

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Thursday 24th May 2007

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(Councillor M Iqbal)

THE LORD MAYOR
(Councillor B Cleasby)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF LEEDS
CITY COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 24th MAY 2007

In the Chair:
The Lord Mayor
(Councillor M Iqbal)

THE LORD MAYOR: Good evening, everyone. Can I just ask if everybody can switch off their mobile phones and all the electrical devices, otherwise the Lord Mayor's Charity still continues for another few minutes, I think.

Councillor Lancaster.

COUNCILLOR LANCASTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, honoured guests, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to speak on behalf of the Liberal Democrat group to support the election of Councillor Brian Cleasby as Lord Mayor of Leeds.

It is a great honour for anyone to hold such an office as you will know, Lord Mayor. I guess it has come as a surprise for Brian to have such a privilege as he has never shown any aspirations for this role. However, I know he has all the skills needed to make an excellent Lord Mayor.

With his usual sense of humour Brian told me he started life at a very early age. The life of Brian began on 15 July 1937, St Swithin's Day - I have to get that one in before you, Les - in Stockton-on-Tees where he grew up. I do not know much about his childhood and school life but Brian developed an early interest in photography and flying aeroplanes. Who would have believed he could end up being involved in both at the same time in a future career?

At the age of 18 he says he took the Queen's shilling and joined the Royal Air Force. He must have been very disappointed to fail aircrew selection. However, he signed up for four years, becoming a photographer in general service and finished as a senior aircraftsman.

In 1958 Brian was posted to 58 Squadron at RAF Wyton, a photographic reconnaissance unit, where he spent time mapping all the royal estates. On one of his missions to Norway - a multi-national exercise - he and two colleagues bluffed their way into an officers' mess in search of a drink. They had a great time until genuine RAF officers arrived. They had some explaining to do the next morning.

It was at RAF Wyton that Brian met Jo, a wireless mechanic, who was to become Mrs Cleasby. They married at Esholt, where Emmerdale used to be filmed and where Brian would end up working. You will hear more about his Yorkshire Television life from Councillor Minkin later. I bet, Mrs Cleasby, you never thought all those years ago you would become the Lady Mayoress of Leeds.

After leaving the RAF in 1961, Brian returned to Teesside and worked at ICI Billingham. He was not happy there and, as Jo's family lived in Guiseley, it seemed logical to move to Leeds. There would be more opportunities for photographic work here.

Brian worked at Yorkshire Television for many years before starting his own video and media training business. His interest in politics was low key for a long time, delivering leaflets as required. He finally entered city politics after

encouragement from Councillor Chris Townsley. Brian was not keen to stand for Council but Chris twisted his arm.

Brian Cleasby was elected to this Council in 1995, representing Horsforth Ward. He soon took to being a Councillor and in those early years in opposition shadow chairmanships took over his life. Then he became the first Opposition Scrutiny Board Chair, continuing in that role as a member of the administration, a position he has thoroughly enjoyed.

Anyone visiting his Scrutiny office would always be struck by the military precision with which everything was laid out – a part of previous life that still remains. Visitors to the officer were always assured of a decent cup of coffee or tea and chocolate biscuits from his stash. I have often enjoyed this hospitality since I became a Scrutiny Board Chair with an office near Brian's. We have sat together in full Council meetings and I will miss his company and encouragement over the past few years, although I do not begrudge his elevated status and will watch with interest as yet another Lord Mayor brings their own style to the role.

At this point, Lord Mayor, I would like to also congratulate Councillor Alan Taylor on being chosen to be the Deputy Lord Mayor to Councillor Cleasby.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to move the resolution to elect Councillor Brian Cleasby as our next Lord Mayor of Leeds. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Minkin.

COUNCILLOR MINKIN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. On behalf of the Labour group I am pleased to second the resolution that Councillor Brian Cleasby becomes our next Lord Mayor.

You have already been told that he was born on St Swithin's Day. I wonder whether the next 40 days were ones of rain or of sun in 1937. I hope we can look forward that in 2007 we will have 40 days of sun after 15 July – it might be a good omen.

You have heard some of his life from Brenda but he also worked at the Grand Theatre for a while, because apparently Barney Colehan – some of you might have heard of the name of Barney Colehan (I knew his daughter for many years) – told him that if he was going to be interested in working for YTV, which was the new television company that was going to be coming to Leeds, then he had better get some relevant experience and that the Grand might be a good place to start. So he did start to pester – you can imagine Brian, can't you, pestering? Harry Leavey, apparently, was the stage manager at that point but he did indeed manage to get some experience at the Grand Theatre before starting life at YTV.

That was, indeed, where I got to know him – not all that well but indeed I did get to know him and we are both now YTV pensioners. I see that in the little magazine called YTV Link, which is for YTV pensioners, we were privileged to be seen – and it is shown – the YTV Link has been given special permission to print this embargoed picture of Brian in his full civic regalia. I do not think that we are even going to see him in his full civic regalia today, so if you are in the privileged world of YTV pensionerdom, you have seen this little picture of Brian in his regalia.

It was a surprise to me when I met him in the corridor in 1995. He said, "Don't you remember me from YTV?" What? Here in the Civic Hall? Of course, I got to know Brian even better over the next twelve years.

I have got a couple of stories he has told us about his time at YTV. He says that one of his friends was John Stride, working with Tony Britton on Main Chance. Apparently one scene that they worked on together involved Valentine Dyal as a judge wearing the black cap and pronouncing, "It is now my sentence to function you..." which caused, in Brian's words, a 30 minute hold up while make-up had to repair the damage caused by tear-streaming laughter.

He also describes one assignment in Belfast where he was held at gunpoint by a deployment of troops. "They took cover leaving me" - i.e. Brian – "exposed while they checked my ID and then they left me alone at the foot of the Divis Street flats. The walk back to the Europa Hotel past the black taxis was the longest of my life." So he has faced some black moments, has Brian.

At another assignment to Hollywood with Barbara Woodhouse, they visited Tippi Hedren's ranch where she had 94 assorted lions and tigers. At lunch one of his colleagues whispered to Brian, "Go to the loo", so intrigued he set off. The loo had patio doors of frosted glass and as he sat there, on the loo, he spotted a notice sellotaped to it, "Do not open these doors as there is a live tiger the other side" and, as if on cue, the tiger passed the window. It was a fully grown beast. Upon returning Brian received a knowing smile from Tippi and lots of chuckles from her daughter, Melanie Griffiths – there is a bit of name-dropping for you!

I also remember another occasion when we actually went to Bilbao together and for some reason other people and been delayed and Brian and I were thrown together and had a full day exploring Bilbao together until Councillor Amy McGee finally turned up in the evening and we had some other company to share.

May I also say to Councillor Alan Taylor, may you enjoy your year as Deputy – that is also good news.

Finally, I would just like to give you a quote from Dr Samuel Johnson, in 1775 from his book *The Journey to the Western Isles* where he says:

"In all political regulations good cannot be complete. It can only be predominant."

I am sure that Brian, in his regulating of our Council meetings, will do all he can to make sure that good indeed will be complete and may we, in supporting him in his role as Lord Mayor, make sure that in our regulations, we will make sure that good will be complete, not merely predominant. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor John Bale.

COUNCILLOR BALE: My Lord Mayor, distinguished guests, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Conservative group I wish to support the election of Councillor Brian Cleasby as Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds. I do so with a personal sense of pleasure at the fully warranted elevation of a colleague whom I both like and respect.

The office of Lord Mayor is a prestigious one – the first citizen of a city with a proud history, a successful economy, cultural vitality and the tolerance and warmth to welcome new citizens from many different parts of the world, including Stockton-on-Tees, Wolverhampton and even further afield, Lord Mayor.

No-one could fail to understand the pride which Brian and his family will be feeling this evening. Brian's pride in this city is plain for all to see. That seems to me to be an important attribute in a Lord Mayor, because during his year of office,

thousands of citizens will draw upon that pride. Those who serve the city well will feel a sense of reward. Those who are still serving the city will find their work and effort sustained. Young people will see a demonstration that important responsibilities can be combined with a sense of humour and a light touch. I think Brian will bring special gifts to the role in that area.

Brian and I have seen through the work of the Children's Services Scrutiny Board the way in which young people in Leeds want to engage in the corporate life of the city – their answer to, "Am I bothered?" is, "Yes, I am." I think Brian will encourage that involvement.

Lord Mayor, having drawn that phrase from a TV show, it does seem to me that the significance of Leeds in the world of television is sometimes insufficiently recognised. High quality drama, popular entertainment and regional journalism have poured out of this city and continue to do so. Programme makers train in Leeds and many prominent broadcasters on both sides of the camera have cut their teeth in this city. So it is fitting, I think, that we should elect a Lord Mayor with a 21-year career in television and a continuing involvement in photographic art. Brian certainly will never fail to smile for the camera, I think.

As you have demonstrated, Lord Mayor, the role of first citizen is more than that of a figurehead. Brian will, I know, be equal to the task of representing Leeds within the city and outside it and of exercising control in this Chamber.

I met Brian's dog, Della – a very calm and tranquil golden retriever. If Brian himself were a dog he would undoubtedly be a terrier – a sharp bite when the occasion demanded to match the bark but when all of that was over, a return to exuberant cheerfulness and good spirits.

I think Brian will serve us well and I also congratulate Councillor Alan Taylor who, I am sure, will serve us well as Deputy Lord Mayor.

Brian and I represent neighbouring Wards and I have experienced his tenacity in speaking up for outer north-west Leeds. He has particularly championed the need for easier access to the city along the Aire Valley and when that term has been used in too narrow a sense, he has been the first to remind colleagues that the River Aire actually does flow into the city as well as out of it. The significance of that comment is that sometimes the term 'Aire Valley' is used only for the lower part of the Aire.

We will, no doubt, have some lively debates in this Chamber in the year ahead, but I sometimes feel that we should emphasise rather more strongly the values that unite us and today, I think, is a day for doing just that. There is indeed an essential core of values, liberal and democratic – I emphasise that is with a small 'l' and small 'd' – that do unite us and that everyone who enters this Chamber must subscribe to. We all stand for liberty and the widening of opportunity, for equality for all our citizens under the law and for probity and scrupulous fairness in our democratic processes.

Those principles transcend party politics and they guarantee that while we may sometimes be opponents, we should never be enemies and that our self-restraint is as important as our campaigning vigour.

Councillor Brian Cleasby in my experiences lives and breathes those values and they will be safe in his stewardship. It gives me very great pleasure to support the resolution that he be elected to hold the office of Lord Mayor until the Annual Meeting of the Council in the year 2008. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Terry Grayshon.

COUNCILLOR GRAYSHON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Good evening. It is a very great honour for me to have been asked to support, on behalf of the Morley Borough Independent Councillors, the election to office of Councillor Brian Cleasby for Lord Mayor for the coming year.

As you will know, this year Leeds celebrates its 800th anniversary and I think Brian is probably the ideal candidate to fill that role. He is somewhat theatrical, shall we say, and I think he will relish the task in hand.

I remember Brian from my early days on Council when I was on the City Development Committee and Brian was chairman of that committee and his kindness and words of wisdom he showed me were very much appreciated and I do hope that he continues to show that kindness and wisdom to those people who he meets representing our city.

Brian and Jo will, of course, always be welcome in Morley. We have a new Mayor in Morley this year as well, who is very nice but I understand that the Deputy Mayor of Morley is even better this year!

I am very pleased to be able to support this nomination for Brian. It has the wholehearted support of my group and I will now finish, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Anne Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Brian asked me to speak in support of him becoming Lord Mayor on behalf of the Green group, so I suppose I will have to say something nice about him!

I met Brian when I was involved with the old Liberal Party as a Young Liberal, so you will realise we are talking about a long time ago, in the days when I was young and Brian was middle-aged. (*Laughter*) I was asked if I wanted to be part of a Liberal delegation to go on an exchange trip to Dortmund for four days. This involved going on a ferry from Hull to Rotterdam. I remember that it was a very choppy crossing and Brian was also on this trip. He chatted and joked with me and offered the advice to buy some milk chocolates from the ferry shop as the Germans love milk chocolate and it would also save me having to send something later, so I think perhaps he was thinking of his pocket when he said that.

Anyway, the couple that I stayed with told me that they liked Scottish pipe band music and shortbread, so when I got back I actually did post them a record of Scottish band music, bagpipes and all, and some shortbread. I will say that Brian was wrong there, but there again there is no accounting for taste.

I came out of the Liberal Party a few years later so I did not see Brian again until after my husband, David Blackburn, got elected to Council in 1998. I had just been in town shopping with my son in the middle of the school holidays and I decided to call in on David at the Civic Hall. I saw Brian outside and he came up and hugged me. My son was about eleven at the time and I must say I have never seen such a look on my son's face. He was totally aghast. Needless to say, after Brian had gone the first question my son asked was, "Who was that?"

Brian was a Scrutiny Chair at the time and the Greens had a very small office at the end of the Members' Lounge. Brian very kindly offered us the use of his office for meetings if we could not get a committee room at any time, but that is Brian – a

nice man – a very, very, very nice man! I think he will make an excellent Lord Mayor and I also hope that Councillor Alan Taylor enjoys his year as Brian's deputy. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I put the motion to the Council of electing Councillor Brian Cleasby as the Lord Mayor of Leeds? All those in favour? Any against? Any abstentions? Unanimous. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, if you could excuse us for a few minutes.

The Lord Mayor left the Chamber followed by the Party Leaders, the Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

The procession re-entered and 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

The Party Leaders, in order of precedence, each placed one loop of the chain around the Lord Mayor's shoulders.

Photo call

The Lord Mayor and retiring Lord Mayor took their seats

In the Chair:
The Lord Mayor
(Councillor B Cleasby)

DECLARATION

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The Lord Mayor will now make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

THE LORD MAYOR: I, Brian Cleasby, of 11, Carr Lane, Leeds, 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*)

ADDRESS

THE LORD MAYOR: Now some really good news – it is only a one page speech. I do not want the sprouts at dinner to be burned!

Deputy Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Honorary Recorder, honoured guests, members of Council and friends. Members of Council, I must say I find your choice of Lord Mayor impeccable! (*Laughter*) I do hope this agreement will continue throughout the year – a year in which I will strive to repay your trust.

This is a year full of anniversaries, for our city is celebrating its 800th birthday; we are all well aware of the 200th celebration of the abolition of slavery led by William Wilberforce; this year sees the centenary of a decision to allow females to be elected to Town Halls. Wouldn't the benches be empty if that had not happened?

It is also the 50th year since the founding of the Common Market – now, of course, the European Union and with 27 members and – I told you my speech would be swift – it is also the 40th anniversary of the founding of my chosen charity. No Lord Mayor has got there as quick as this, have they, former Lord Mayor?

My chosen charity, Heart Research UK, is based here in Leeds. It is the only national charity to be based in the city. In fact, its founder and President, David Watson, was a surgeon at Killingbeck Hospital at the time. Research led by Heart Research UK has benefited the whole world and many millions of people during those 40 years. I am delighted to join forces and have our city linked with their work. The purpose of our involvement will be to raise funds for research bursaries here in Leeds so that Leeds' students can enjoy working with the charity and developing their skills and expertise as a consequence.

We also will be providing training for volunteers to help in schools, etc, wherever the message can be spread to improve the quality of life for all. Heart disease is the greatest killer of all.

Tomorrow a letter and pack like *this* one - this is a pack full of all sorts of exciting projects – will be going to all our primary schools with a covering letter from Chris Edwards and myself in support of the charity's educational programmes.

It is particularly exciting for me because, as many of you will know, Chris and his staff have already achieved Beacon Status with their healthy eating programme, so it is many congratulations to all of them. In spite of this Chris immediately saw the benefits for our children in the charity's work.

There are already several events organised. Saturday 16 June sees the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, so if anybody wants to wear off the excesses of this evening, there will be entry forms available. A Leeds/Liverpool Canal cycle ride on 29th June to 1st July is organised. Councillor Illingworth, sorry to disappoint you but apparently all the places have gone, but I am going to make arrangements for you, Councillor Wakefield and hopefully myself to be taking part if I am not already booked on those days, because I would like us to be taking part.

December will see a week of Sing for Your Heart. Apparently one of the best exercises that helps the heart is singing, so maybe we could have a chorus or two after dinner when the brandy and the port have flowed, amongst the other alcohol! What we are hoping to do in December – and Chris came up with this idea and said, “Can we extend it so that it will be perhaps school choirs involved?” Yes, any good idea, any opportunity to involve more and more people the better, because the further we can spread the message hopefully the more money we will get in to provide the bursaries, provide yet more and more training to spread the message and so on and it will go on that way, but also the improvement in the quality of life for all of us.

I think what I am offering to the city this year is an opportunity that will be for the city and for every resident of our city to get involved in, put something in and certainly hopefully to get something from it. There will be much, much more as the year goes on.

I should at this point refer to Councillor Taylor, my deputy. Alan, as many of you will know, is a very, very keen birdwatcher and one of his favour haunts, apart from St Aidan's and the vicarage, is Fairburn Ings, where he spends an awful lot of this time. Because of climate change we have been realising that there is a change in the pattern of migration, a change in how birds are living in our country now and he

hit upon the idea of maybe there is a project here, something we can get involved with again with our schools and to get them aware of some of the nicer things in life with perhaps painting competitions and so on. That is a project that is coming to fruition. The RSPB are very, very keen to help and are working with Alan to create that project.

In conclusion, could I state that my main aim for the year ahead, I shall work hard to counter the adverse publicity that some bring to our city. I think that is important as Lord Mayor. We have much to celebrate, much to tell the world about, much to be proud of. Above all, we have the golden opportunity to fashion the next 800 years of our city's history. I hope you will each seize that opportunity and help make our fine city the envy of the world. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Could I now start the formal part of my work as your Lord Mayor and call upon Councillor Atha to move a vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR ATHA: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have two privileges I had not expected tonight. The first is to be given the opportunity to be the first to congratulate you formally on your assumption of office, and the second is to move this vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor, which was only decided yesterday and, in my excitement at coming here today, I came today only half attired because I left my trousers at home. If you find this dress unconventional, it is not a new style – it is an old pair of slacks and a very decent dinner jacket bought in 1948! (*Laughter*)

THE LORD MAYOR: It looks older than that, Bernard!

COUNCILLOR ATHA: I must get back to the business in hand, which is really to thank you most sincerely for a remarkable year in office. You have created a number of records. You are the first Lord Mayor to not drink alcohol in my whole experience. You have been quite generous when someone has got in there from time to time. That is one record and I think it is quite a remarkable one. The first Asian Lord Mayor in this great city; the first Kashmiri Lord Mayor in this city; the first Muslim Lord Mayor in this city. He is also the first Lord Mayor I have known who has not gone from the lean to the portly. (*Laughter*) In this, Lord Mayor, you have got a start on him. I hope you will observe the kind of ordinances that have kept him looking so lean and healthy.

THE LORD MAYOR: He is giving me weekly lessons, Bernard.

COUNCILLOR ATHA: I am sure. To be slightly less serious, it is a fact that our former Lord Mayor came from very humble origins in Kashmir. He left there as a small boy, five or six or something of the sort, speaking no English. He came to this country, acquired the English language and a fluency in it which has served him well since, furthered his education by going into further education colleges – some of those good colleges we have in Leeds and have had – and it is quite remarkable to think that a child coming in from such a far distance place with such a different culture should, in such a short time, go from a small child with no language in this country, no connection with this country, to be the first citizen of the City of Leeds. It is a tremendous achievement – an achievement for him but it is an achievement in which we can all take great pleasure and pride, because there may not be very many other cities in the world of this size and distinction where that would be a possibility. So it is great for you, former Lord Mayor – it is very great for us that you have been able to do that.

During the course of the year you have really pursued the creation of excellent relationships between all faiths. In fact, I was asking the Lord Mayor's Secretary - who is the most unreliable source of evidence you could imagine – I was

asking Steven where he had been. He only told me the good bits and they were he has been to more Christian, Catholic, Anglican, non-conformist, Sikh, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu religious events. You should really be feeling extremely holy after all this religious exposure.

It rather reminds me of that story that an Inspector of Schools recounted. He was inspecting a school – very much as you have been doing, going to schools during the course of your year – and it was a school, a very high class Catholic primary school run by the nuns. They had invited a group of children from a very poor school in the East End of London to join them for a day. They went into the large hall where the room was set out with a long table with food at one end and the children went along and got a buffet lunch. At one end there was a large basket with KitKats with a notice, “Take one only – God is watching”. At the other end of the long table there was another basket with apples and the Inspector in his report announced that he one little chap from the East End say to another, “You can take as many apples as you like because God is watching the other end.” (*Laughter*)

I dare say, Councillor Iqbal, that you may well have divine inspiration through all this religious exposure, but it is important because what is so significant in our society is that it is much more cohesive than some we see elsewhere. You have done your best to seal this cohesiveness into the very fabric of our city while you have been Lord Mayor.

I think you have been extraordinarily dignified, even when you have been wearing that absolutely damn silly hat they give Lord Mayors. It is three-cornered with a bunch of feathers. I only wore it once when I was Lord Mayor and I stopped immediately after because in Holbeck, where people do express themselves with a degree of clarity and force which I think is refreshing, when this old boy I had known for many years as a Labour Party member said, “Ee, lad, you look a right bugger in that”. I thought as an aesthetic appreciation it was absolutely outstanding.

He has always been dignified in that hat and some photographs I think we ought to keep, just to remind us and to have a laugh later on! He has always been extraordinarily calm and very kind and always very considerate, but also forceful when necessary. You gained our great respect, indeed, over some turbulent times in this Chamber but more reason for our admiration is your work outside.

You said you wanted to go to every school in the city in your year – a quite impossible task but you did manage about a hundred. You have, in fact, raised a prodigious sum of £110,000, fifty per cent of which will go to the children’s wards in Leeds – a remarkable achievement.

Not many years ago that was the total amount some of us raised, Lord Mayor. The other half is going to a very good, needy cause in Kashmir as I understand, to develop a hospital there in an area which is desperately in need of those kind of facilities.

You have been a model of integrity and apolitical correctness. The difficulty of being a Lord Mayor, no matter what party you actually come from, there is always the view in the other parties’ minds that in fact the Lord Mayor is going to be a bit political. We can say we have been very fortunate in the past and Lord Mayor after Lord Mayor have shown their integrity by maintaining this strictly apolitical attitude and we, I think, must compliment you on that, because at times it is very difficult handling this Council Chamber.

We have been very fortunate in the past in the choice of our Lord Mayors. We were doubly fortunate when we chose Mohammed Iqbal as our Lord Mayor last

year. It seems a very short time since. We thank you most sincerely for the contribution you made, the contribution your family and others have given you during the year and we wish a you very happy return to the political fold where doubtless you will become active and we shall all enjoy your company that much more. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I call upon Councillor Lancaster to second?

COUNCILLOR LANCASTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, honoured guests, members of Council, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the Liberal Democrat group I congratulate and thank our former Lord Mayor, his wife and daughter on successfully completing your year of office. I have no doubt you have had a fabulous year carrying out your duties and fundraising for your chosen charities.

Those of us who went to the Lord Mayor's Thanksgiving Service last Sunday heard how he found it difficult to highlight any particular event because they were all special to him. I know you have carried out your role very well. In fact, I bumped into you on many occasions. I wonder who was following who! I can honestly say I was not checking on you. Many of the people who attended those events in the community or here at the Civic Hall were excited to meet you and appreciated your kind words. They know how to have a good time and made sure we had a good time too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Jack Dunn, and his lovely wife, Kath. I know you have had an interesting year and carried out your roles with enthusiasm. Thank you.

Now, former Lord Mayor, I am sure, as you rejoin your colleagues in the Labour group, you will have many experiences to reflect on. Maybe at this time you feel sad and will miss the role for a while. It seems like a long time, a year, when you start as Lord Mayor, but it soon passes quickly, as no doubt you have realised.

You will always remember you have had a unique experience. Use every opportunity to say, "When I was Lord Mayor...". You are allowed. On that note, former Lord Mayor, Lord Mayor, I second the vote of thanks. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call Councillor J L Carter to support?

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First, may I say congratulations. It is always useful to say it to the Lord Mayor because we need your help all the way through the Council Chamber when Councillor Atha is trying to interrupt all the time, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR ATHA: What do you mean! (*Laughter*)

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: It was interesting when Bernard talked about that dead squirrel that we used to give to Lord Mayors. I thought Bernard still wore it, but never mind! (*Laughter*)

My Lord Mayor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen and members of the Council, today we have heard from the two previous speakers of the many deeds performed by our retiring Lord Mayor. They have both spoken eloquently describing the work the retiring Lord Mayor has undertaken during his year of office.

Lord Mayor, I am certain the retiring Lord Mayor will know that nothing is achieved in isolation. The Lord Mayor requires a good team around him or her to

achieve success. The first people in such a team are normally the Lord Mayor's family. Indeed, my Lord Mayor, this city has been exceptionally fortunate over many years to have families who not only put up with their husbands, wives, partners giving up an inordinate amount of their time dealing with political and Council affairs, and also accepting when their loved ones are elected to the office of Lord Mayor, their loved ones ask their family to go a stage further and play an integral part in helping to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the Lord Mayor for the benefit of the city.

This year, my Lord Mayor, has been no different to other years. Mrs Fatima Bibi, the retiring Lady Mayoress, and their daughter, Miss Sayeka Iqbal, have been a great credit to this city and you indeed must be very proud of them. We are proud of the way they have conducted themselves.

My Lord Mayor, in addition to that the Deputy Lord Mayor also plays an important role and this year again we have been very fortunate. We have had Jack Dunn and his wife, Catherine, who have represented the Lord Mayor on many occasions in an outstanding and distinguished way when they have deputised for him.

My Lord Mayor, I take this opportunity of thanking the retiring Lady Mayoress and her daughter and the retiring deputies for the sterling work they have done for this city.

Apart from seeing the retiring Lord Mayor chair the Council meetings in the main, unfortunately, I have been with him on several sad occasions. The first was when he represented this Council at the funeral of Colin Cramphorn, our outstanding former Chief Constable for West Yorkshire and, secondly, last week at the funeral of Honorary Alderman Joe Kitchen, a man who was liked, loved and respected across the whole of this Council Chamber.

However, I am aware that he has also taken part in happier times.
(Interruption – mobile phone) That is fifty quid for somebody!

THE LORD MAYOR: It is for the Lord Mayor's charity, I believe.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Stand up, the culprit, or you can quietly give £100 to the Lord Mayor's charity.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Iqbal said, "Which Lord Mayor's charity?"
(Laughter)

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: Mine, of course! Mine is still going! My Lord Mayor, he has been in happier times. He was seen dancing at the West Indian Carnival last summer – I am told you did a wonderful dance. That is why he probably can keep his fitness. His passion for education, which has already been mentioned, has been demonstrated by his visits to, I understand, over one hundred schools across the city. He has worked tirelessly for his charity and, as you have heard, he has raised over £100,000 for not only children in Leeds but children in Kashmir who for many, many years to come will benefit from that funding.

Last year in supporting his election to Lord Mayor I said anyone who knows Mohammed will be aware of his quiet disposition and his disarming smile, but I also said both of which would serve him well in his year in office. My Lord Mayor, I am now certain that thousands of people he has met over the year now agree with my words.

My Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Conservative group it gives me great pleasure in supporting this resolution in the terms of the notice. Thank you, my Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I call Councillor Finnigan to support.

COUNCILLOR FINNIGAN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. May we pass on our congratulations and best wishes from Morley to your good selves.

I always feel a little sad for both me and David because we come at the long end of a run where you have heard speakers like Bernard Atha and Les and it is very, very difficult for us to compete. On the down side, we are in a situation where we find it very difficult to be as entertaining as the previous speakers, but the upside is that nobody expects too much from us and they want us to keep it short, so we will do.

Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to support the vote of thanks to Councillor Iqbal and echo the positive comments from other Leaders in the Chamber this evening. The Morley Borough Independents are often portrayed as an irritating, unco-operative bunch who spend their time bleating on and on about Morley. Although most of that is true we have been grateful for the fair and reasonable way we have been treated by Councillor Iqbal in the Council Chamber. We thank you for that.

We are also grateful for the support we have received from Councillor Iqbal and his regular attendance in Morley. He has been warmly welcomed by Morley folk and his contribution towards community cohesion, bringing communities together, has been a major achievement of Councillor Iqbal's term of office.

We would also like to pay tribute to the retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jack Dunn. Jack is no stranger to Morley and has a deep affection for Morley residents, even if he does often find a few of the more vibrant Morley characters puzzling and bemusing – he is not on his own on that one! He has been a great friend and supporter of many of the activities taking place in the Morley area. His support has been reciprocated and our "We're happy to back Jack" campaign seems to have hit the local papers as well as irritating our defeated local election opponents. Thank you, Jack. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I call upon Councillor David Blackburn to support?

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I add my congratulations to those that have already been given to you – a much deserved honour I will say, Councillor Cleasby.

I want to support the motion of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor. I said twelve months ago when I was asked to speak on his behalf, that basically he is one of the nicest chaps I have ever met and you have been a credit to this city. You have always acted in a proper and right way when you have been out there meeting with people and you have done a really, really good job.

I have spent a number of events with you and I can remember one Sunday afternoon when I had to explain the rules of rugby league to the Lord Mayor. It was two teams unfortunately named, I think, the English Lionhearts against the Asian Bulldogs, I think it was. A really good game it was and an incident, a couple of the players got a little bit too boisterous, let us put it this way, and the referee had to chastise them and put them in the sin bin. The Lord Mayor did not really understand

this and I explained that to him and I really fully expected him – because he really took to this idea – to have a sin bin down here for putting certain, particularly Councillor Atha over there! It never came.

My Whip informs me – I do not go to these Whips' Dinners that the Whips go to but the menu of the Whip's Dinners have improved remarkably by the addition of curries. If I had known that I might have tried to get in on one of these dinners but I have only just found out about it.

As I say, can I offer my thanks on behalf of my group and I think on behalf of us all on a very good year, a historic year. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: It is now my privilege to present to Councillor Iqbal the Lord Mayor's badge as retiring Lord Mayor. (*Presentation and applause*)

LADY MAYORESS

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I now move to the part of the agenda which in fact involves the Lady Mayoress and make the following announcement.

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

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

Can I now call on Councillor Iqbal to respond on behalf of himself and the retiring Lady Mayoress.

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: My Lord Mayor, there is not a lot to be said now after all this! Deputy Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Honorary Recorder, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Can I first of all congratulate you, my Lord Mayor, and your wife, to the position of Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for her position for one of the finest cities in the country. I must say you have a difficult act to follow not putting weight on, as Bernard says, and not drinking for the year.

However, Lord Mayor, I can assure you that you will have a fabulous time during the term of your office as we certainly did. What a great honour it is to be an ambassador for one of the best cities in the country.

In a year's time, my Lord Mayor, you will know what I mean when you stand in my position here and look back at everything you have done. It has gone so fast. It only seems as if it was yesterday and yet, when I look back and look at the things I have done, it seems as if I have done years of work and what I have achieved.

I can only remember one episode of reading in the newspaper once some time ago, just before the inauguration ceremony of the Lord Mayor, when the Sergeant at Mace went to pick the Lord Mayor up, the retiring Lord Mayor, and on the door it says, the house of the Lord Mayor's door who was retiring, it says, "Gone fishing". I was tempted to do the same!

It is vote of thanks now because everything has been said. I would just like to thank my wife, Fatima, and daughter Sayeka for supporting me during my year of office and accompanying me on many events and occasions. Sayeka has been fabulous being the Lady Mayoress of the occasion, or consort, and also being

president of so many organisations and attending the events on her own. It has given a wealth of experience to her. Thank you, Sayeka.

My wife, Fatima, has been looking after my parents and also my son Awaz and also doing some duties as well along with me so I would also like to thank her for her support during my year.

There is another unsung hero, my brother, who looked after all my family during my term of office and all other family affairs and work and everything, and also he took my son to school every morning and brought him back in the afternoon for the whole of the year. I think he needs a special thank you as well.

I can say the whole year has been very successful. It does not take one or two individuals – it is team work. I must thank the Office of Lord Mayor, the staff, Steven McHugh, Erica, Jill, Audrey and Barbara who are very professional in their roles and organised everything very smoothly, although we did have some differences occasionally because I did not agree to the phenomenon of telepathy but I do now because everything I wanted to say has already been said.

As soon as I took over the office I said, “Right, I want to visit all the 200 schools in the city” and Steven was shocked. He said, “My God, Lord Mayor, that is impossible. You have so many engagements to do, you cannot do it.” I listened and compromised and only last week I said, “Can I have the statistics of all the events I have done?” and it was nearly a hundred, so that is a great achievement.

It would not have been possible without the support of the office, the professional staff we have, who have talent, experience and expertise, very unique in their own ways.

The school visits, as it has been said, I enjoyed them and so did the kids and the whole point was to inspire these young people who are the future of our country, our city. When I told them my story, how I came to be the Lord Mayor and yet I did not know even ten years ago and with the humble background. By the time I left the school, they all wanted to be the Lord Mayor of this great city. Even the girls were saying, “Can girls be Lord Mayors?” and I said, “Yes, indeed you can.” Some of them said, “Are you the President? Are you the King of Leeds?” It was fantastic. I enjoyed every moment of it.

The Sergeant at Mace, John Wilson, and his two deputies, they have been excellent in their way in supporting me – very pleasant, very friendly. They were like family members and without their support, when you take over the office and you know there is a huge task ahead and you are not aware, they give you all the support you need, opening the doors as well. I will be spoilt after this year, you know! I will be expecting the doors to open for me! If you see me standing by yours, you will have to say, “This is not yours any more, former Lord Mayor.”

The Sergeants come into my house and mingle with the family, playing with the kids in the garden. They truly became family members. We did have our differences again, with the Sergeants. As a back seat driver I could not accept the way they were taking because I thought I knew better, as a former taxi driver, but John did not believe me. He said, “A typical taxi driver, trying to take the long way round!” (*Laughter*)

I must say they have been an excellent team and very supportive. My deputy, Jack and Catherine – an excellent team. Very genuine, humble, down to earth. What a great team we had, very much in common – so much in common. Jack covered me on many occasions on short notice and I really would like to

sincerely thank him and I think it was a good choice to choose you, Jack and Catherine. Thank you very much for your support during my term of office.
(Applause)

I must mention Crown Cuisine for the excellent food they provided during my term of office. Nigel, Anne and all the team – nobody can do it better, I can tell you. I have been to many, many hotels in the city, without mentioning any names – and, Lord Mayor, you will experience that – and I can tell you, nobody can do better food than our Crown Cuisine, apart from my wife! This is the secret why I have not put weight on because I was eating away from home all the time! I must say, Crown Cuisine have been excellent looking at me, coming over, providing all the food and water and saying, “Is everything OK?” and checking, but the food above all genuinely was brilliant and I have really enjoyed their support as well during my term of office.

I must mention my two ward colleagues, Elizabeth and Patrick.

COUNCILLOR NASH: Don't do it again!

COUNCILLOR IQBAL: Liz, thank you for your support, and Patrick. I am tempted to do it again. Thank you for your support for covering for me in my Ward. You never troubled me - it has always been me who was troubling you. I could not have done without you for handling all the case work. As the Lord Mayor you do not have the time to do anything else, no time for family or work or any case work. After a few weeks I realised that when the phone calls were coming for case work and I had to switch it off, but I must thank you.

I must thank the Labour group, my colleagues who selected me for this honourable position. Without their support I would not have been able to promote the lovely city we have, this great city, and give everybody the sense of belonging. I am really grateful to you, indebted to you. Also on my right, all the colleagues here, the Conservative group, the Liberal Democrats, the Independents, the Morley Borough Independents. I would like to thank all the members of the Council for supporting and endorsing the motion of selecting me as the Lord Mayor.

Although at my first meeting everybody underestimated me. They thought quiet man, we are going to have an easy year. After a few minutes, after my performance, *this* side was getting a bit envious and *this* side was getting worried that they might face another leadership challenge. I am really grateful to you. It has been a pleasant year, I have really enjoyed watching the Council proceedings here with our Chief Executive, Paul Rogerson. I will miss the excitement of being non-political and seeing you people trying to score points on one another. It has been an excellent year and we did have unity on many occasions, unanimous decisions, so that was excellent.

I have been asked if I can mention highlights of my year and Brenda has rightly said that is very, very difficult because I have been fortunate to have so many special events during my year of office. Only to mention a few – in my case I thought that it is true that every event you go to is very unique and special to the organisation and also to you as the Lord Mayor because it only happens once a year.

I was fortunate to attend the Pianoforte Competition which happened during my term of office. The bicentenary celebration of the abolition of the slave trade, that happened in my year of office. The 800 years of Leeds as a city. I must say visiting all the schools was very special to me. Attending a lady's 111th birthday – Florrie – and she was still able to drink sherry and talk to me – fantastic. Her 85 year old daughter there as well!

I have enjoyed every event I attended, honestly. People felt really proud and gave me a really warm welcome. All the hospices I went – I was so moved to see so many volunteers who work for this city and especially the hospices, about 250 each from the three hospices, so I decided to invite all of them for a reception here with the Lord Mayor and thank them on behalf of the city and they were really moved.

There are so many other unsung heroes, voluntary organisations, who make this city a lovely place to live in and as a result we enjoy the benefit, so I am really grateful to them, otherwise we would not have this great city with the prosperity, vibrancy, thriving, prosperous and very friendly as well.

My charities have been mentioned, they have done well. Not bad if you ring 20 people, twelve turn up and raise £15,000 on a night. I am really grateful. Then one donation from one individual of £10,000. I must thank all the people of Leeds. We have a custom of supporting Lord Mayor's charities and there has been support from all sections of the community and I am really grateful for that.

It has been, without any doubt, one of the best years of my life. I enjoy meeting people, I like to see young and old and I like to see all the people who do voluntary work. I enjoyed every moment. I have got so many photographs and albums and press cuttings and video films, you will be amazed. It is something for me to look at in the future.

Above all, it was one of the easiest years of my political life in eight years because I did not have to do any political activity on election day. I enjoyed that, actually!

After this very special year of mine, as a young man, of course, my heart says carry on and I will love to do it but I will be honest with you, my body is tired and I need rest.

Therefore, I would like to thank all the people of City and Hunslet who gave me the opportunity to become their Councillor and all the citizens of Leeds for giving me this greatest honour and giving me a warm welcome. Thank you, my Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: The motion before us that Councillor Alan Taylor be appointed Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds, to hold office until the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2008. Can I put that to the vote?

COUNCILLOR: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Those in favour? Against? Abstentions? I think that is moved unanimously.

DECLARATION

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I then call upon the Chief Executive to conduct the Declaration of Acceptance of Office?

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The Deputy Lord Mayor will now make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

THE DEPUTY LORD MAYOR (Councillor Taylor): I Alan Taylor, of St Aidan's Vicarage, Elford Place West, Leeds, having been elected to the office of Deputy Lord Mayor, hereby declare that I shall 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)

ITEM 4 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to Agenda Item 4, Announcements.

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There are no additional announcements this evening, Lord Mayor.

ITEM 5 – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th APRIL 2006

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to Agenda Item 5, which is Minutes of the Councillor Meeting held on 5th April 2006. Councillor Hamilton.

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

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Lord Mayor, I second.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I then call for the vote upon the Minutes, please? Those are CARRIED.

ITEM 6 – ELECTION OF LEADER

THE LORD MAYOR: We move to Agenda Item 6, Election of Leader. Councillor Hamilton?

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor, can I move in the terms of the notice.

COUNCILLOR PROCTER: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: There is an amendment. Councillor Gruen.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Lord Mayor, I move the amendment that Councillor Wakefield be elected as Leader for this municipal year.

COUNCILLOR LYONS: I second, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR HANLEY: Lord Mayor, I request a recorded vote.

COUNCILLOR LYONS: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. In that case I will pass the proceedings to the Chief Executive. It is normal in this situation that he conducts the recorded vote.

(A recorded vote was taken on the amendment)

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I explain to our guests, when we do a recorded vote, this is usual. This is high technology. We are checking to make sure that Councillor Iqbal's vote has been recorded because he is voting from here rather than from one of the desk units.

I can announce the result of the City of Leeds voting. Present there are 93 Councillors. There are 40 voted 'Yes', three abstentions and 50 have voted against. The amendment, therefore is LOST.

I now ask the Chief Executive to move to the motion which obviously is now the substantive motion. Do you wish another recorded vote? Is that seconded? Right.

(A recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion)

THE LORD MAYOR: Present are 94, there are 49 voted 'Yes', four abstentions and 'No', 41. The motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I, then, move us to Agenda Item 7, having accepted that motion, Recommendations of the Standards Committee. Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor, I move in the terms of the notice.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Seconded, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Could I call for the vote? Those in favour? That, I believe, is CARRIED.

ITEM 8 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: I move, then, to Agenda Item 8. Councillor Hamilton?

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Again, can I move in the terms of the notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I, therefore, call for the vote? Those in favour? That, I believe, is CARRIED.

ITEM 9(a) – ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND APPROPRIATE TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9(a), Establishment of Committees and appropriate Terms of Reference. Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor, can I move in terms of the notice?

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I, therefore, call for the vote on the motion to Establish Committees and approve Terms of Reference? Those in favour? I believe that is CARRIED, thank you.

ITEM 9(b)(i) – MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES/BOARDS/PANELS

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we move now to Item 9(b)(i), Membership of Committees, Boards and Panels. Councillor Hamilton?

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Lord Mayor, could I move in terms of the notice with the amendment that Councillor Driver replaces Councillor Minkin on the City Development Scrutiny Board?

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Seconded, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Can I, therefore, with that amendment in mind, call for the vote? Those in favour? That is CARRIED.

ITEM 9(b)(ii) – MEMBERSHIP OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND
AUDIT COMMITTEE AND MEMBER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9(b)(ii) Membership of Corporate Governance and Audit Committee and Member Management Committee. Councillor Hamilton?

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Move in terms of the notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Second.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I therefore call for the vote? That, therefore, is CARRIED.

ITEM 9(b)(iii) – MEMBERSHIP OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN PANEL
AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: 9(b)(iii), Membership of the Development Plan Panel and Standards Committee. Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Move in the terms of the notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Call for the vote? Thank you, that is CARRIED.

ITEM 9(c) – APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9(c), Appointments to Outside Organisations. Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Move in terms of the notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call for the vote? That, I believe, is CARRIED.

ITEM 10(a) – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Agenda Item 10(a), Executive Arrangements. Councillor Hamilton.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Move in terms of the notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I therefore call for the vote on the motion? That, I believe, is CARRIED.

ITEM 10(b) – LEAD MEMBERS

THE LORD MAYOR: 10(b), Lead Members.

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: Move in terms of the notice, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: I second, Lord Mayor. I am beginning to enjoy the routine!

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I therefore call for the vote? That, I believe, is CARRIED.

ITEM 11 - PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

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

COUNCILLOR HAMILTON: For the final time, Lord Mayor, I move in terms of the notice.

COUNCILLOR GRUEN: Second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: That is a surprise! Can I, therefore, call for the vote on the motion? That is CARRIED.

That concludes the business of the meeting of the Annual General Meeting.
(*Applause*)

(The meeting was closed)