



Section F

CIVIC ROLE OF THE MAYOR

INTRODUCTION

The following is a summary of information on the civic role of the Mayor. The Mayor is ex-officio, Chairman of the Council, with the responsibilities of that office. Specific responsibilities in respect of chairing Council meetings are set out in Article 5 and Part 4 of this Constitution.

1. Chains of Office

The Chain of Office is worn for civic functions when the Mayor is the host and for other functions at the Mayor's discretion. Whenever the Chain is worn, the Mayor's Attendant remains on the same premises to safeguard this irreplaceable and historic symbol of office. The Robe is worn on those occasions when the Mace precedes the Mayor, i.e. on "In State" occasions.

2. Presidency and Patronage

The Mayor is invited to become president/patron of long-standing organisations during their term of office.

3. Invitations

The Mayor is invited to attend a wide range of community events during the mayoral year.

4. The Mayoress/Mayor's Consort

The Mayor may choose a Mayoress/Consort for the year. This can be any person over the age of 18. The nomination is then approved by Council.

5. The Deputy Mayor

The Deputy Mayor supports the Mayor during the year and represents the Mayor at events he/she is unable to attend. The protocol guiding the Mayor also guides the Deputy Mayor.

6. The Poor Fund

The Poor Fund is a Registered Charity which operates under the terms of a Trust.

Its objectives are expressed as, "to the relief of persons in the Borough of Eastbourne temporarily in need of financial assistance by reason of poverty, unemployment, illness or such like causes as the Mayor or Town Clerk or their successors in office in their absolute discretion may determine". Grants are only available to individuals for the relief of poverty and they must be residents of Eastbourne.

7. The Mayor's Charity

The Mayor nominates a Registered Charity to support every year and will establish a Charity Committee to organise fund raising events.

8. The Lord Lieutenant

The Lord Lieutenant is the Sovereign's representative within the County of East Sussex and takes precedence over the Mayor at functions

9. The High Sheriff

The High Sheriff is the Sovereign's representative in the County for all matters relating to the Judiciary and the maintenance of law and order.

The High Sheriff takes precedence in the County immediately after the Lord Lieutenant except when precedence is deferred to the Mayor when he/she is attending an event within the Borough.

11. Attendance at Political Events

A Mayor is traditionally neutral and steps back from politics for the term of office therefore it is not usual for a Mayor to attend any public party-political event.

It must be recognised, however, that the Mayor remains an elected Councillor with a political affiliation.

12. Returning Officer – Elections

The Mayor is the Returning Officer for the Parliamentary Elections. The Chief Executive as 'Acting Returning Officer' exercises all functions of a Parliamentary election, with the possible exceptions of receipt of the writ and declaration of result.