

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

25 July 2017

Commenced: 4.00 pm

Terminated: 4.45 pm

Present: Councillor Bowerman (Civic Mayor)

Councillors Affleck, Bailey, Beeley, Bell, Bray, Buckley, Cooney, Cooper, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Homer, Jackson, Kinsey, Kitchen, D Lane, J Lane, McNally, Middleton, Newton, Patrick, Pearce, Peet, K Quinn, S Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Sharif, Sidebottom, M. Smith, T. Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, F Travis, L Travis, Ward, Warrington, K Welsh, Wild and Wills.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bowden, Buglass, Cartey, Dickinson, Piddington, Robinson, Ryan, R Welsh and Whitehead.

(Councillor Bowerman, Civic Mayor, in the Chair)

17. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

In opening the meeting, the Civic Mayor welcomed those present to this important and historic occasion to admit Sir Geoff Hurst MBE to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

The Civic Mayor made reference to Sir Geoff's footballing achievements and in particular when he wrote his name in the history books when on 30 July 1966 he scored three goals in England's 4-2 victory over West Germany and remained the only man to have scored a hat-trick in a world cup final. He won 49 England caps, scoring 24 goals and in club football played for West Ham, Stoke City and West Bromwich Albion.

Sir Geoff's achievements were not only limited to the sports field. He had made an impressive commitment and contribution to charity including a long association with Sparks, a children's medical research charity, and had also supported the NSPCC and Brainwave, and more recently the Alzheimer's Society, a charity with which Tameside Council was proud to be associated.

In conclusion, the Civic Mayor stated that it was a pleasure and an honour to put the Motion to Council that Sir Geoff Hurst MBE, be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

The Civic Mayor then put the Motion to the vote of the Council and it was unanimously –

RESOLVED

That in recognition of his outstanding contribution to England's historic World Cup win in 1966 and in celebration of his childhood connections to Tameside, the Council do hereby admit Sir Geoff Hurst MBE to be an Honorary Freeman of Tameside Metropolitan Borough pursuant to the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, that being the highest honour which the Council has the power to bestow upon him.

The Motion being duly carried, the Civic Mayor invited Sir Geoff Hurst MBE to sign the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough and his signature was witnessed by the Civic Mayor and the Executive Leader of the Council.

The Civic Mayor then presented Sir Geoff with a framed presentation scroll and gift in commemoration of the occasion.

18. HONORARY ALDERMEN

The Civic Mayor extended a warm welcome to the new Honorary Alderman for the Borough, Mr Michael Ballagher and Mr Alan Whitehead. Mrs Margaret Downs, new Honorary Alderwoman, was unable to be present at the presentation.

The Civic Mayor then asked Councillor Kieran Quinn to speak in greater detail about why the awards had been given.

The Executive Leader informed Members that Mr Michael Ballagher had been elected to represent the Dukinfield / Stalybridge ward on Tameside Council in 1980 and served until his retirement in 2002. During his 22 years on the Council he served as Chair of the Education Committee, and as Vice Chair of the Leisure and Personnel Committees. Mike's vocation, however, was heritage and he excelled in his role as the project lead for heritage and was key to organising the millennium celebrations. In 1996 he became the ceremonial head of the Borough, holding the office of Mayor.

Mr Alan Whitehead represented the ward of Ashton Hurst between 1990 and 2015 and was re-elected 6 times and his electoral success spoke volumes about his commitment to public service. Alan was a Councillor who was also trusted with significant responsibilities during his 25 years' service and there was scarcely a year when he was not Chair or Vice-Chair of one of the Council's Committees or Panels. Alan was also Civic Mayor in 1995, the highlight of the year being the opening of the Arcades shopping centre in Ashton.

Mrs Margaret Downs was an exemplary Councillor for Denton South for 24 years retiring in 2016. Margaret was a well-know and highly regarded local, campaigning, community Councillor. During her 24 years as a councillor she served as Chair of the Equal Opportunities Committee, Vice-Chair of the Environment and Engineering Committee, Chair of the Denton District Assembly and Member of the Fostering Panel.

In conclusion, the Executive Leader thanked Mike, Alan and Margaret for their service and commented that they were three very worthy recipients of the title of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman; a title which would enable them to continue their impeccable record of service to the people of Tameside.

The Civic Mayor then invited Mr Ballagher and Mr Whitehead to sign the Roll of Honorary Aldermen of the Borough and presented them with a framed presentation scroll.

19. CIVIC MAYOR

Councillor Warren Bray extended a formal welcome on behalf of the Council to the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

The Civic Mayor responded by thanking Councillor Bray and all Members for the honour bestowed upon her. She also expressed the Council's thanks to the retiring Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor and made presentations to them on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick, retired Civic Mayor, responded on behalf of the former Civic Party.

CHAIR