

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CIVIC COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD,
ON WEDNESDAY 6th APRIL 2016 AT 10.00 a.m.

Present

The Mayor Councillor R G Kybird

Councillors:

Mrs S J Armes
C Harvey

Mrs B J Canham
Ms F Robinson

Officers in attendance:

Tina Cunnell PPP&C Officer
Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

Minutes

- 1066/15 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
None.
- 1067/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None.
- 1068/15 MINUTES
Resolved the minutes of the Committee's meeting, held on 23rd March 2016, as received by Full Council on 29th March 2016, be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Chairman.
- 1069/15 NEW CIVIC POLICY.
The Chairman reviewed the changes that were made to the Civic Policy following the last committee meeting. Councillor Ms F Robinson raised various issues regarding the receipt of apologies, the date of Mayor Making and ladies wearing of robes and hats at civic and ceremonial occasions. The Chair and the PPP&C Officer answered the queries on apologies and Mayor Making but there was a longer debate on ladies wearing robes and hats. Councillor Ms F Robinson stated that the Councillors wearing robes only dated back to the early 1999's and she did not like wearing robes and a hat, especially in the Civic Chamber, as these made her feel very hot. After a discussion Councillor R Kybird proposed and Councillor Mrs S Armes seconded that the amended proposed Civil Policy be adopted by the Council. There followed a vote. For the proposition 2 votes. Against the proposition 3 votes. The motion failed.
The Chairman asked the members of the Committee why the vote had failed and they replied they could not support the Civic Policy on the subject of ladies wearing gowns and hats on Civic and Ceremonial occasions. Further discussion led to all but one member agreeing that ladies should wear gowns on all nominated civic and ceremonial occasions but proposed an amendment to the wearing of hats under the paragraph on page 12 of the Civic Policy (Civic Robes – Final Paragraph). Councillor R Kybird proposed and Councillor C Harvey seconded that the Civic Policy on page 12 (Civic Robes) be amended, (in red) to read:

During indoor civic events and meetings, hats may be removed with the exception of the female Councillors who must wear their civic headdress at all times (including church). **They may, however, request permission through the Mayor to remove their hats at an appropriate time in the meeting.**

There followed a vote. For the proposition 4 votes. Against 1 vote. The motion was carried.

RECOMMENDATION: The Civic Policy on page 12 (Civic Robes) be amended, in red, to read:

During indoor civic events and meetings, hats may be removed with the exception of the female Councillors who must wear their civic headdress at all times (including church). **They may, however, request permission through the Mayor to remove their hats at an appropriate time in the meeting.**

1070/15 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

1071/15 PRESS RELEASES

None.

Chairman.

Appendix 1 – Draft Civic Policy.

THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL



CIVIC POLICY

Introduction

This Civic Policy has been produced to provide as much information and guidance to Thetford towns councillors, Officers and staff as possible in order for them to carry out their civic duties to the highest standards.

Within this policy are roles and responsibilities, protocols, and processions which serve to highlight the importance of the Mayoralty to Thetford Town.

In the W.B Faraday book “the English and Welsh boroughs” it is stated that the first “Mayor Town” in England was Thetford which established its Mayoralty in 1199. London, Winchester and Exeter were granted the same privilege by royal charters later in the 13th Century.

The Great Mace and Sword of State were donated to the town by Sir Joseph Williamson who was MP for Thetford (1669-1685) and are carried by the Civic Officer and Mace Bearer at Civic Events.

The civic regalia is described in full in Annex A

THETFORD TOWN COUNCIL - OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Town Clerk’s Role and Responsibilities

The Town Clerk is the Council’s Proper Officer, the clerk is a qualified officer providing both professional advice concerning the laws of governance and administrative support to the Council. Answerable only to the Town Council as a body, the Clerk takes action to implement council decisions and acts as its finance administrator.

The Local Government Act (**LGA 1972 S112**)ⁱ empowers local councils to appoint a Town (or Parish) Clerk. In Thetford this officer is also the Proper Officer (in Law), and the Council’s Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) according to **LGA 1972 S151**ⁱⁱ.

- The Clerk is appointed by Full Council to:
- Be aware of changes in legislation or developments that affect this Council. The Clerk is responsible in consultation with the Mayor to ensure the Council and its Councillors operate within the Law, Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.
- Work with councilors in an unbiased manner. The Clerk will give clear unbiased advice to the Council to ensure decisions are made fairly and legally.
- Deal with the press, the public and all correspondence as the Councils

spokesman.

- Implement policy: Delegated powers have been given to the Town Clerk in Thetford (LGA Part VI para 101)ⁱⁱⁱ allowing him/her to take action to implement council decisions, and act upon the behalf of Thetford Town Council. This is reflected in the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders.
- Send summons, set agenda in conjunction with the chairman of the relevant committee, and be responsible for the minutes of the meeting. It is the Clerk's responsibility in law to issue a signed summons/agenda to each Councillor at least three clear days before the meeting (LGA 1972 Schedule 12, Paragraphs 10(2)(b))^{iv}). A summons reminds councillors of their duty to attend. The agenda must specify the business to be discussed and therefore the Council cannot make a decision on any matter that has not been specified. As it is a legal requirement that the Clerk signs the agenda, and therefore the clerk takes responsibility for its format and content.
- Manages the Deputy Clerk, PPP&CO, Finance Manager and Mayor's Officer and is responsible for all staff. The Deputy Clerk supports the Clerk in statutory and financial responsibilities while the Civic Secretary supports the clerk in all Civic matters.

THETFORD TOWN COUNCILLORS

Thetford Town Council has 16 Councillors representing 6 wards

Councillors Roles and Responsibilities include:

- Attending meetings of the council
- Participating in the decision-making process of the Council, through properly constituted committees.
- Adhering to the Standing Orders of the Council
- Monitoring the Council's financial Regulations and staff policies and procedures.
- Monitoring the Council's responsibilities in law including Health & Safety
- Keeping current on relevant information to enable informed decision making.
- Monitoring the annual spend of the Council and setting the budget for Council.
- Making Policy decisions.
- Working with the Town Clerk as the Council's Proper Officer and Responsible finance Officer.

- Suggesting new initiatives or development of existing policies.
- Fulfilling their duties as a ward Councillor to deal with issues raised by their constituents.
- Ensuring that the views of the community are put to the relevant persons or bodies and that the special interests of the community are safeguarded or promoted.

Town Councillors' work on behalf of the community voluntarily and receive no remuneration. They have a duty to act properly and to abide by the adopted code of conduct; to attend meetings of the Council; to register interests as appropriate. (LGA 2000 part 111, Statutory Instrument No. 1159, The Local Authorities (Model code of Conduct) Order 2007); and to represent the electorate as a whole, not just their own voters.

To stand for election on a parish council you must:

- Be a UK or commonwealth citizen or;
- Be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland;
- Or be a member of another Member state of the European Union;
- Be at least 18 years old at the time of the election.

To be eligible to stand for an election for the parish of Thetford you must be an elector of the parish or:

- For the whole of the previous 12 months have occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish or;
- During the previous 12 months have worked in the parish (as your principal or only place of work) or;
- For the whole of the previous 12 months lived in the parish or within 3 miles of the parish boundary.

Potential candidates may stand for election as the representative of a political party, or as an independent Councillor. Elections are held every four years.

The Town Council forms a corporate body with a legal existence separate from that of its members. It is accountable to the electorate and it can be taken to court: as a body it is responsible for its actions.

All Town Councillors are eligible to serve on the Towns Council's committees and/or represent Thetford Town Council by attending meetings of outside bodies such as Citizens Advice Bureau. Councillors are also eligible to be considered for the position

of Mayor And Deputy Mayor. The Mayor also acts as Chairman of the Council.

These appointments must be ratified by a meeting of the Full Council usually at the Annual Town Meeting (Mayor Making). Councillors will be expected to attend all committee meetings to which they have been appointed, or to make an apology prior to the meeting that may be accepted by other members of the committee/council. All Councillors are also expected to attend the Annual Town Meeting each May, which is organized by the clerk's office on behalf of the Mayor and is for the people of Thetford.

THETFORD TOWN MAYOR

Legislation

Any candidate for the post of Mayor must be a serving member of the Council as set out in Section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.(LGA 1972)

The election of Mayor is the first item of business at the Annual Meeting after prayers and apologies,(LGA 1972 Section 4).with the election being decided by a majority of members present and voting on the matter of the meeting(LGA 1972 Schedule 12 paragraph 39(1)).

The primary duty of the Mayor is to preside over meetings of Council (LGA 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 5(1)), ensuring meetings are conducted in a seemly manner in accordance with the procedure laid down in the LGA 1972 and Standing Orders. If the Mayor is not present the deputy Mayor has to preside over meetings of the Council.

The person presiding at the Council meeting may have a second or casting vote in the event of an equality of votes, even if he/she did not vote in the first instance. (LGA 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 4.)

The Mayor may call an extraordinary meeting of the council subject to proper procedures being followed (LGA 1972, Schedule 12, Paragraph 4)

The Office of Mayor may become vacant in the following circumstances:

- The Mayor dies in Office.
- Resigns in accordance with LGA 1972, section 84.
- Ceases to be qualified as a Member for reasons set out in, sections 80 and 81 of Local Government Act 1972.
- Failure for 6 consecutive months, to attend any meeting of council, its committees or sub committees etc, as set out in LGA 1972 section 85.
- If the Office does become vacant for any of the above reasons, an election for the post must be held not later than the next ordinary meeting of the council, after the date the vacancy occurred.

If the outgoing Mayor in an election year loses his/her seat at the Polls before the Annual Meeting, that person will still preside at the Annual Meeting until a successor has been elected and has made the necessary declaration of acceptance (LGA 1972, Section 3(2) and 3(3)).

Criteria for selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor (Agreed by full council 640/14 Nov 15)

Under normal circumstances the Mayor and Chairman of the Council will be a re-elected Councillor. The Deputy Mayor is open to all Councillors who have served three years on Full Council; the expectation will be the Mayor Elect would have served a year as Deputy Mayor. The selection of Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect should take place each year at the February Council meeting. The nominations and voting for Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect should be taken above the line. The voting for Mayor and Deputy Mayor should be recorded by a show of hands. If there are 3 or more nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor and if there is no clear majority after the first vote then the lowest recorded candidate would drop out of the process, and the process repeated until there are 2 candidates remaining. In the event of tied vote the Chairman has an additional (casting) vote. In an election year a New Council is not bound by the selection made by the previous Council. In such cases an early special meeting of the new Council will be called if requested and/or if either the Mayor-elect or Deputy-Mayor elect fails to be re-elected to the Council.

Mayor Making

Mayor making is a special meeting that is called by the Town Clerk specifically to elect the Mayor (Chairman of the Council), as a Town Council the chairman may be a designated Mayor (LGA 1972 S 245(6))ⁱⁱⁱ). Mayor Making is traditionally held on the first Tuesday in May (except for in an election year) and this is directly followed by the Annual Town Meeting.

The following are the customary agenda items for the Mayor Making Ceremony.

- Election of Town Mayor
- Apologies and absences
- Declarations of interest
- Appointment of the Mayors chaplain.

Councillors/spouses/partners are usually invited to attend. All electors have the right to attend the annual town meeting.

Office of Mayor

The Mayor is entitled to an allowance to help them meet the expenses of being in office (LGA 1972 s 15(5))^{iv}). There must be no cost to the public purse beyond the allowance. Any functions and events held by the Mayor over and above the civic diary occasions are the responsibility of the Mayor and must be of no cost to the public purse.

In office the Mayor has several levels of responsibility and will be expected to manage

their time and that of their civic secretary accordingly. To avoid miscommunication all Mayoral engagements at any level must be organized through the civic secretary. If there is any area of doubt the Town Clerk as the Responsible Finance Officer and Proper Officer is to be consulted to provide professional advice and to protect the Council. The Mayor will also have the support of the Civic Officer and Civic Secretary at all times.

Responsibilities of the Mayor include:

Chairman of the Council

- The Mayor's main responsibility is to chair the meetings of the Full Council for the duration of the civic year.
- The Mayor is to ensure that Town Council meetings are conducted in a business like fashion, and that Councillors adhere to the Councils Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.
- When the Mayor stands, anyone speaking must stop speaking and sit down.
- The Mayor has responsibility to ensure that all councillors receive adequate and appropriate information enabling everyone to make informed decisions.
- The Mayor has a responsibility to ensure that all councillors are treated equally with dignity and respect, and allowed to express their views without fear or favour.
- The Mayor is expected to work with the Town Clerk and Council Officers to ensure the Town Council is operating within the legal framework and that Councillors abide by the code of conduct.
- The Mayor is one of the bank signatories, and has the responsibility of monitoring that the council is operating within its Financial Regulations.
- The Local Government Act (LGA 1972 s 15) states that a Council must appoint a chairman who must also be a member of Council. They are elected at the Mayor making ceremony and this is the first item on the agenda. On Thetford Town Council the chairman is also the Mayor.
- During a full Council meeting the Mayor manages discussion, summarises debate and uses the agenda to help the meeting run smoothly and on time. Thetford Town Council Standing orders contain a guide for those presiding at meetings of Thetford Town Council and these may be referred to if there are procedural difficulties during a meeting. Some of the Standing orders are compulsory as they are laid down in Acts of Parliament and cannot be amended; these are highlighted in bold font.
- The Mayor should plan priorities and targets with the Town clerk for their year in office, and consider how they will work with the Council and community to achieve these aims The Town Clerk is the main contact for advice and guidance on Mayoral duties, procedures and responsibilities.

The Civic Secretary co-ordinates the civic diary to ensure that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are well organised, and to avoid duplication of their duties.

The Town clerk has the final say on the style and content of the agenda for Full Council meetings, and is responsible for finalising the minutes of meetings for Full Council to consider.

The Town clerk is the Responsible finance Officer and the Proper Officer for the council, and as such must ensure that the democratic process is maintained; no individual Councillor, including the Mayor may make individual decisions on behalf of the council unless given delegated authority by Full Council usually in consultation with the clerk; and no individual Councillor or group of Councillors may exert pressure on the office of the Clerk.

Civic Host

This is the second most important responsibility of the Mayor. The Mayor will be expected to host functions and events in the Councils venues. The Mayor will be supported by the Civic Officer with assistance from the Town Clerk if deemed necessary.

The Mayoral year is extremely busy with many engagements, often entailing a social life not of their making or choice. It should be noted that if an organization has taken the time to invite the Mayor, it is often that the function they have been invited to is the organizations most important one of the year. Therefore the Mayor needs to research details of the organization or individual to be visited, in order for them to be prepared to say a few words if necessary and to be able to engage fully with the hosts about their organization or event. The Town Clerk may be able to assist with speech writing if requested.

The Mayor should use all events as an opportunity to build rapport with the residents enabling them to receive insights and opinions from the community. Similarly this is an opportunity for the Mayor to take the councils vision and messages out to the community

The Mayor is often the public face of the Council, representing the council in a civic capacity and sometimes speaking on behalf, but as stated above, no Councillor, including the Mayor, may make decisions on behalf of the council unless given delegated authority.

Anyone wishing to become Mayor must take into account the effect of their role upon their families (especially the Mayoral Consort/Mayoress) employment, non-council interests, political interests and their relationship with other councilors and constituents. The Mayor should consider with great care any acceptance of office (other than traditional or honorary) for other local organisations during their Mayoral year due to the amount of time their Mayoral duties will take up. They should also not give patronage to any appeal or society unless satisfied of its relevance to the area, its non-party political nature and its propriety.

The office of Mayor is a public institution and does not belong to the individual who occupies the role. The tradition and formality of the role is often of great importance to the community and must be respected as such (even if the individual does not agree

with its role or importance).

The Mayor should uphold the highest standards in all aspects of public life. The Mayor must act to enhance the Council's reputation as their behavior can bring both respect and disrespect to the Town. It is actually a duty upon all elected members not to bring the Council or Town into disrepute.

The Mayor has a duty to lead the citizens in an appropriate and dignified manner. When in an official capacity (and whenever in robes and or the Mayoral chain) the Mayor should always act with decorum and dignity and be of smart appearance. The Mayoral partner whether Mayoress or Consort will also be expected to conform to agreed rules and procedures. In order to do this there are procedures to be followed (protocol). The role of protocol is to enable events to proceed smoothly within known constraints. Many of these procedures are laid down in national etiquette and civic ceremonial. Local amendments may be made due to local customs and traditions or the needs of safety and security (e.g. processing along public highways).

The Mayor enjoys precedence only in their own civic area (Thetford Town parochial boundaries). If invited to attend functions in neighboring areas consent should be obtained from the civic head of that area. This is usually a formality, but courtesy and protocol dictate that permission must be sought and obtained. Mayoral robes and chains may not be worn outside of the parochial boundaries without the approval of the appropriate civic head.

During the year there are many events held within Thetford set out by local or National custom. Some of these events require a reception to be held by the Mayor. When the event is a civic event the expense is incurred from the Council's civic budget. Other events, at the discretion of the Mayor, should be of nil cost to the Council, with costs covered by income from the event itself or the Mayor's own finances.

It is recognised that the relative wealth of an individual should not be a hindrance to them taking on the role of Mayor, and Thetford Town Council has a tradition of allocating a Mayor's Allowance each year which comes out of the Council's Civic budget. The Mayor's Allowance becomes an income of the Mayor, which the Mayor may then use to fund events such as the Mayor's Ball, which are at the discretion of the Mayor.

As well as assisting in holding events within Thetford, the Mayoral Allowance may also contribute to costs associated with attending events held by other organisations/authorities both within and outside Thetford.

As a gesture of goodwill it is hoped that the Mayor is able to attend at least one civic event from each neighbouring authority during their civic year. However, in recent years there has been an increase in the number of fundraising events held. Attendance of these is at the discretion of individual Mayors, and must be paid for from the Mayoral allowance. Where there is a clash of dates, the decision to attend a local or neighbouring civic event is to be taken by the Mayor. If advice is needed they should always refer to the Town Clerk.

Dignitary and Ambassador of the Council

The Mayor is expected to represent the Town Council at functions and events to which the Mayor has been invited. The Mayor must be attended by the Civic

Officer (or a Councillor in the absence of the Civic Officer) if the Mayoral chain and robes are worn. If neither Civic Officer nor Councillor is available the Mayor may still attend, but must wear the Mayor's pendant (day chain) instead of the Mayoral Chain.

Organiser of the Mayor's Charity fundraising events.

The Mayor may organise social functions and fundraising events for registered charities if they wish to do so. It is customary for the Mayor to aim to raise money to be given to the Mayor's charities at the end of the civic year. It is also customary for the Mayor to organise a Mayor's Ball.

Calling and chairing of the Annual Town Meeting.

The Council must by law hold an Annual Assembly to which all the citizens (parishioners) of Thetford are invited (**LGA 1972 s9(1)**)^{ix}. It is the Mayor's responsibility to call the meeting and to send out the agenda (through the Clerk's office).

Mayoress/Consort

It is customary for the Mayor to have a Mayoress/Consort to accompany them in their Civic role. If the Mayor is married/has a partner, then they become the Mayoress. If the Mayor is female and married/has partner then they become the consort. If the Mayor chooses a friend or associate to assist with their Civic duties then they become the consort.

Role

The Mayoress/Consort is an unelected position they will therefore play no part in the administration or role of the Council. Any requests from the Mayoress/Consort must be delivered via the Mayor to the Officers.

Mayors Chaplain

It is customary, but at the Mayor's discretion, for the incoming Mayor to appoint a chaplain of their choice. The traditional role of the chaplain is to offer spiritual guidance, but they now often help with arrangements for the Civic Service, say grace at civic dinners, and may be asked to say prayers at ceremonial council meetings.

Even though the individual Mayor may not belong to any religion or be a non-believer, it should be acknowledged that the office of Mayor relates to the role not the individual filling the post. It is recommended that the Mayor has a Chaplain to act as a liaison with the local religious community, and it can be important to have this link in understanding and supporting all sections of the community. As with the office of Mayoress, the Mayor's Chaplain (or other similar title) has no legal status.

Office of Deputy Mayor

As well as Town Mayor this Council is authorised to elect a Vice-Chairman, to be

known as Deputy Mayor (**LGA 1972 S15(6)(7)(8)(9)**).^x

To be considered for Deputy Mayor, you must be a serving Councillor (**LGA 1972 S15(6)**).^{xi}

The Deputy Mayor receives no allowance, although it is custom and practice for the Deputy Mayor to deputise for the Mayor and attend functions and events in the absence of the Mayor. The Deputy Mayor has a chain of office and has the duty and responsibilities of the Mayor whilst acting in the Mayor's absence, in addition to his/her normal responsibilities as a Councillor. There is also a Deputy Mayor's Consort Chain. These are kept in the safe and, when needed, the Deputy Mayor will need to arrange access to the safe during office hours, or by negotiation. It is generally accepted that the incoming Deputy Mayor will be treated as Mayor Elect for the following year. However at February full council both positions will still be voted on.

MAYORAL/CIVIC

Mayoral Allowance

Although Thetford Town Councillors receive no remuneration, it is custom and practice for the Mayor to receive an allowance to assist in carrying out his/her duties throughout the civic year according to (**LGA 1972 s15(5)**); the amount of the allowance is decided as part of the annual budgeting process and confirmed by Full Council.

There is a budget for Civic Expenses, which must be agreed by Full Council, from which amount the Mayoral Allowance is drawn. The Civic budget is strictly managed by the Town Clerk. In the case of motor mileage any mileage will be reimbursed at the Inland Revenue approved rate. It must also say that they are responsible for entering these expenses claims on their personal tax returns at the end of each year in order that any tax may be reclaimed as appropriate".

All other costs incurred as a consequence of Mayoral activities are to be borne by the incumbent Mayor.

Mayoral Diary

It is essential that the official diary is organised and maintained through the Town Council office. This is to avoid confusion, double booking, and embarrassment. It is recognised that the Mayor will be personally acquainted with many local individuals as well as Mayors/Chairmen and that there is a risk of informal arrangements being made for events to take place. Please avoid the temptation and ask that all arrangements are made formally, in writing, through the Clerk's office.

It is essential that all engagements are received in the Clerk's office in writing (or by email) and are coordinated through the Civic Secretary and not made 'ad hoc'. ***This point cannot be stressed strongly enough!***

The diary entries are organised with liaison between the Mayor, Civic Officer, and Deputy Mayor. The overall maintenance of the diary is the responsibility of the Civic Secretary. Responses by the Mayor should be timely so as to give the

Civic Secretary sufficient notice in order for responses to be returned in time when RSVP dates are to be taken into account.

Civic Robes and Hats

The Robes for Councillors, including the Mayor and Mayoress, are 'one size fits all'. If further robes or hats are required, or any repairs or alterations are necessary, these will be organised by the Civic Officer and Town Clerk and paid for from the civic budget.

Robes must be worn on all nominated civic and ceremonial occasions, failure to do so will result in the individual being refused participation in the ceremony, event or meeting. When wearing robes suitable, smart dress must be worn as clothing beneath robes is clearly visible. During indoor civic events and meetings, hats may be removed with the exception of the female Councillors who must wear their civic headdress at all times (including church). When headdress is carried indoors it should be carried in the left hand. They may however request, through the Mayor, permission to remove hats at an appropriate time in the meeting. Headdress is to be worn perfectly straight (not at an angle) with the ribbon at the back.

There are some events when the Mayor wears the full robes in addition to the chain. At Certain civic events the Town Clerk, Macebearer and the Civic Officer are also expected to wear full Civic dress. Smart dress code is expected of all other Councillors. Ladies may wear hats (daytime events). Past Mayors should wear the Past Mayor's pendant. Decorations may be worn. The robes may be worn at other occasions if deemed appropriate by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor.

Annual Town Council fully robed events

Ceremonial Full Council	February
Commonwealth Day	March
Mayor Making/ Annual Town Meeting	May
Civic Service	June
Armed Services Day	June
Battle of Britain Service	September
Remembrance Sunday	November (Sunday closest to 11 th)
Ceremonial Full Council	November
Mayor's Carol Service (if applicable)	December

Other Annual Mayoral events

Civic Reception

Mayor's Ball

Christmas light switch on

Civic events and functions organised by other councils and organisations

Other fundraising events for the Mayor's charities.

Mayors Ball and other formal events hosted by the Mayor

These may be held at any venue, usually within the boundaries of the town, and at any time of the year at the discretion and convenience of the Mayor. They may take the form of a formal dinner (The Mayor's Ball), when it is customary to hold it at a venue within the parochial boundaries of Thetford.

It is customary to invite other civic heads and other special guests to attend. No civic funds should be used for these occasions other than the Mayor's allowance. All expenses are customarily covered by ticket sales or financed by the Mayor. Any surpluses are customarily contributed to the Mayor's charity fund.

On receiving guests the Civic Officer will establish the identities of the guests and announce them. The Mayor, Mayoress/Consort should greet the guests as they enter in full Robes and Insignia, and may be accompanied by Deputy Mayor/Consort.

The Loyal Toast is always proposed by the Civic Officer. NB: The Loyal Toast is simply "Ladies, Gentlemen – The Queen"

The Mayor replies to the speech given by the guest speaker (if there is one). It is also usual for the Mayor to propose the toast to the Town of Thetford.

A thank you on behalf of the guests is usually given by a distinguished guest who has been briefed by the Civic Officer.

Mayoral Insignia

It is the responsibility of the Town Council, through the Civic Officer, to ensure that there is an adequate insurance policy, and for the Town Clerk to check that the security for the use of the chain complies with the terms of the insurance policy.

It is the responsibility of the Civic Officer to ensure the safety of the chain(s) and any other insignia; their own personal safety; and the safety of the Mayoral party, at any events or functions where the Civic Officer is in attendance. It is the responsibility of the Mayor/Mayoral party to enable the Civic Officer to discharge their responsibilities by not placing unreasonable demands that may jeopardise his/her safety. The Mayoral chain and any other insignia must be returned to a secure location when not in use.

When the Mayor is undertaking official engagements and is wearing full robes and insignia, the Civic Officer should always be in attendance.

It is the responsibility of the Civic Officer to take charge of the insignia following

each event and to ensure its safe return to the Town Council or Mayor.

SECTION E

THETFORD TOWN CIVIC OFFICER

Civic Officer Roles and Responsibilities

The Civic Officer is line managed by the Town Clerk, and has responsibility to:

- Manage the Mayor's day-to-day diary in partnership with the Civic Secretary, and to ensure that the electronic diary and responses to invitations are up-to-date and accurate.
- When Mayoral invitations are received information must be passed to the Civic Secretary. After consultation with the Mayor; if the response is a no, the invitation is passed onto the Civic Secretary for action.
- Help the Mayor to organise and provide all necessary help and support for all Mayoral functions and events that are civic duties.
- Attend the Mayor at functions and events to which the Mayor is invited in the Thetford parochial boundaries (if the Mayor is wearing the robes and chains of office); if the Civic Officer is unavailable this duty may be carried out by a Councillor or Officer of Thetford Town Council.
- Attend the Mayor at functions and events to which the Mayor is invited outside of the Thetford parochial boundaries (if the Mayor is wearing the robes and chains of office); if the Civic Officer is unavailable this duty may be carried out by a Councillor or Officer of Thetford Town Council.
- Help the Mayor to organize, and works with the Mayor to run charity, and social, functions and events. The Mayor (and Councillors) are asked to note that the Civic Officer has duties over and above that of attending on the Mayor (see Annex B).
- If the Civic Officer is unable to undertake duties within normal working hours (averaged over an agreed period – agreed by the Town Clerk as the Civic Officer's line manager) then the Mayor is advised that they may make use of the services of other Officers (to act as Civic Officer).
- Attend upon the Town Mayor and Consort (and if required drive them in a vehicle appropriately insured by, Thetford Town Council) to and from any such functions deemed appropriate for the wearing of the Mayoral chains;
- Prepare the Council Chamber for all civic occasions and meetings, ensure that the premises are maintained, available and are secured following their use;
- Be responsible for the regular and efficient cleaning and minor maintenance of the civic insignia and for ensuring the safe custody of the insignia at all times;

- Care for all the civic robes and deal with any necessary repairs and alterations; and assist Town Councillors when they are worn;
- Carry out any other reasonable tasks within the remit of the Town Council on the lawful instruction of the Town Clerk that are to be carried out within the normal working week (averaged over a calendar month of 37 hours per week).
- The Civic Officer has a series of other responsibilities and the Mayor is asked to ensure, wherever possible, that the Civic Officer is able to spend sufficient time in the office to enable him/her to carry out the other responsibilities of his/her post without incurring additional working hours. Where possible the Mayor is asked to invite other Councillors to act as Civic Officer for occasions where the Civic Officer time is at a premium.

CIVIC PROCESSIONS

The Civic Officer will be responsible for ensuring that everyone is present who is to join the procession, and placing participants in the correct order and maintaining the correct order of procession. It is expected that all will proceed in a dignified manner. The Civic Officer will moderate the pace of the procession to ensure that the least able attendees are able to keep up without undue stress. Bandmasters should be informed by the Civic Officer of the need to set a slow pace.

A police presence is not guaranteed for security, or traffic management. The Town Clerk, as Responsible Officer, has a duty to uphold Thetford Town Council's legal responsibility to ensure any public events are properly managed. The Civic Officer has a duty to support him/her in this. Any dignitaries that join us who are not specifically included below must be placed in the order dictated by the order for formal processions.

The order of processions is made up of national protocols.

Mayoral Party

Sword Bearer (Civic Officer)

Mace Bearer

Mayor and Mayoress/Consort

Town Clerk

Deputy and Deputy Mayoress/Consort

Councilors' who are past Mayors

Councilors' in order of seniority

NCC Chairman

BDC Chairman

Other guests

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor's Cadets

Civic Party

Sword Bearer (Civic Officer)

Mace Bearer

Lord Lieutenant (Queens Representative)

Mayor and Mayoress/Consort

High Sheriff

Town Clerk

Deputy Mayor and Mayoress/Consort

Freeman of the Town

Members of Parliament

Town Councillors who are past Mayors

Councillors in order of seniority

Visiting Mayors

Chairman of NCC

Chairman of BDC

Invited guests

Deputy Town Clerk

Mayor's Cadets

