



**MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING (Adjourned)
of the
BUCKLEY TOWN COUNCIL
held in the
Council Chamber, BUCKLEY
on
Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7pm**

PRESENT

Councillor L Rathbone (Town Mayor) - in the Chair

Cllr V Blondak
Cllr I D Howes*
Cllr L Hughes
Cllr E J Hutchinson

Cllr H D Hutchinson
Cllr J S Jones
Cllr R B Jones
Cllr D Mackie

Cllr M J Peers
Cllr C M Preece
Cllr E L Preece
Cllr A Woolley*

*Joined remotely

NOT PRESENT

Cllr I Peters

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs K Brown - Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs L George – Personal Assistant
Mrs T J Reece – Personal Assistant
Mrs C Williams – Personal Assistant

19872- WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed Members, their friends and families and other guests to the meeting and advised of the fire exit points should an emergency arise.

The Mayor gave a speech in relation to her year in office, which she felt had been a wonderful experience, and said she would carry memories with her always. She thanked Members and Staff for the honour and support she had received from them during the year which had been invaluable. She thanked Revd C Lawton, who had presided over her Civic Service held at Bistre Church and for making it a truly special occasion.

She thanked her husband, Paul, who had been by her side on every occasion with enthusiasm and pride in everything he did. "He was my Consort, my companion and my greatest supporter. His passing had left a void that words could not fill, but the memories of him smiling, chatting and making everyone around him feel at ease, will stay with me forever". She thanked her son Michael for taking over the role of her Consort on the passing of Paul in February and how proud she was of Michael for taking on the role of Consort.

The Mayor wished Councillor Julia Jones a wonderful, enjoyable and memorable Mayoral year.

The Mayor invited representatives from The Buckley Community Fridge, The Royal Buckley Town Band and MIND up to receive a donation from the Mayoral fund.

19873- APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence and reasons were received and approved from Councillors C Cordery (prior engagement), C A Ellis (family commitments), D Ellis (family commitments), M A Parry (family commitments), D J Rose (Prior engagement) and R L Stewart (family commitments).

19874- ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Mayor sought approval from the Council to formally approve Councillor J S Jones (Mayor-elect) as the Town Mayor for the civic year 2026/27. Following a mover and a seconder, the vote was carried. Councillor L Rathbone invited Councillor J S Jones to the rostrum for the investiture of the new Town Mayor.

Councillor L Rathbone then presented Councillor J S Jones with the Chain of Office of Town Mayor of Buckley.

The Mayor gave a short acceptance speech in which she thanked the Council for the honour it had bestowed upon her in making her Town Mayor and promised to uphold the values and duties of the Town Mayor to the best of her ability and that she would do her best for the community and town.

The Mayor then announced that her Chaplin would be Revd Jenny Clarke from St Matthew's Parish Church, Buckley and her Civic Service would be at St Matthew's Parish Church, Buckley on 14th June at 11am. Her charities for the forthcoming year would be Aaron's Army and the Buckley Jubilee.

19875- MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor J S Jones read out the Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the document. The Town Clerk countersigned as witness to the Mayor's signature and announced that Councillor J S Jones was duly elected as the Town Mayor for Buckley for 2026/27.

19876- APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR'S CONSORT

The Mayor announced that she was nominating Mr James Shone as her Consort. Mr Shone came to the rostrum and the Mayor presented him with the Chain of Office of Consort.

19877- APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor sought approval from the Council to formally approve Councillor V E Blondek (Deputy Mayor-elect) as Deputy Town Mayor for the civic year 2026/27. Following a mover and seconder being identified, the Mayor

requested a show of hands to appoint Councillor V E Blondek as Deputy Town Mayor. The vote was carried. The Mayor then called Councillor V E Blondek to the Rostrum and presented her with the Chain of Office of Deputy Town Mayor of Buckley.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Members for electing her and would support the Mayor and the community to the best of her ability.

19878- DEPUTY MAYOR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillor V E Blondek read out the Deputy Mayor's Declaration of Acceptance of Office and signed the document. The Town Clerk countersigned as witness to the Deputy Mayor's signature and announced that Councillor V E Blondek was duly elected as the Deputy Town Mayor for Buckley for 2026/27.

19879- APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR'S CONSORT

The Deputy Mayor announced that she was nominating Mr Andy Wright as her Consort. Mr Wright came to the rostrum and the Deputy Mayor presented him with the Chain of Office of Consort.

19880- PRESENTATIONS

The Town Mayor asked the outgoing Mayor Councillor L Rathbone to return to the rostrum, where the Town Mayor presented Councillor L Rathbone with a memento and a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her year of office and the Town Council's Past Mayor's Badge.

The Mayor then advised Members of the Council that if anyone wished to speak in relation to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor L Rathbone, they should do so. Members and the Town Clerk paid tribute to the work undertaken by Councillor Rathbone throughout her year of office as Mayor stating how she had carried out her role with dignity and compassion and applauded the charitable monies Councillor Rathbone had raised during the year.

19881- ADJOURNMENT

The Mayor announced that the meeting was being adjourned until 7pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026 and invited all present to join her in refreshments.

CHAIR

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

