

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on

Monday, 21st May 2012

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL, LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(Councillor Rev A Taylor)
(Councillor A Castle)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL MEETING ON MONDAY, 21st MAY 2012

(In the Chair - the Lord Mayor, Councillor Rev A Taylor)

THE LORD MAYOR: Members have the Order Paper in front of them and can I do a final reminder in the short time that is left as far as I am concerned sitting here, that you can keep your mobiles on just for a couple of minutes in the hope that they are going to ring and I am going to get another £10 for the Lord Mayor's Charity! Seriously, can you please make sure that all mobiles are turned off.

On the Order Paper I am indicating that, following the dispatch of the Summons together with Items 4, 7, 8a, 8b(iii), 9 and 11, on Friday 11th May, further papers were circulated to Members on Friday 18th May as follows in the six schedules that are listed.

ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: I am now moving on to Item 1 and can I call upon Councillor Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Lord Mayor, Members of Council, it gives me great pleasure to move that Councillor Ann Castle be elected the Lord Mayor of the City of Leeds to hold office until the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2013. I move, my Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Councillor Wakefield?

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* That is CARRIED.

There will now be a brief adjournment of the meeting as we leave the Chamber.

(The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and City Solicitor left the Chamber)

The newly elected Lord Mayor entered the Chamber and took the Chair)

THE LORD MAYOR: Good evening. I shall have plenty to say when we move on to the Ceremonial proceedings but in the meantime may we move back to the Agenda.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 2, Election of Vice Chairman of the Council. Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Now here's a thing! I am going to move that Councillor J L Carter be appointed as the Vice Chairman of the Council and to hold office until immediately after the election of the Lord Mayor at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2013.

All I can say is, Councillor Gruen, beware! *(laughter)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Happy to second the youth wing of the Conservative Party, Lord Mayor! (*laughter*)

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) The motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 3 – VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING LORD MAYOR

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 3, a vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor. Councillor Taggart, please.

COUNCILLOR TAGGART: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Can I first of all, on behalf of the Labour Group, as the first Labour Councillor to speak since your election, congratulate you on your elevation. Your choice was very much a matter for the Conservative Group and its Leader, of course. We did not have a ballot in the Labour Group but I am sure if we had have done you would have won it hands down because we all like you (*laughter*) and that always helps. You were an excellent Deputy Lord Mayor and I am sure you will be an absolutely marvellous Lord Mayor. Congratulations to you, I am sure you will have a marvellous year.

Members of Council, Lord Mayor, it must be about 30 years ago when I was a Chapel Allerton Councillor and we had a policy in those days in the Chapel Allerton Labour Party of recruiting all the clergy because we wanted God on our side, I suppose! The Methodist Minister, all the Anglican vicars, the Catholic priests, we all eventually persuaded them not just to vote Labour but to join and so one Sunday afternoon I went to the then Vicarage of St Aidan's in Harehills (because, of course, the parish covers part of Chapeltown) and met the new vicar, who was a Leeds lad, born in Hunslet, of course, but had come across from Liverpool. I remember drinking tea and eating the odd biscuit and thinking this man is fine, he has got the same kind of ideas as we have and would make a perfect member of the Labour Party, and I suggested he should consider joining. He was very, very polite and said "I have thought about that but the answer is 'No', very respectfully" and, of course, I failed to get him to join the Labour Party and he eventually became a Liberal Democrat Councillor in the City of Leeds.

Alan was an extremely well-liked and respected man of the cloth in the Chapeltown and Harehills area, as well as being an extremely – I have to say this – hardworking Councillor.

Normally, of course, when someone becomes Lord Mayor they have several months' notice. For example, when I became Lord Mayor I think I had five or six months' notice and all my relatives and friends were excited or not as the case may be and all the arrangements were put together. Because my wife was Lady Mayoress and various female members of my family, they had frocks to buy and that is normally how it is, I suppose, because normally the incoming Lord Mayor has plenty of notice.

Sadly, the people of Moortown in Leeds had other views a year ago and the Lord Mayor elect, sadly for her – the personal loss to her was not to become Lord Mayor - and Alan Taylor had literally days in which to change his life around and adjust to become the First Citizen of our great city of Leeds.

He took on the role, he worked extremely hard and he represented himself and this city with great charm and distinction throughout that twelve month period and I think that is absolutely remarkable for someone who had absolutely no notice about taking on the higher office.

Alan decided during his year that he had very much enjoyed his time as an elected Member and decided to retire, and my colleagues tell me that Alan does intend possibly to move out of Leeds. One part of me regrets that very much but the Labour Party part of me says, mmm, that's marvellous, the more of our political opponents we can move out of Leeds the better!

Alan is a very sincere, well-liked and loved man in the locality. He has been an excellent vicar of St Aidan's, a very hard working Councillor and an absolutely excellent Lord Mayor of Leeds; we could not have asked for better.

On behalf of the Labour Group I wish Alan a long and happy retirement and thank him for all the marvellous work he has undertaken over the years. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Graham Latty, please.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Lord Mayor, in seconding this vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor, I found myself trying to think what I know about him actually, and so I had a bit of a trawl. I rather fancied making a play upon his profession and being a Canon and one of the big guns of the Church I thought shall I rifle through his past (*laughter*) so I did, just a bit, and I discovered that you actually started out in life as a postman and that very honourable profession – my wife's father was a postman so we uphold them in our family, certainly. Also it is one step on the ladder to being Lord Mayor because you not only pursued that but then in going into the Church, this is another step on the ladder because, of course, you were looking after a congregation in the same way that the postman looks after his round and then as a Councillor you were looking after a different flock.

I think what also came to our mind was, you being an ecclesiastical gentleman, the hymn Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah, with one of the chorus lines being, "strong deliverer" and, of course, we have all need to be strong deliverers, so you were a strong deliverer through the post boxes as a postman, seeking to be a Councillor shoving things through letter boxes, probably more professionally than the rest of us do, and then, of course, you achieved the highest – you became a Councillor, became Lord Mayor.

I first really became aware of you when you were Deputy Lord Mayor and you came out to my ward and you effectively opened a footpath created in an old railway line, a Sustrans line. You opened that and afterwards they presented you with this plaque. You turned to me and you said, "Graham, can you do something with that?" Well, I did, it has been on my windowsill in my office ever since then, so if you would like it back you are very, very welcome!

Then, of course, you came back into my life in Plans Panel mode and I do remember many, many times when we were virtually there in getting application agreement, we were all going to lay hands on and you would pipe up, "I believe there are some bats in the attic", or it might be the flight line of owls or something like that was going through the property, and everything would grind to a halt and we would have to go back to square one and we would need another cycle so that we could deal with your bats. In fact, it did become quite a byword in Plans East and you were well known for that.

The highlight of that was, of course, when we sent out to the Ings, Fairburn Ings, and when we had the coal installation thing that we were going to have and I think you were absolutely in your element then because that was your world.

I do believe that you are going to Norfolk to retire. Am I right? It rang a bell, Norfolk, a cottage in Norfolk – or is that a secret?

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: It's not now!

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: It does seem to me that there, perfect place, birds left, right and centre, so you cannot do worse than that. If I have let the wrong bird out of the bag I do apologise but nobody said to me there was a secret involved in that.

Thank you for being an excellent Lord Mayor, I think you have been first a class one. Anybody following your example cannot fail to do a good job. Thank you for that on behalf of the Conservative Party and we wish you a very, very happy retirement. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have not prepared a speech today because I did give my major tribute to Alan – I can call you that now - at the last meeting because it was all about saying goodbye to some esteemed colleagues who had come to the Council and were nearing the end of their careers and Alan had already made out that he was going to step down as a Councillor, so I will not repeat the issues that I brought up then.

Council meetings are always very bitter-sweet because we would always like to get together at the start of a political year and you want to see your colleagues join you and too often, of course, many of them do not get to get to the next Council meeting because they have lost elections. That is the nature of our business and you get on with it. We say hello to a whole new season in terms of a new Lord Mayor and a new style of leadership of Council, and we say goodbye to somebody who has played a fantastic year, which every Lord Mayor tells me that it is something that you never, ever forget. It is a once in a lifetime experience.

I know that Alan never came on to Leeds City Council to try and become Lord Mayor. He came on the City Council for the same reason why he went into the priesthood, which is that he wanted a position from which he could make a difference. He proved that he could do so in his parish and he did a whole lot of work in terms of bringing together different communities, which is what makes Harehills such a great place to live and, I have to say, as a boy who grew up in Harehills, it made me so happy to get our first Lib Dem Councillor in the area that I knew. The only reason that Alan is able to make that difference is because he had a reputation already and people were willing to trust him to go to that next level.

Of course, in his year as Lord Mayor he wanted to make the last year count and the charity that you chose really gave a reflection of your attitude in terms of, let's not just find one small area to concentrate on; let's find a really big theme and make a big difference across a city particularly to people who are struggling, and I think Voluntary Action Leeds is one of those organisations that touches every part of the city and everybody can take advantage of the work that they do. I think that they really do appreciate it, especially in these hard times where volunteers are expected to do so much more, that they got the recognition from the very top of the Council, so thank you for that.

I have to say, to finish off, personally, I know that the Lord Mayor was not just held in great esteem by colleagues on the Council but very much so he was held in great affection and I know that my colleagues here on the Lib Dem team in particular will miss your very dry sense of humour and also that sense of calm that you brought to a lot of our occasions when we got a little bit fraught.

Thank you for all your record as a Lib Dem in the city, thank you for your record as a Councillor in the city and I look forward to seeing you in your civvies. Thank you.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott, please.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. May I add the congratulations to Councillor Taylor at the end of his year of office on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents.

We know, Alan, that you have had a wonderful year and a varied year, it comes with the territory, but from chairing the first Council meeting it was obvious that you were so right for the position of Lord Mayor and you have given the City of Leeds your expertise of caring and bringing together groups of people of all nationalities and faiths.

Your charity, for example, is one which is involved in voluntary work advice, community and faith groups. I was fortunate enough to be at your Civic Service of Thanksgiving last Sunday in your St Aidan's Church, where Christianity can be felt. The atmosphere was one of jubilation with so many diverse peoples there, as is usual for St Aidan's under your watch.

Many congratulations, you have served our great City of Leeds well and we wish you well for the future. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Ann Blackburn, please.

COUNCILLOR A BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Lord Mayor, I support the vote of thanks to the retiring Lord Mayor, the Reverend Alan Taylor, on behalf of the Green Group.

It is always difficult to speak about someone at the end of a list of people who have already spoken as most things about that person have already been said. What has not been mentioned is that the retiring Lord Mayor is an excellent bingo caller. I know this as when he visited the gala day held by St Michael's Church and Old Farnley Community Centre last summer, I asked if he would help with the bingo calling. Though a bit apprehensive at first, he did it, much to the delight of the people present. I think it made their day!

I would also like to thank the retiring Lord Mayor for allowing pupils from Cobden Primary School to visit you at the Civic Hall and also for visiting Five Lanes Primary School, as both these schools are in my ward.

I recall you telling me recently that you were 70 (I did not believe it) and therefore you had to retire and move out of the vicarage. Alan, I hope you have a happy retirement and I wish you all the best for the future. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Reverend Taylor – it does not seem quite right calling you Reverend Taylor rather than Councillor Taylor.

REVEREND A TAYLOR: Thank you, Lord Mayor, and thanks to each and everyone for those kind words. Can I also say a few thanks yours, and principally I would like to say thank you to the staff – to Brenda, to Erica, to John, to Jo, to Mark, to Bernadette, to Dawn and to Victor.

Throughout this year they have delivered their responsibilities with professionalism and they have excelled in many, many ways – certainly in their management and in their administrative skills. The other good thing about them is all of them make very a good cup of tea!

When it comes to engaging with the public, people like Mark and John, they have got a remarkable wealth of inside knowledge. They are a kind of double act. I call them an Eddie and a Stobart, acting as one, and they do it remarkably well. They have got their own Who's Who and let me just give a general warning, they also know the registrations of so many of your cars that they are able to say, "Oh, there's so-and-so, I wonder where they're going", so beware and be aware!

It has been a privilege and a great pleasure working with you and it has also been fun.

Can I say thanks as well to my colleagues at the Lib Dem office. The staff in particular have been so conscientious that they have been the group that has been dealing with what has been an increasing load of case work and they have taken that on with great sincerity and with positive results, so I am very pleased indeed. No doubt, Stewart, that can go back to the staff.

Can I also thank yourselves for actually entrusting me to the job as Lord Mayor and for supporting Voluntary Action Leeds. I suppose there was an uncomfortable moment and everybody says to you has there been a high and has there been a low? I think probably the uncomfortable moment – and you alluded to it, Judith – was that first meeting with a relatively (I say this very respectfully, Tom) new Chief Executive on one side, Bob, the acting City Solicitor on the other, three new Whips who were not really sure of what ought to be happening and then Councillor Procter saying at a moment of, how can I put it, a procedural matter, he made an objection followed immediately, as is often the case, with Councillor Atha making another objection on a procedural matter and quoting a different Standing Order. Here I was, sat in the middle thinking what on earth is going on? It is much worse than chairing a Deanery Synod meeting! *(laughter)*

Anyway, eventually matters were resolved and I thought it was pretty good that we did it without an adjournment. Since then, there have been numerous occasions of meeting and greeting people in surprising places and in doing so seeing the wealth of the skills and the talents and the gifts of the people in this city, both in the statutory and in the voluntary sector.

Leeds is a wonderful city and I am absolutely proud to be one of its residents and one of its sons. You have got a very exciting year ahead and I wish you well in it. There is the safe return of the Yorkshire Regiment from Afghanistan, there is the Jubilee celebrations, there is the Olympic Torch, there is the Olympics themselves and giving us another opportunity to exercise our hospitality as we only know how to do it in a great way. There is a Royal visit, there is the International Pianoforte Competition, and there will be much else. I do hope that your year is going to be exciting and I hope to be joining you in parts of it as well.

Can I just say to the future and to put the record straight, Graham referred to it. There is another thing Graham referred to about my time on Plans and I knew behind my back you were all calling me the batty Councillor *(laughter)*. Thank you.

Yes, next year I reach that age of 70 and at 70 when you live in a tied vicarage, as I do, you have to move on and so it is right and it is proper that I do that. Until then I will still be around doing my bit and hopefully back to the day job and serving my parish in, I hope, the usual way that I have done. There will also be more opportunities for bird watching and also for walking the dog and who knows, eventually, as well, perhaps next year there will be a move further south to a place in Lincolnshire just outside Boston, right on the edge of a bird reserve. Looking east, the next-door neighbours live in Holland! That gives you some idea of the remoteness of the place but I am looking forward to that. In the meantime I will continue to do my best for the life of the parish and, of course, with it, the life of the city.

Thank you very much indeed for expressing your confidence in me, thank you for the kind words you have said and all the very best to you and to the whole city for its future. Thank you. (*Applause*)

ITEM 4 – MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 28th MARCH 2012

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 4, the Minutes of the two Council meetings held on 28th March 2012. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor G Latty.

COUNCILLOR G LATTY: Seconded, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That is CARRIED.

ITEM 5 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 5, Declarations of Interest. The list of written declarations submitted by Members is on display in the ante-room and is on deposit in the public galleries and has been circulated to every Members' place in the Chamber. Are there any further individual declarations of interest, please? (*None*)

Can I now invite Members to confirm by a show of hands that they have read the list and they agree the contents so far as they relate to their own interest? (*Show of hands*) Thank you.

ITEM 6 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 6, Announcements. I have no announcements. Has the Chief Executive any announcements?

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No announcements, Lord Mayor.

ITEM 7 – RECOMMENDATIONS OF GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 7, the Recommendations of the General Purposes Committee. May I invite any individual Members of Council to indicate if they wish a separate vote to be held in relation to any individual recommendation of the General

Purposes Committee before Council proceeds to consideration of the whole motion.
Is everybody happy?

Councillor Wakefield, please.

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

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND APPROPRIATE TERMS OF REFERENCE

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(a), the establishment of Committees and appropriate terms of reference. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: Thank you, I second.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) The motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(b)(i) – MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES/BOARDS/PANELS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(b)(i). Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(b)(ii) – MEMBERSHIP OF THE STANDARDS AND LICENSING COMMITTEES

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(b)(ii), Membership of the Standards and Licensing Committees. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(b)(iii) – MEMBERSHIP OF AREA COMMITTEES

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(b)(iii), Membership of Area Committees. Councillor James Lewis,

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(c) – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS TO COMMITTEES/ BOARDS/ PANELS AND STANDARDS AND LICENSING COMMITTEES

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(c), Appointment of Chairs to Committees/Boards/Panels and Standards and Licensing Committees. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

APPOINTMENT TO CHAIR THE SOUTH OUTER AREA COMMITTEE

THE LORD MAYOR: Can we move to the appointment of the chair of the South Outer Area Committee. Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

COUNCILLOR: Recorded vote, please.

THE LORD MAYOR: Do we have a seconder? To make it clear, there are two nominations. One is Councillor Bruce and the other is Councillor Finnigan.

(A recorded vote was held on the nomination of Councillor K Bruce)

THE LORD MAYOR: Present in the Council Chamber 97; “Yes”s 62, abstentions 2; “No”s 33.

I do not think we really need to take another vote; that seems fairly decisive – or do we? Yes, I am advised that we do need to take another vote.

All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* That motion is CARRIED.

(A recorded vote was held on the nomination of Councillor R Finnigan)

THE LORD MAYOR: Present in the Council Chamber 97; “Yes” 33; abstentions 2; “No” 62, so Councillor Bruce is appointed. *(Applause)*

ITEM 8(d) – APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS TO AREA COMMITTEES

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 8(e) – APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 8(e), appointments to outside organisations. Councillor Lewis. COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 9 – SCHEME OF DELEGATION (COUNCIL FUNCTIONS)

THE LORD MAYOR: Item 9, Scheme of delegation (Council Functions). Councillor James Lewis.

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 10 – EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

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

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

ITEM 11 – PROPOSED CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

THE LORD MAYOR: Proposed calendar of meetings. Councillor Lewis – you and Councillor Lowe will be keeping very fit!

COUNCILLOR J LEWIS: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I move in terms of the Notice.

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Lowe.

COUNCILLOR LOWE: I finally second, Lord Mayor.

THE LORD MAYOR: All those in favour? (*A vote was taken*) That motion is CARRIED.

THE LORD MAYOR: That comes to the end of this part of the meeting. There will be a short break. If Members could please remain in their seats for the time being. Thank you very much.

(The meeting closed at 6.43 pm)