

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

(19:15 – 20:45)

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor David Williams  
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Bowcott  
Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Mark Betteridge, Margaret Brierly, Richard Chellew, David Chung, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Iain Dysart, Chris Edge, Suzanne Evans, Karin Forbes, Brenda Fraser, Suzanne Grocott, Maurice Groves, Jeff Hanna, Richard Hilton, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Linda Kirby, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Logie Lohendran, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Krystal Miller, Ian Munn, Diane Neil Mills, Oonagh Moulton, Henry Nelles, Dennis Pearce, John Sargeant, Judy Saunders, Linda Scott, Rod Scott, Debbie Shears, David Simpson, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Linda Taylor, Sam Thomas, Ray Tindle, Gregory Udeh, Peter Walker, Martin Whelton, Richard Williams, Miles Windsor and Simon Withey.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Samantha George and Gam Gurung.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

None advised.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR, MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR AND VOTE OF THANKS FOR THE RETIRING MAYOR (Agenda Items 3, 4 and 5)

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor for the Municipal year for 2013-2014.

It was moved by Councillor Simon Withey and seconded by Councillor James Holmes that Councillor Krystal Miller is elected as Mayor for the Municipal year 2013-14.

It was moved by Councillor Suzanne Evans that Councillor Chris Edge is elected as Mayor for the Municipal year 2013-14. In moving her preferred nomination, Councillor Suzanne Evans advised of her resignation from the Conservative group whip.

It was seconded by Councillor Richard Hilton that Councillor Chris Edge is elected as Mayor for the Municipal year 2013-14. In moving his preferred nomination, Councillor Richard Hilton advised of his resignation from the Conservative group whip.

The Mayor confirmed that he would deal with the second nomination as if it were an amendment to the original motion. In particular, he would take the first nomination

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

first, ask those speakers who have previously notified their intention to do so to speak and then put the nomination of Councillor Krystal Miller to the vote.

**Point of Order** - Councillor Rod Scott enquired of the Mayor as to whether speeches would be taken in respect of the second nomination.

The Mayor responded that speeches would only be taken on the second nomination in the event that Councillor Krystal Miller was not elected.

Councillors Martin Whelton and Oonagh Moulton addressed the meeting in support of the nomination of Councillor Krystal Miller.

The Mayor thereupon put the nomination of Councillor Krystal Miller to the vote and there voted on a show of hands 53 for the nomination and 4 against the nomination.

The Mayor declared Councillor Krystal Miller to be duly elected as Mayor for the Municipal year 2013-14.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Krystal Miller is the duly elected Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal year 2013-2014.

The Mayor, Councillor David Williams, adjourned the meeting in order to allow the newly elected Mayor to be robed.

The Mayor conveyed the decision of the Council to Councillor Krystal Miller.

Councillor Krystal Miller made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Mayor's chain and badge of office.

The Mayor announced that her consorts would be Councillor Henry Nelles and Kenneth Miller.

The Mayor announced that her Deputy Mayor of the Municipal year 2013-2014 would be Councillor John Sargeant.

With respect to her chaplaincy arrangements, the Mayor confirmed that, having regard to the wide range of faiths represented in the borough, a Mayor's chaplain would not be appointed for the year but that a leader of different faiths would be asked to say prayers at the beginning of each meeting.

Councillor John Sargeant signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office.

The Deputy Mayor announced that his consort would be his wife Judy Sargeant.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor's consorts were presented with their badges of office.

Children from Priory School presented flowers to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's consorts.

The Mayor presented badges to the outgoing Mayor and Mayoress.

The Mayor presented badges to the outgoing Deputy Mayor and his consort.

Children from Priory School presented flowers to Gill Williams and Lesley Bowcott.

The Mayor, Councillor Krystal Miller, thanked Council for her election for the

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

forthcoming year. The Mayor advised that one of her supported charities would be 'Home-Start Merton' in this their 20th anniversary year; and the other supported charity being the Polka Theatre.

The Mayor invited Councillor David Williams to the dais to receive the Council's vote of thanks.

The Leader of the Council to move the vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor.

The Leader of the Council addressed the meeting:

Madam Mayor

I am always taken by Walter Bagehots the British Constitution

There he argues there are two sides to government and other organisations including local authorities. There is the '**dignified**' aspect, that is the ceremonial and traditions of the institute. Then there is the '**efficient**' aspect, that is the processes driven by those to making things happen in the organisation.

Tonight I want to remind everyone that we are here to engage in the dignified work of this council.

A big welcome to you and to your Mayoral year from me and from this side of the chamber. You are the 4th Mayor of the 4th year of this administration and that is quite correct.

Now, I want to take this opportunity to welcome Cllr Oonagh Moulton to her new position as leader of the opposition and to wish her well in the days and weeks to come and dare I say for the next year?

Cllr Moulton was a very successful first Mayor for this administration and that years experience will be valuable. I know that tonight, she will join me in moving a **unanimous** vote of thanks in honour of Cllr David Williams.

I knew within just six weeks of his Mayoralty that we were all in for a professionally chaired council year, a fine municipal year for councillors and officers alike and a grand civic year for residents.

At the time of his election as Mayor last year Councillor Williams had completed over 35 years of service to this borough.

I know I speak for all in this chamber when I say the experience of those years has been very evident in his excellent chairing of our meetings, in his fundraising and with his community engagement.

In a very novel move for a traditional Mayor, he established the first ever Mayor of Merton's Charitable Trust.

This has helped a variety of charitable causes in addition to his main charity.

These charities will benefit from the funds he raised totalling over £55,000 a sum that surpasses his own fundraising target for the year. A former banker exceeding their turnover - whatever next!

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

David organised events that were great fun, including a Bollywood and a Hollywood evening.

David re-launched the Merton Civic Awards, in partnership with the widely read Wimbledon Guardian.

I understand the deserving winners are set to be communicated to all 80,000 households in the borough through our equally popular and cost effective in house magazine known to us all as My Merton.

In what I believe to be a truly personal touch, David introduced the special Mayoral crest pin badge this year, and it has been given to many people.

Another highlight was winning the 2013 London New Year's Day Parade. This raised £7,500 for his charities and I know that he made great play in acknowledging the work of Councillor Stanford and many other Councillors on this side for all their hard work in achieving this prize.

The Mayor also represented the borough at civic events throughout the year, including the commemoration of Remembrance Day and Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Mayor was involved in the celebration to mark Merton's host borough status for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

He welcomed the torch relay at the All England Lawn Tennis Club accompanied by Olympian Andy Murray.

The day before he became first citizen of the borough, David was honoured to begin his Mayoralty by meeting Her Majesty The Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.

David worked with a group to organise a range of Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Merton from a bandstand event and beacon lighting in Morden Park, to the borough's major summer event, the Mitcham Carnival.

David got involved in and thoroughly enjoyed the Diamond Jubilee street parties sprinting from one to another rather like in Richmal Crompton's Just William and Anthony Buckeridge's Trust Jennings books.

The Mayor's workload and achievements over his Mayoral year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of others. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Bowcott, and his wife, Deputy Mayoress Mrs Lesley Bowcott, were a tower of strength. But this was only whenever Cllr Bowcott could get away from his duties on the extremely engaging and galvanizing planning committee he sits on.

The Mayor was also ably and lovingly supported by his mother and Mayoress Mrs Gill Williams. This is where I want to pay a real and lengthy tribute.

I do not know where Gill gets her strength, her stamina, her enthusiasm and her desire to have been ever present at hundreds of events with David. Were there to be a referendum this side of our elections in 2014 to decide if Gill is in or out of my good books the answer would be a resounding in!

She has been a true inspiration to all of us. I will never forget the number of times

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

she graciously enquired about my travel arrangements when she was made aware I was also to be present at a Mayoral function. An offer of a lift in the Mayoral car was always on the table.

David has also been supported by his Principal Consort Miss Jill Brewer and her family and friends. The Mayor was also prayerfully and loyally supported by his Chaplain, the Reverend Dan McGowan.

I now want to read word for word from the framed copy of the Citation the council is presenting to David tonight:

“Mayor Williams is recognised by the council for his professionalism, skill in chairing Council meetings and dedication to his charitable activities, and for his work representing the London Borough of Merton as a whole

His personal qualities of good humour and warmth contributed to his extremely successful year in Merton”

There you have it in a nutshell.

Finally, Madam Mayor

We now need to resolve **unanimously**: that the council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor David T Williams JP, for the dedicated manner in which he has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2012-2013.

I Beg So to Move.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton seconded the vote of thanks and addressed the meeting as follows:

Madame Mayor I am delighted on behalf of the Conservative group to second the Vote of thanks and appreciation to our outgoing Mayor Cllr David Williams for his hard work and dedication in serving as Mayor this year.

As this Chamber knows Cllr Williams has been one of the longest serving Members, Deputy Mayor, and as Leader of our group and the Council.

David will be leaving a legacy from his Mayoral year by setting up the Mayor of Merton Charitable Trust. This will help a variety of causes in the Borough for his Mayoralty and well beyond. We are delighted that David has raised the extraordinary amount of over £55,000 for these causes.

Other innovations include the re-launch of Merton Civic Awards and the special Mayoral crest pin badges given to people in the Borough who have made special achievements.

The Mayor’s main charity was the Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare and he has held a variety of events across the Borough along with many wonderful civic events. I am delighted that having reached the target you have delivered a new mini bus to the Guild – a really practical legacy of your year.

He distinguished himself as the Borough’s First Citizen by being involved in both

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

Olympic and Jubilee celebrations.

I particularly enjoyed supporting him along with my Ward colleagues at the planting of a Black Poplar tree to mark the Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

We would also like to pay tribute to his mother, The Mayoress Mrs Gill Williams and his Principal Consort Miss Gill Brewer.

We also would like to recognise the support, work and achievements of his deputy Mayor, Councillor John Bowcott and the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs Lesley Bowcott.

On behalf of our Group we offer you all our thanks and gratitude.

The Mayor invited Councillors Peter Southgate, Iain Dysart and Edith Macauley to speak to the vote of thanks.

The Mayor put the vote of thanks to the meeting and it was:

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor David Williams for the dedicated manner in which he has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2012-2013.

Councillor David Williams responded to the vote of thanks referring to a number of events and experiences during his mayoral year. He placed on record his thanks to a number of individuals for their support during his term of office including the deputy mayor and the mayor's office support staff.

A framed copy of the citation together with a past Mayor's badge was presented to Councillor David Williams.

4 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 27 MARCH 2013 (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary council meeting held on 27 March 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

5 REPORT: CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES (Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Oonagh Moulton requested that the nominations circulated on behalf of the Conservative group are amended to delete those councillors who had indicated their resignation from the Conservative group whip and that revised nominations would be presented in due course.

Subject to the aforementioned deletions advised by the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Council moved the recommendations detailed in the submitted report.

Councillor Mark Betteridge seconded the report.

The Mayor put the recommendations to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED: That, subject to the aforementioned deletions advised by the Leader of the Opposition, approval is given to:

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
15 MAY 2013

- A. the constitution of the committees and panels set out in appendix A to the submitted report and the allocation of seats, chair and vice-chair positions and the appointments of members to those seats;
- B. the constitution of the consultative and other bodies set out in appendix B to the submitted report and the allocation of seats, chair and vice-chair positions and the appointments of members to those seats;
- C. the allocation of seats on outside organisations set out in appendix C to the submitted report and the appointments of members to those seats;
- D. the terms of reference of the joint health scrutiny committee set out in appendix D to the submitted report;
- E. the terms of reference of consultative and other bodies set out in appendix E to the submitted report; and

Further RESOLVED: That

- F. it is noted that, in respect of the Mayor of Merton's Charitable Trust, Councillor John Bowcott and Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender have resigned with effect 16 May and secondly that the Council note the appointment of the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor as trustees from 16 May; and
- G. it is noted that the Executive Leader has not made any changes to appointments to his Cabinet or to respective portfolios – Appendix F.

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