



# Macclesfield Town Council Annual Council Meeting

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Mayor Making held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.**

## **1. Election of the Mayor of Macclesfield for 2024/25**

Cllr James Barber nominated Cllr Sandy Livingstone to be the Mayor of Macclesfield, saying he himself, came into Politics to enact meaningful change and he truly believed most who enter public service are the same, however his own 5 years of being a Councillor, there are few who he has met who have are as tenacious as Sandy at representing residents. He said Cllr Livingstone was born in Hamilton, in Scotland, and chose Macclesfield, our town, as the place he wanted to live with his family. And in 2021, he put himself forward to serve our residents on this Town Council. Cllr Barber said, may not be Maxonian by blood, but his passion for our town means he's truly an adopted Maxonian.

On a personal note, Cllr Barber thanked Cllr Livingstone for all the support he's given him over the years. He said his kindness shines through in everything he does, and that underpins exactly why it gives him great pleasure to put Cllr Livingstone forward to be our next Mayor of Macclesfield.

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake nominated Cllr Sandy Livingstone saying she was honoured to second him as the new Mayor of Macclesfield. She said Cllr Livingstone is a hardworking councillor unafraid to roll his sleeves up and muck in – literally in local gardening projects at Christchurch and a lot more too!

She said his caring values are similar to her own, rooted in his working-class background in Hamilton. His experience in social housing has made him an excellent asset to the Town Council working on the South Park Pavilion project. He is also a keen supporter of local businesses and will be an excellent advocate for our town.

She said she is looking forward to Sandy and his lovely wife Suzie donning their tartan and leading the dancing at the Mayor's Caleigh.

**Resolved:** Cllr Sandy Livingstone was unanimously voted as the Mayor of Macclesfield.

## 2. Election of the Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield for 2024/25

Cllr Fiona Wilson said she was delighted to nominate Cllr Emma Gilman as Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield saying Cllr Gilman is an active community campaigner, working hard for the community in Tytherington, where she has been a lifelong resident. She is a Mum who cares about where she lives and the people and children who live there. She is passionate about ensuring that children are given every possible opportunity in life and has a particular interest in special needs and disability. She has a very clear sense of right and wrong and endeavours to always be kind, respectful and honest.

She stated she is confident that Cllr Gilman will bring forward many ideas to the Town Council and see them through to fruition which will be for the benefit of residents of Macclesfield now and in the future.

Cllr Wilson said in the time she has known Cllr Gilman, she has learnt that she is a committed and thoughtful person and she is proud to move her nomination as Deputy Mayor.

Cllr Mick Warren seconded the proposal to nominate Cllr Gilman, citing the same reasons as Cllr Wilson and said she was a very nice lady.

**Resolved:** Cllr Emma Gilman was unanimously voted as the Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield.

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The Retiring Mayor adjourned the meeting whilst the newly elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor received their insignia of office.

The Town Clerk then called upon the Mayor of Macclesfield to read and sign their declaration accepting the office of Mayor of Macclesfield.

The Town Clerk then called upon the Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield to read and sign their declaration accepting the office of Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield.

The meeting was then re-convened.

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## 3. Retiring Mayor of Macclesfield Remarks

Cllr Chris Wilcock said, the past year as Mayor has been fantastic and he feels he has grown especially with his confidence in public speaking. He said he has attended many Mayoral events and highlights include; visiting Park Lane School as this was the school his Mum worked there and Chris saw how the school had grown.

Cllr Wilcock said he was delighted and honoured to be able to open the redeveloped ambulance station and seeing his name on the wall that will be there for many years to come. He was also really touched to attend the East Cheshire Hospice cake judging and see the great work that they do and see behind the scenes. He wasn't sure if anyone was aware but he had a starring role in a pantomime this year and said he will continue going to events and concerts with his family and seeing fantastic local talent here in Macclesfield. He felt this tied in well with his Mayoral

theme of Live Macclesfield, Love Macclesfield – to see the love, local people have for their town.

Cllr Wilcock then endorsed the Town Council staff and all the events they put on throughout the year from Christmas through to Do Something Summer and the Lantern Parade. He said the Town Council staff work tirelessly and do all they can for this fantastic town that we are all a part of and he welcomed Amanda, the new Finance Officer.

Cllr Wilcock thanked Cadet Sergeant Carlisle from 201 Training Corps, who has done a fantastic job supporting him at events. He said the Chaplain was unable to be there however he thanked Reverend Andy Williams and Reverend Martin Stephens as they were fantastic. Cllr Wilcock thanked Katie and Sarah – Mayoress and Mini-Mayoress, for understanding the busy Mayoral calendar throughout the year. He said Katie has enjoyed the events she attended. Cllr Wilcock also thanked Cllr Livingstone as Deputy Mayor for his support throughout the year.

He stated he had a fantastic time fundraising for his charities – East Cheshire Hospice and East Cheshire Eye Society. They held some wonderful events – bingo, wreathmaking session, quiz, dinner and auction and a partially sighted pool competition

He announced the final figure for fundraising was £5,344.52 so each charity was awarded £2,672.26. Carley from East Cheshire Hospice accepted the cheque and Liz Durham, trustee of East Cheshire Eye Society accepted the cheque.

Finally, Cllr Wilcock congratulated Cllr Livingstone as Mr Mayor saying he will be a fantastic Mayor and wished him all the best and wished the Deputy Mayor all the best in her role also.

#### **4. Tribute by the Incoming Mayor of Macclesfield to the Retiring Mayor of Macclesfield and Consort**

Cllr Livingstone started by saying, those who know Cllr Chris Wilcock know he is hardworking, both for his family and his community. He is well known in Broken Cross and Upton community. He said Cllr Wilcock has represented our town well, both in the town as well as outside our town at events. He said not many others could have taken on his diary of events given his work schedule and Cllr Wilcock should take great pride in what he has done. Both charities have gained considerably from Cllr Wilcock's input. The awareness in the town of the Hospice and the Eye Society has been raised.

The incoming Mayor recognised the work of Cllr Wilcock's family during his role of Mayor, in particular Katie and mentioned her regular attendance at Park Fit. He thanked Katie and Sarah and presented gifts to Cllr Chris Wilcock, Katie and Sarah.

## **5. Appointment (if known) of the Mayor's Honorary Chaplain, Mayor's Cadet, Introduction to the Mayor's Charity/ies to be Supported and Plans for the Year**

Cllr Livingstone started by saying, as the now, Mayor of Macclesfield, he was reminiscent of the words of the late John Smith, *'the offer to serve out country is all that we ask'* He continued, as Town Councillors they give their time for free as volunteers and it is very rewarding. He named the Councillors he has to follow as Mayor as well as Cllr Wilcock. He stated Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake, who teaches kindness and the reminder we are here to serve and then Cllr David Edwardes, who has a deep love of the town, who introduced him to the indoor market, which he is grateful for, and also allowing him to be the apprentice Santa Clause in town. Then he said there is Cllr Fiona Wilson, who has the drive and is deeply grounded in working for the community plus all of the work she has done on helping the town recover after the pandemic. These are all guiding stars for Cllr Livingstone,

Cllr Livingston announced his plan is called *'Building our Future Together'*, based on supporting our community groups who are so important to the town, supporting our hard pressed families at a time when things are difficult, by proving free events and free bus services which also helps support local businesses and the vibrant hospitality sector.

He had previously heard a rumour that Macclesfield had no culture, and said since he has lived in Macclesfield, he has heard nearly every type of music you could manage, he has been to art exhibitions and done poetry. He says our culture enhances our lives and enhances our own and therefore he wants to support our towns culture.

This year will also be about building the pavilion in South Park, which along with new public toilets and the refurbishment of the Indoor market shows significant investment in the town.

He says he follows in the footsteps of his family, and his mother is her with hm as well as the Mayoress, his wife Susan and his 4 children. This year as Mayor will be a family production.

Finally, he announced his chosen charities as Space 4 Autism and ArtSpace and Able Sea Cadet Hugo Dingle as his Cadet.

## **6. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **7. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **Public Questions**

The meeting was adjourned to invite comments and questions from the public.

There were no public comments.

The meeting was reconvened.

## **8. Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**Resolved:** The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

## **9. Calendar Of Meetings**

**Resolved:** The calendar of meetings was approved with one amendment:

To decide at the next Full council meeting on the date of a full council meeting either 24<sup>th</sup> February 25 or 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## **10. Governance Review**

### **10.1 Financial Regulations**

**Resolved:** The financial regulations were approved.

### **10.2 Risk register**

**Resolved:** The risk register was approved.

## **11. Audit For Financial Year 2023/24**

**Resolved:**

- The Annual Governance Statement was approved for 2023/24.
- The Accounting Statements 2023/24 were approved.
- The asset register was noted.

## **12. Internal Auditor**

**Resolved:** JDH Business Services was approved as internal auditor 2024/25.

## **13. Insurance**

**Resolved:** The proposal was approved.

## **14. Investment Position Statement**

The report was noted.

## **15. External Support Services**

**Resolved:**

- Wirehouse Employer Services for HR and H&S support was approved.
- Shires Pay Services Ltd for Payroll Services were approved.
- Blain Boland & Co Solicitors for legal support were approved.
- John Greenhall & Co for finance and accountancy support was approved.

## **16. Cheshire Association of Local Councils (Chalc)**

**Resolved:** The renewal of membership of ChALC was approved.

## **17. Other Memberships**

**Resolved:** The renewal of the following membership was approved

- National Allotment Society.

## **18. Annual report**

**Resolved:** The 2023/24 Annual Report of the Town Council was approved.

## **19. Date, Time and Place of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7pm, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Macclesfield Town Hall.