



## **Macclesfield Town Council Annual Council Meeting**

**Minutes of the Annual Council Meeting and Mayor Making held on Monday  
19th May 2025 at 7pm at Macclesfield Town Hall.**

### **1. Election of the Mayor of Macclesfield for 2025/26**

Cllr Emma Gilman was elected as Mayor of Macclesfield 2025/26

### **2. Election of the Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield for 2025/26**

Cllr James Barber- Chadwick was elected as Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield 2025/26

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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 called upon the Mayor of Macclesfield to read and sign their declaration accepting the office of Mayor of Macclesfield.

The Town Clerk 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**

Councillor Sandy Livingstone congratulated Councillor Gilman on her appointment as Mayor, saying he knew she would do a great job. He shared that although he usually wore a tartan tie, on this occasion he was wearing his rugby club tie in honour of his late father, on what would have been his 80th birthday.

He reflected on the privilege of serving as Mayor during the Town Council's 10th anniversary, noting how the Council has helped give Macclesfield a strong sense of identity, as well as being instrumental in organising many of the town's events and supporting vital community work.

He thanked his family, Nicola for organising his Mayoral diary, Martine—his PA in her professional role—and all the Town Council staff for their support. He also thanked his cadet, Hugo. Councillor Livingstone recalled highlights from his year, including joining the drumming band during the 1261 Parade and riding a Chopper bike around the Market Square at the Bikeathon, all of which he described as great fun. He expressed gratitude to his fellow councillors for their support and guidance, and to all the volunteers, including the Mayoress.

He described his time as Mayor as a service to the town of Macclesfield, saying he found richness in the communities he engaged with, the charities he supported, and the town's arts, music, and culture. He remarked that there is something for everyone in Macclesfield—if you look for it.

He gave special thanks to his chosen charities, Space4Autism and ArtSpace, and presented them with cheques from his Mayoral fundraising. He highlighted three memorable moments from his year. The first was the Just Drop-In Carol Service, where a young girl with anxiety stood up and sang in front of 200 people. The second was experiencing VE Day at the Cenotaph, which included the addition of 21 names to the memorial, thanks to the work of Harry Carlisle. His final highlight was the Burns Night ceilidh, which raised significant funds for charity and filled the Town Hall with energy and dancing. He ended by thanking everyone for their support, saying he is a very lucky man, and gave a heartfelt thank you to the people of Macclesfield.

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

The new Mayor of Macclesfield thanked Councillor Livingstone, saying that he had been his authentic self and that it had been an absolute joy to serve as his Deputy Mayor. She praised him for demonstrating the true meaning of what it is to be a Mayor, always putting the community at the heart of everything he did. This was all achieved while holding down a very important full-time job, yet still managing to attend numerous engagements.

From birthday parties and railway exhibitions to pantomimes—often wearing his signature snazzy red trainers—Councillor Livingstone brought energy and personality to every event. He promised at the start of the year that it would be a family affair, and it truly was. The Mayor said it had been a pleasure getting to know the Mayoress and their lovely children, especially at the ceilidh. She noted that Councillor Livingstone has been a good listener, kind, considerate, and patient. He is, in every way, a thoroughly tremendous chap and will be a tough act to follow.

#### **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**

The Mayor introduced her Cadet, Adrian from the Royal Air Force Air Cadets. The Mayor then announced that her mayoral year will focus on children and young people. She introduced her first chosen charities, Friends of Park Lane School which supports Park Lane School catering to pupils aged 2 to 19 with a wide range of special educational needs. The school is a nurturing and

friendly environment and is a vital resource in Macclesfield. The Friends of Park Lane school work hard to fundraise to fund experiences and equipment that enhance the lives of the children.

The Mayor's second charity is CRY, Cardiac Risk in the Young. This charity became especially significant to the Macclesfield community following the tragic loss of Mia Jennings, who tragically passed away from a cardiac arrest on 21st January 2023, at just 19 years old. In her memory, Mia's parents, James and Louise, have worked tirelessly with CRY to raise awareness and promote cardiac screening among young people, aiming to prevent similar tragedies.

The Mayor told us that CRY is a national charity dedicated to preventing young sudden cardiac deaths through research, awareness, screening, and support for affected families. Each week in the UK, 12 apparently healthy young people lose their lives to undiagnosed heart conditions.

## **6. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Sarah Bennett-Wake

## **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 questions.

The meeting was then reconvened.

## **8. Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

## **9. Governance Review**

### **9.1 Risk register**

**Resolved:** This was approved.

### **9.2 Financial Regulations**

**Resolved:** This was approved.

### **9.3 Committee Membership**

**Resolved:** This was approved.

## **10. Audit For Financial Year 2024/25**

### **Resolved:**

- The Annual Governance Statement was approved.
- The Accounting Statements 2024/25 were approved.
- The Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting at which that approval was given.
- The fidelity insurance was increased to £5million.
- The asset register was noted.
- The movements in Ear Marked Reserves (EMR) were approved.

## **11. Internal Auditor**

**Resolved:** DH Business Services as internal auditor 2025/26 was approved.

## **12. CCTV Annual Report**

The report was noted..

## **13. External Support Services**

**Resolved:** The following were all approved

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

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

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

## **15. Other Memberships**

**Resolved:** The membership was approved

- National Allotment Society.

## **16. Annual report**

The 2024/25 Annual Report of the Town Council was noted.

## **17. Christmas Lights Procurement**

**Resolved:** The selected provider was approved.

## **18. Buses report**

**Resolved:** To approve the proposal approved by Services Committee.

## **19. Parks and Play Areas**

**Resolved:** £35,000 was approved for West Park.

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

The date of the next meeting of Macclesfield Town Council is 7pm, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Macclesfield Town Hall.

Chair: Cllr Emma Gilman

Clerk: Laura Smith

Meeting Closed 7:46pm