

## Notes of Mayoral Role review meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011

### **Present former mayors and SD, DO and NS.**

- Suggested that a handbook be prepared for Mayoral use to outline the role for MBC's purposes. To outline a minimum requirement and act as a primer for incoming mayors.
- To review the Constitution to clarify the role of the mayor as currently it does seem to be a role made up to be whatever the present incumbent wishes it to be and it was felt this could cause problems. This refers to the public role rather than the constitutional role.
- Mayor should always be the "public face of the Melton Borough" on all occasions and we need to "Show the Chain" in a more organised manner. How many people in the borough could actually name the mayor?
- The mayoral Budget needs to be more tightly controlled with possibly monthly reports showing the actual costs and budget outstanding "unallocated".
- Charity – there was general support for this but two concerns – fund raising could become competitive with the mayor trying to outdo his/her predecessors and it does have administrative consequences if a unique charity set up. General feeling the benefiting charity should bear the administrative burden as they are gaining the mayors support and funds.
- Hospitality should be limited to locality – the 7 local boroughs were the ideal.
- Mayor should visit all schools in the borough over the year.
- Deputy Mayor should always be the default position if the Mayor cannot make a specific event – currently a feeling that it currently can be something of an afterthought to invite the deputy mayor if the mayor is busy.
- Young Mayor –question if the funding for this is now in its last year and how crucial is this funding –could we/should we carry on with the role without this funding. General feeling was this was an important role.
- A question of the visit to the Children's Holiday Centre in Mablethorpe is needed – some local children go but it is a costly exercise?
- General need to clarify the use of taxis – can the mayor form part of a Green Travel Plan? This can be a very costly element and it was generally questioned as to it's value for money.

- What is the mayoral discretion on the budget? – it is suggested the mayoral budget period be harmonised with the council budget year to prevent confusing overlap. Perhaps we need a checklist of needs for budget purposes – what regular events need to be paid for annually and what is left for the discretion of the mayor.
- A large discussion took place about the mayors PR support and several suggestions were made –
  1. Put the mayoral events on the members monthly calendar so councillors can see what is happening (the young mayor and deputy mayor could also be shown here)
  2. Have a mini biography for the mayor (and deputy) to include in publicity material.
  3. Publish the weekly Mayors Schedule in the Melton Times so the electorate can see what the mayor is doing each week.
  4. Explain the Coat of Arms, what does it mean or represent – a great educational tool....
  5. Corporate or Borough Gifts – what type do we or should we give? What value should we set on such gifts? Could they be sponsored by local firms? Is there a policy and if not should there be one?
- A final Constitutional point or two – the quorum issue was raised but that has now been addressed by the Constitution Working party but it was suggested that in full council the mayor would not normally vote but would be the Casting Vote in the event of a tie and that this casting vote should be non-political (not subject of any form of whip) but be purely on the opinion of the mayor based on the discussion heard and evidence presented.