

Mayoral Citation:

Councillor Michael Brunt, Mayor of Merton 2021-2022

Resolved unanimously: that the council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Michael Brunt for the dedicated manner in which he has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2021-2022.

Councillor Brunt was elected to the council in 1990 and has served as a councillor for 18 of the last 32 years. Elected Mayor at a virtual meeting in April 2021, Councillor Brunt took over from Lower Morden Councillor Sally Kenny and started his official duties on May 19. Councillor Brunt most recently represented Figge's Marsh Ward and is a former leader of Merton Council and a former Cabinet Member for the Environment.

Two of his grandparents were born in the borough in the 1890s, and his parents lived all their lives in the borough. Councillor Brunt was also born in Merton and grew up in the borough.

Councillor Brunt developed a passion for healthcare during six years spent working for the Donald Woods Foundation and for HIV charities in South Africa. As he helped lead Merton out of the COVID-19 pandemic, his theme for the year focused on health, care and wellbeing.

Councillor Brunt selected the Christian Care Association as the first of his two nominated charities. The association provides emotional support and practical help for people who have no recourse to public funds.

His second charity was Marie Curie, the UK's leading end-of-life charity. Marie Curie provides frontline nursing and hospice care, as well as a free support line for those coping with terminal illnesses.

Councillor Brunt has helped raise more than £58,000 for his chosen charities. Fundraising highlights during the year included a sleepout for 60 people at AFC Wimbledon in November. The event was organised by the Dons Action Group and raised £44,000 for three local charities.

He also organised a charity cricket match for the Mayor's XI against a team from Mitcham Cricket Club, which was played on reportedly the oldest pitch in the country. Councillor Brunt then hosted teas and tours at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club – the venue for the first Mayor's Ball since 2019 – as well as at Plough Lane.

Councillor Brunt presented the freedom of the borough to Dickie Guy at AFC Wimbledon's ground. As a season-ticket holder, Councillor Brunt was privileged to watch the side in their first full season back in the borough, and he was also delighted to welcome the London Broncos to Merton. In recognition of Silver Sunday, a celebration of older people that also tackles issues of social isolation, Councillor Brunt hosted an afternoon tea at Tooting and Mitcham Hub.

Aside from his charity work, Councillor Brunt led the tributes to fallen servicemen and servicewomen on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, and he led citizenship ceremonies throughout the year as part of his civic duties. With a focus on promoting community spirit as Merton recovered from the pandemic, Councillor Brunt championed testing and vaccination, and he visited more than half the schools in the borough to highlight how Merton could become a positive example for more local boroughs.

Councillor Brunt's joint chaplains are Rev Belemo Alagoa and Rev Alison Judge from the Merton Priory team. The Mayor has been supported throughout by his consort, his mother, Joan Brunt, and by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Edith Macauley MBE.

The Mayor has conducted approximately 300 engagements, which include 70 citizenship ceremonies and 30 school visits.

Councillor Brunt's mayoralty will be remembered for the way in which he prioritised health and wellbeing and engaged with young people in Merton's schools. Merton runs through Councillor Brunt to his core and he's extremely passionate about safeguarding the borough's future. Through his charity work and civic duties, he encapsulated the borough's strong collective spirit. He's been especially impressed by the way communities have come together over the year as Merton recovers from the pandemic.

Consorts and chaplain

The Mayor will announce that her consort will be Floyd Blake

The Deputy Mayor will announce that her consort will be Jennifer Christie

The Mayor's and Deputy Mayor's consorts will receive their badges of office

The Mayor will announce her chaplaincy arrangements.

The outgoing Mayor's group

Councillors Michael Brunt and Edith Macauley, the Mayoress (Joan Brunt) and Deputy Mayor's Consort (Carvel Patrick Okesola) will be presented with their badges. Flowers will be presented to Joan Brunt and Councillor Macauley.

Vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor

Councillor Stringer will move and the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Councillor Anthony Fairclough will second a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor. The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Nick McLean and the Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group, Councillor Edward Foley, will also speak to the motion.

Councillor Michael Brunt will respond to the vote of thanks and then be presented with a framed citation.

Business Items of Meeting

- Election of Leader of the Council
- Vote of thanks to Former Councillors
- Constitution of Committees and other bodies

End of the meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting councillors, officers and guests are asked to stand and remain standing until the Mayor has left the council chamber

Entrance of the Mayor

The Mayor's attendant carrying the ceremonial mace will precede the Mayor's party into the chamber and ask everyone to stand.

The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive and the Mayor's chaplain will enter and go to their places on the dais.

The Mayor's attendant will place the mace on its stand and ask all to remain silent for the Mayor's chaplain.

After prayers the Mayor will ask everyone to be seated.

The Mayor will ask if there any apologies for absence from councillors.

The Mayor will ask if any councillors have interests to declare.

The Mayor will announce that the meeting is being livestreamed

Election of the new Mayor

The Mayor will call for nominations for the election of Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal Year 2022–2023.

Councillor Alambritis will move and Councillor Whelton will second: "That Councillor Joan Henry is elected Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal Year 2022-2023".

The Mayor will announce the result of the election.

Councillor Henry will be escorted into the chamber by Councillors Fraser and Whelton.

The retiring Mayor will congratulate Councillor Henry on her election as Mayor and leave the dais.

The Mayor (Councillor Henry) and Chief Executive will sign the declaration of acceptance of office and the Mayor will receive her chain and badge of office.

Flowers will be presented to the outgoing Mayor's consort

Appointment of the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor will announce that Councillor Akyigyina will be her Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive will sign the declaration of acceptance of office and the Deputy Mayor will receive her badge of office.



**London Borough of Merton
Annual Council Meeting
Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 19:15
Council Chamber
Merton Civic Centre, Morden**

**All present are asked to rise on the entrance of
the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Michael Brunt**

This meeting is being livestreamed