



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NEW MAYOR OF FOLKESTONE 2024-25

At the Annual Council Meeting, held on Tuesday 7 May in front of invited guests and dignitaries, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Belinda Walker gave a farewell speech after a successful year having raised over £3,000 for her nominated charities (Folkestone Rainbow Centre, Shepway Spectrum Arts and Age UK Marigold Centre).

Councillor Walker was presented with a gift from Councillors and thanked for her hard work in promoting Folkestone and raising money for charity throughout the year.

Councillor Abena Akuffo-Kelly was elected The Worshipful Town Mayor of Folkestone for the year 2024-25. The Mayor did not announce just one Chaplain, but hopes to have a different Chaplain at all events to be as inclusive as possible and a Cadet from the Kent Armed Forces Cadets will be named as the Mayor's Cadet at a future meeting.

The Town Mayor announced that her nominated charities for the year will be Folkestone Nepalese Community, Home-Start Shepway and Folkestone Community Fridge.

Councillor Akuffo-Kelly commented "It is the greatest honour and privilege to be given the opportunity to serve the people of Folkestone. Whether you had the luck to be born here, you fell in love with the beauty of Folkestone whilst on holiday or visiting, whether you are a woman, man, gay, straight, young, old, a business, a charity, a place of worship. Whether you look like me, or don't look like me, whether you believe in or agree with the same things as me, or you don't. You are all my neighbours and all my community, and I will serve all of you in equal measure. I look forward to seeing you

around Folkestone and would love to celebrate with you at all your events. If you see me, please wave and I am certain to wave back.”

Councillor Lucy McGirr was elected as Deputy Town Mayor and thanked Councillors for the nomination.

If you would like to invite the Mayor to an event, please contact

georgina.wilson@folkestone-tc.gov.uk or call 01303 257946.

ENDS

Photos attached

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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