

CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in the Main Hall, Town Hall, Durham, on Tuesday 31 August 2021 at 1.30 pm.

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, Councillor A Simpson (in the Chair) and Councillors D Freeman, J Blakey, L Brown, J Chaplow, C Fletcher, A Hopgood, G Hutchinson, L Mavin, D Nicholls, R Ormerod, M Wilkes and M Wilson.

1 Prayers

Prayers were said by the Vice-Dean, Canon Michael Everitt.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors J Elmer, O Gunn, D Hall, L Hovvels, B Kellett, E Scott and M Simmons.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Recording of Proceedings

Charter Trustees consented to the taking of photographs during the meeting.

5 Clerk's Announcements

The Clerk formally reported the deaths of Honorary Alderman Joe Anderson and former Bodyguard David Philips. Charter Trustees and guests held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

The Clerk informed Charter Trustees of the retirement of Mr Harvey Evans who was a member of the Mayor's Bodyguard and wished him well for the future.

He then explained due to Covid restrictions, it had not been possible to arrange the formal Investiture for the newly elected Mayor at the Annual Meeting on the 15 June 2021 when the Mayor, Councillor Arnie Simpson and Deputy Mayor, Councillor David Freeman were elected to office.

6 The Mayor to receive the Seal and make the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor

The Mayor received the Seal and read the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Mayor of Durham which he then signed.

7 Mayor's Acceptance Speech

The Mayor was honoured to be elected Mayor of Durham and expressed his appreciation to Councillor Wilkes and Councillor Hopgood for proposing him to the position. He thanked his family, Councillor Coult, the Mayor's Bodyguard, Town Hall staff and Member Services for their support.

He confirmed that his chosen charity for his term of office would be the NHS.

The Mayor looked forward to working with local organisations, Durham Cathedral, Universities and Durham City Freemen over the forthcoming year.

8 Mayor to call on Retiring Mayor/Consort to receive the Past Mayor/Consort Jewels

The Mayor presented Katie Corrigan and Dr Bill Moir the past Mayor and Consort Jewels as souvenirs to commemorate their term of office.

9 Vote of thanks to Retiring Mayor/Consort and Deputy Mayor/Mayoress

Councillor M Wilson offered a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor/Consort Katie Corrigan and Dr Bill Moir who had maintained the high standard the position required during a most difficult time.

Katie Corrigan was elected Mayor of Durham in 2019 and became the youngest Mayor of Durham and Chairman of Durham County Council in Durham's history. She recalled her most memorable moment at Durham Miners Gala in June 2019 when the Mayor gave her Mayoral address to over 200,000 people and received 3 ovations from the crowd.

She congratulated them on their tireless efforts in relation to her chosen charity, the Cheesy Waffles project.

On behalf of Charter Trustees, she thanked the retiring Deputy Mayor/Mayoress, Councillor Hovvels and Audrey Laing for the support they had given to the Mayor/Consort over the last 2 years and wished them all well on their future endeavours.

10 Address by the Retiring Mayor

Katie Corrigan reflected on a difficult year with many challenges for local communities and recalled many highlights prior to the pandemic when she attended various events and worked with wonderful organisations.

She felt fortunate to have had the support of Dr Bill Moir as her Consort and thanked her family, friends, Councillor Hovvells and Audrey Laing for their advice and encouragement over the years. She thanked Victoria Richardson, Kevin Cook, the Mayoral Bodyguard for their help and support in carrying out her civic duties and everyone who helped raise money for her chosen charity, the Cheesy Waffles project.

She expressed appreciation for the honour of being Mayor of Durham and hoped that she had helped to inspire young people to follow in her footsteps.

11 Mayor to call on Retiring Deputy Mayor/Mayoress to receive the Past Deputy Mayor/Mayoress Jewels

The Retiring Deputy Mayor, Councillor Hovvells and the Retiring Deputy Mayoress, Audrey Laing were unable to attend the meeting and would be presented with the Past Deputy Mayor/Mayoress jewels at a later date.

12 Mayor's Announcements

There were no announcements.

13 Presentation of Mayoral Service Medals

The Mayor presented long service awards to members of the Mayor's Bodyguard, Mr Robert W Clarkson (25 years), Mr Ronald Clarkson (15 years), Mr Chris Fenwick (15 years), Mr Peter Chadwick (10 years), Mr James Cowan MBE (10 years), Mr Peter Bates (5 years) and Mr Tom Walker (5 years) in recognition of the loyal and voluntary service they had given to the Mayors of Durham.

The Mayor announced that there was no other business and thanked everyone for attending.