back roads out to Otley having driven Councillor Harper and Lynne around – it is a strange coincidence that that knowledge will come into use next year.

I hope and I know you will all join with me in extending the warmest vote of thanks to Gerry and to Lynne for their extraordinary year in office that they have had – so many successes to reflect on, great ambassadors for the city, you really have done us proud.

I have to say you did come to Middleton Park and you came to our produce show and we were told by the Lord Mayor's office that you really strictly would only have 15 minutes to be with us. Well, three hours later, having taken part in all of the fastest duck race and all of the different events that took place, the three of us as Middleton Park Members saw such a great side to you and the enthusiasm that you brought to the role meant a huge amount to the people who put so much time and effort into organising the great event.

I have asked for a little bit of an update of some of the other things you have done and you managed to officiate at Pudsey Carnival twice – I can only assume that is a quirk of dates that happened, but such is your commitment to all parts of the city. If you look back over the last year what an extraordinary year you have taken part in and led us so brilliantly. You think back to the celebrations of the Battle of Somme last year which seems such a long time ago. You, I remember, left a Council meeting and went straight on to go over to France to lay the wreath, travelling through the night. So many events celebrating our Armed Forces in such an extraordinary year for reflection back to the First World War.

Then the celebration of the Rio Olympians coming to Leeds and the extraordinary journey of so many of our Olympians who came through the streets of Leeds in the open buses. Then, opening Victoria Gate and the Casino; taking part in the Holocaust Memorial Day and then a civic visit to Siegen to celebrate our 50th anniversary with that great city.

I have to say probably one of the most moving events that you organised was the Leeds We Are United event, and I know some of you managed to get to that event but the extraordinary effort that Gerry and Lynne put in to organising that and such a reflection of our diverse communities, fabulous displays of talent from young people from right across the city of Leeds and such a poignant memory for us at this particular time.

I have to say, Gerry, do not give up the day job, I think your singing career might be slightly limited – that is a bit of an in joke for both of us there! Je suis rock star, Councillor Gerry Harper took the Town Hall by storm and entertained us all absolutely brilliantly.

I have reflected on what I said when I proposed Councillor Harper to become Lord Mayor and Gerry and I go back a long way in our suffering as life-long Leeds United supporters. I think I helped to put the challenge in that this was his opportunity to give the confidence to the team to really pull out the stops. When I look at my speech, I have to say that was met by laughter but, do you know what, didn't they nearly go and do it and can't we be very proud of Leeds United's performance over the last year, and I know Jane will pick up the mantle and I am sure will even go to the matches as well so that next year we will be standing here celebrating Leeds United on the verge of going up into the Premiership.

Again, I just want to reflect in saying thank you to Gerry for the extraordinary year he has had – a great friend, a great friend to this city and he has done us all proud and, do you know what, he has even managed to keep us in order at Council meetings throughout the year for which we can all be duly proud. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Procter.

COUNCILLOR J PROCTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to be able to second this vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Gerry and Lynne.

I am conscious, Lord Mayor, that Councillors Golton, Gettings, Blackburn and I are the principal thing that stands between you and all of your guests enjoying what smells like a fantastic curry that keeps wafting through the doors at the side, so I for one will keep my remarks brief. I hope Councillors Golton, Gettings and Blackburn will do the same so we can enjoy the food and stop being tempted by it!

Gerry, you have had an incredible year, a very active year. The problem with going second in the vote of thanks is the Lord Mayor's Office provides the same briefing note, it would seem, to all of those who are speaking so I will not repeat some of the fantastic achievements that Judith has already mentioned. What I do know is that you have raised a substantial sum of money for your two charities, Epilepsy Action, which I know is incredibly close to your heart and important in the work that they do, and also Heart Research UK, which I know a considerable amount about, having served as a Trustee of that organisation for a number of years myself and it is great that their pioneering work that helps so many people not just in this region but actually nationally is going to benefit from your activities and the fundraising that has occurred over the course of this year.

Gerry, you are my 26th Lord Mayor since being a Member of this Council and I have to say I think you are probably the most grounded Lord Mayor that we have possibly ever had. Those of my colleagues here who have been former Chief Whips of their respective political groups tend to work more closely with the Lord Mayor than many other Members of Council and normally at a certain point in time in a Lord Mayor's – I was going to say reign – term of office, they literally do think they are reigning and it does somewhat go to their head. Whether that is because of the chauffeur driven limousine or being announced everywhere that you go with the customary cry of "Lord Mayor", who knows, but it certainly has not gone to your head.

What I will say to you, though, is you have just got to remember that if you see a grey car parked along a kerb it is no use waiting on the pavement, no-one is going to open the door for you and whatever you do, don't climb in the back of it because it will not whisk you away.

What has not been mentioned this evening and what I do know and what many colleagues perhaps do not know is that whilst you have been Lord Mayor you have also very quietly taken on another very important role and that is to chair the Hyde Park Picture House sub-committee – a sub-committee of the Grand Theatre Board, that is.

I served on that Board for a number of years, as have a number of colleagues. In all of the time that you have been a member of that Board you have had a very clear focus, something that you wanted to achieve for a community you represent but actually for the whole of the city, and that is the refurbishment of the Hyde Park Picture House.

Some of us thought perhaps it was a task so steep that it would never be achieved, and some of the sums of money that were quoted seemed frightening, frankly. Nevertheless, with a steady hand you have guided through this particular project, a £3.6m redevelopment project, and quite incredibly somehow – I don't know how you did it – managed to get £2.4m of Heritage Lottery Grand Funding. Those who know anything about getting money out of the Heritage Lottery know that that is an absolutely incredible feat and I have to say that is down to you, Gerry, in terms of bringing that about so you should be rightly proud of that great achievement. I look forward to hopefully being invited to the reopening after refurbishment when the project is finally completed.

Gerry, Lynne, you have had a fabulous year. You have represented our city with honour. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Councillor Harper has been one of the best Lord Mayors we have had in the time that I have been a Councillor here at the Civic Hall. It is an office which, although we joke about it and we talk about people getting a little bit grand, has a huge responsibility because it is not just about how they behave here in the Chamber, which is very important to us because we want to get our points across and we want to be treated fairly, but out there in that wider city there are going to be hundreds of thousands of opinions of that person who is representing something which is very dear to every one of those citizens, and what a huge responsibility that is and it could really outface the best of us.

I have to say that Gerry and Lynne, who are very much a partnership and you feel that when you meet them whether it is at a community event or whether it is something else more substantial, they have represented the city superbly. You do so by representing dignity but also warmth and also being appropriate to the occasion that you are at. When they came to Rothwell and they came to our May Day celebrations, Gerry was almost a father to the children who had been dancing round the maypole, wanted to join in himself and then when you get something really very important like the vigil that was mentioned earlier, particularly at the Parish Church where I attended, what is needed there is something entirely different but was very much within the skill set of Gerry and Lynne.

It is something which is very hard to achieve because you only have twelve months to do it in and it is a very, very quick learning process from the very beginning.

What I will say is also that Gerry as Lord Mayor, as previous Lord Mayors have done in the past but I think particularly this year, has been able to leave a legacy that further Lord Mayors can then benefit from. The We Are United event is something which I think has real value in terms like these where our democracy is being challenged and they do not want party political politicians leading the charge against that, and that is where somebody who is above party can actually bring real leadership to the city. I look forward to Councillor Dowson enjoying that legacy that Councillor Harper has left you in

terms of building that central, cohesive element that the Lord Mayoralty can deliver for the city.

Of course, the other legacy that you leave is that every year there is a charity. I have to say I have a particular interest because I am on that charity committee and we do try and get as many of our Members involved as well as the outside world. Councillor Harper has been very effective at doing that. He has drawn in people who offered, for instance, we had some raffle prizes that were cruises, world cruises and flights to Las Vegas. It is quite hard to make that ask because a lot of people feel very compromised. Don't, Councillor Dowson. Please take tips from Councillor Harper as to how it is done and all I can say is, I have been very proud to serve on your charity committee this year and I am hoping that you look forward to your holiday, which is going to happen very soon, and it is well deserved. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Gettings.

COUNCILLOR GETTINGS: Lord Mayor, I am absolutely delighted to support the vote of thanks to the Retiring Lord Mayor. Being Mayor of Morley this year our paths crossed several times. At the Leeds Pals Memorial at Colsterdale he led the city's commemoration marking the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme where, on the first morning when the Leeds Pals went over the top, 800 of them were killed. Our Lord Mayor represented the city on that occasion with great dignity.

Also on that day he spent time with a 91 year old war veteran and invited him on some future day to join him in the Mayor's Parlour for afternoon tea. His warm, people friendly personality shone through for all to see.

In our partner city of Siegen he joined the Lord Mayors of other European cities at the opening of the new waterfront in Siegen. This marked the 50th anniversary of the Morley Leeds Civic twinning and his sincere words of greeting from our city and his jovial personality helped to cement further our partnership. Fortunately, this meeting was before Brexit.

As a member of his charity committee I have seen his commitment, his hard work, his enthusiasm and determination to raise money for his chosen charity which we all know is very close to his heart.

One of the climaxes of his year must have been when he helped the city celebrate St George's Day in Morley. He, with the lady Mayoress, together with Dr Ingrid Roscoe, the Lord Lieutenant, took the salute at Morley Town Hall steps where 1,200 Scouts, Guide and Cadets paraded and where he took the salute.

Councillor Harper and his Lady Mayoress have had a fantastic year and have served our city well and our MBI Group wishes to congratulate him on a job well done. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you. Lord Mayor, I must start by congratulating yourself and your partner, Alan, on becoming Lord Mayor of this great city of ours. I am sure that you will be excellent in the role.

It is my pleasure to support a vote of thanks for the retiring Lord Mayor on behalf of the Green Group. Gerry has chaired the Council meetings well and has been very even handed with the threat of turning the microphone off when Councillors go over their time in speaking. As we all know sometimes Council meetings can get a bit lively but Gerry has really done a fantastic job of chairing. I understand that Gerry has attended over 400 civic engagement this year and also that he has raised a substantial amount of money for his chosen charities, Epilepsy Action and Heart Research UK.

Not content with that, Gerry went the extra half mile and through the money raised supported three specialist awareness training events that have been attended by over 100 Council staff. As far as I know it is the first time that one of our Lord Mayors has done that, so nice one, Gerry.

I think that Gerry and Lynne now deserve a well-earned rest after all the work they have done as ambassadors for this great city of ours and the Green Group wish them well and wish them all our good wishes for the future. Thank you. *(Applause)*

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

I am now going to present the Lord Mayor's badge to the Retiring Lord Mayor, Councillor Harper.

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

LADY MAYORESS/LORD MAYOR'S CONSORT

THE LORD MAYOR: The Retiring Lady Mayoress is now going to present the Lord Mayor's Consort with his insignia of office, and the Lord Mayor's Consort will now present the Retiring Lady Mayoress with a retiring brooch.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: I would now like to invite the Retiring Lord Mayor to reply to these wonderful comments that have been made, on behalf of himself and the Retiring Lady Mayoress.

RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR: Thank you all, and it is very kind of you to say all these lovely words about me. We have had a fantastic year, a year full of amazing events, a year discovering the real Leeds, the people and communities in our city.

I just want to share some of the various events we have attended – some have already been mentioned. We started off quite slow but then the momentum kicked in and one of the funnest events of the year was standing on stage in Potternewton Park opening the 49th West Indian Carnival in front of 50,000 people. One of my favour reggae songs came on and before long we were both dancing on stage and had a really good laugh. A week later my good friend Arthur France told me that it had been filmed and it was all over the press and TV and I was known in the West Indies as The Dancing Lord Mayor! *(laughter)*

I like to have a dance and a sing-along and this became more prevalent as the year went on. Jane, we have got something in common there.

We visited our twin town Siegen, as Bob Gettings explained, with the Mayor and we also had a good dance in the Town Square with that guy who used to work for us, John Wilson. No, we had not been drinking!

I attended the new trampoline centre in Kirkstall and could not resist having a go and, true to form, with my accident prone problems, I fell off with my chains on and hurt my leg.

We attended the Chinese New Year celebrations at Leeds Town Hall and ended up dancing as the front end of a Chinese dragon, to the amusement of hundreds of the Chinese community.

We attended 13 carol concerts and churches and community centres around the city and ended up singing on stage with around seven of them. We sang and dance with many of our old friends at the Irish Centre and walked with them on the St Patrick's Day Parade. As Stewart said, we attended the amazing Cosy Care Dementia Group which was made and set up by Peter Smith in Middleton and we had a group of members led by me marching round the room singing "Show me the way to Amarillo" Peter Kay style, something I have always wanted to do.

I was invited to a post-Christmas party for local pensioners in January, the middle of January, which was organised by the Rotary Club in Wetherby, where we served, as Alan said, a fantastic Christmas dinner to over 150 pensioners and it was cooked all by our own Councillor Alan Lamb in his lovely pinny! *(laughter)*

I finally got to the Queen's Garden Party this time on the right day and the right time, unlike my previous experience a few years ago.

Every Lord Mayor has a Visitors' Book where those who come to see the Lord Mayor can sign their name and make a few comments about their visit. During the year there were hundreds who have signed the book, many of them children who I take on a tour of the Civic Hall talking about the building and my role as the Lord Mayor. Some of the funniest comments I read were from a number of nine year old pupils on a school visit. One young girl commented, "The Lord Mayor is so dreamy" (*laughter*) followed by another young boy who said, "I don't like his biscuits" (*laughter*) and finally, to bring me back down to earth one said, "That Lord Mayor never stops talking about himself." (*laughter*)

One thing as was stated, I did not quite manage to get Leeds United back in the Premiership, but there is always next year.

I also attended some more sombre events. There are two that stick in my mind. The first was the visit to the Somme to commemorate the 100th anniversary of that horrendous battle in 1916. We laid a wreath at a special monument in a small village called Bus-les-Artois to remember the Leeds Pals. In the village the night before they were moved to the front, many slept where they could find a comfortable spot and a number slept at the side of the local church. Some of them inscribed their names and the dates of the battle on the church walls where they slept. I sat on the ground that night reading their names and tried to imagine what was in their thoughts the night before the battle took place. As we know, around 800 of them were killed on the first day of the battle with the rest being seriously injured in the days that followed.

The whole village and the local farmers turned out that day as I laid the wreath. It was a very sad but proud day and one which I will never forget.

Another event which took place was in the Ark Royal Room when I was asked to return the Leeds World War II veteran Fred Jackson his medals, which had been stolen from his home in Farsley. His family and the Royal British Legion contacted the Ministry of Defence to campaign for replacement medals to be made and returned to him. The family brought him to the Ark Royal Room to meet the Lord Mayor and to celebrate his 97th birthday. Little did he know that I had the medals to return to him and I will always remember the beaming smile on his face when I pinned them on his chest. He then shed a tear, followed by his daughter and family who were crying with happiness, and then me – I could not help it, and I am still welling up thinking about that day. Unfortunately he died six months later but at least he passed away with his well deserved medals.

My charity events have been fun and we raised around £50,000 with more to come, hopefully. I would like to thank all the members of the Charity Committee and staff from Epilepsy Action and Heart Research for all their support. Raising the money

was great fun but, more importantly, we raised awareness of the charities and held events in the Civic Hall where many people came to learn about how to resuscitate people suffering from a heart attack and also to help anyone they came across suffering from an epileptic seizure. This education and advice I hope and pray will help to save many lives of people in Leeds in the future.

My most enjoyable events were people and community events, meeting ordinary Leeds folk, talking to them, listening to them and having fun with them. The big events and the dinners were enjoyable and important as well but meeting communities and attending events large and small and thanking the thousands of volunteers who selflessly give up their time and money to help those less fortunate than themselves was in my mind the most enjoyable part of it.

To my Lady Mayoress, Lynne Scholes – who is taking a picture of me right now – you have been wonderful and so many people have said to me how lucky I was to have you with me this year. I am so proud of you, you have been absolutely amazing. Thank you, Lynne. (*Applause*)

As was mentioned before, the last big event which was my favourite, was Leeds We Are United. In February, as I was reflecting on the terrible events taking place all over the world I thought how lucky we were to live in the great city of Leeds, an amazing, multicultural city, a really diverse city where communities all live, work and play together so I decided to organise this event to celebrate our great city and its diversity. I brought together the performers who were there from all the different communities I had visited in my Mayoral year. We had South Asian music, a Chinese dragon, a classical sitar player, we had Irish dancing, Bollywood dancing and a wonderful gospel choir, and a brilliant young opera singer, the granddaughter of Councillor Judith Elliott.

We had 250 people at the event and we also raised around £4,000 for the charity. What a brilliant event it was. Everyone who attended told me how much they really enjoyed themselves and, as usual, I ended up singing on stage with the gospel choir. The song was One Love by Bob Marley – “Let’s get together and feel all right” and we did, it was a night to remember.

I would also like to thank all the staff in the Lord Mayor’s office. We have had such a fun year this year – Ian, Erica, Bernadette, Jill and Andrea. I know I drove them up the wall sometimes but they were always there to support me and I will miss you all and thank you. (*Applause*)

To Mark Lenton, my Sergeant at Mace/driver/bodyguard. (*laughter*) Mark took on the role when John Wilson retired last September and working in John’s shadow all the previous years must have been difficult because at times wherever you go and what happened this year people always ask, “Where’s John Wilson?” They were not bothered about me, they just wanted to see where John Wilson was.

Mark has been really brilliant this year and has really stepped up to the plate, and is now without any doubt his own man and carries out his duties with such professionalism and sheer hard work, so well done Mark and can we give him a round of applause. (*Applause*)

Can I also thank all the previous Lord Mayors who have stood in for me for one reason or another at events I have been unable to attend, especially my good friend Councillor Jim McKenna who was always there for me when I needed help.

To our new Lord Mayor, Councillor Jane Dowson and her Consort, Alan, you are in for a roller coaster of a year. I have known Jane for many, many years and I know that she is going to be a fantastic Lord Mayor in Leeds.

Finally, thank you to all of my fellow Councillors of Leeds City Council for giving me the honour of representing the City of Leeds as its 123rd Lord Mayor. It is a year I will never forget. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29th MARCH 2017

THE LORD MAYOR: We are now into the business of the meeting. Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29th March 2017. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move that the Minutes be approved, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: I second that, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will move to the vote. (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

ITEM 5 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 5, Declarations of Interest. I am inviting Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests at this point. No declarations.

ITEM 6 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: We will move to Item 6. Any announcements, Chief Executive? No announcements.

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 would like to call for the vote on the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED.

ITEM 8 – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

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

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I would like to call for the vote to approve Schedules 8(a) to (c) and Schedules 8(e) and 8(f) and to give authority for the City Solicitor to change appointments in consultation with the appropriate Whips. *(A vote was taken)* CARRIED.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: We now move to 8(d)(i), Appointment of Chairs to Community Committees. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Right. I am now going to ask for those Members listed to vote in respect of the appointment of the Chair of their respective Community Committees. Are you ready? Let's see if we get this one right!

We would like to start with the nomination of Councillor Akhtar to Chair the Inner North West Community Committee, so could those Members who are allowed to vote. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Akhtar.

Nomination: Councillor Wadsworth to Chair the Outer North West Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Wadsworth.

Nomination: Councillor Taylor to Chair the Inner North East Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Taylor.

Nomination: Councillor Wilkinson to Chair the Outer North East Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Wilkinson.

Nomination: Councillor Khan to Chair the Inner East Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Khan.

Nomination: Councillor Harland to Chair the Outer East Community Committee *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Harland.

Nomination: Councillor Gabriel to Chair the Inner South Community Committee *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Gabriel.

Nomination: Councillor Venner to Chair the Inner West Community Committee. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Venner.

Nomination: Councillor Coulson to Chair the Outer West Community Committee *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED, congratulations Councillor Coulson.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to 8(d)(ii), Appointment to Chair Outer South Community Committee. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I am going to call for the vote and it is restricted at this point to Members of the Outer South Community Committee in respect of each nomination. Can I call for the votes for Councillor Bruce. *(A vote was taken)* For

Councillor Finnigan. *(A vote was taken)* Six-five so, Councillor Bruce, congratulations, you are Chair of the Outer South Community Committee. *(Applause)*

ITEM 9 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION (COUNCIL FUNCTIONS)

THE LORD MAYOR: We will move on to Item 9, Scheme of Delegation. Councillor Ogilvie.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

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

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: We will move to Item 10, Executive Arrangements. Councillor Ogilvie.

COUNCILLOR OGILVIE: I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I would now like to call for the vote on Executive Functions. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

ITEM 11 – PROPOSED CALENDAR OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Harland.

COUNCILLOR HARLAND: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: I call for the vote now to approve the meeting dates for 2017/18 Municipal Year. *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

It just falls on me now to close this part of the meeting and invite you all to join me and Councillor Harper, Lynne and Alan, in the Banqueting Suite. Thank you.
(Applause)

(The meeting closed at 7.34pm)

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