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ratification at the next Council Meeting



MINUTES
OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL
TUESDAY 16 JULY 2013

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillor B Buschman - Mayor
Councillor R Hetherington – Deputy Mayor

Councillors L J Abbey, R A Adair, J R Bannister, D G Bell, Mrs D M Boote, S J Boote, N K Boughton-Smith, N A Brown, R L Butler, H A Chewings, J N Clarke, T Combellack, L B Cooper, J A Cranswick, A M Dickinson, J E Fearon, J E Greenwood, R M Jones, K A Khan, I I Korn, E J Lungley, A MacInnes, Mrs M M Males, D J Mason, G S Moore, B A Nicholls, E A Plant, F A Purdue-Horan, S J Robinson, D V Smith, Mrs J A Smith, P Smith, J A Stockwood, Mrs M Stockwood, B Tansley, J E Thurman, H Tipton, D G Wheeler

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann Bremner MBE
31 guests

OFFICERS PRESENT:

D Banks	Executive Manager - Neighbourhoods
A Graham	Chief Executive
K Marriott	Executive Manager - Transformation
D Mitchell	Executive Manager - Communities
L Reid-Jones	Democratic Services Manager
P Steed	Executive Manager – Finance and Commercial
D Swaine	Executive Manager - Operations & Corporate Governance

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillors Mrs S P Bailey, J E Cottee, G Davidson, M G Hemsley, N C Lawrence, G R Mallender, S E Mallender, Mrs J M Marshall, F J Mason, T Vennett-Smith

OPENING PRAYER

The Mayor welcomed Councillors and Guests to this special meeting following which the Mayor's Chaplain led the Meeting in prayer.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

2. Honorary Freedom of the Borough

Councillor Clarke presented a report of the Chief Executive which informed Members that this extraordinary meeting of Council had been called to

consider the nomination of Mrs Ann Bremner MBE, General Manager of The Friary, to be granted the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Rushcliffe and with it the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Borough'. The report stated that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, a *Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, admit to be Honorary Freemen of the Borough persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough*'.

Councillor Clarke stated that it was a great pleasure to have the honour of proposing the motion to confer the Freedom of the Borough on Ann Bremner MBE. He reminded Council that only persons of outstanding distinction or those who had given eminent service to the Borough were admitted as Freemen of the Borough. As such there had only been seven recipients, 6 of whom had been involved in politics. He stated that Ann Bremner was in a unique position as the only woman to have received the award. Councillor Clarke continued by informing Council of the work of the Friary Drop In Centre which had begun 25 years ago. He believed it had started as 'small beginnings' but was now a vibrant support centre. He highlighted that there were eight staff, 150 volunteers and that The Friary had 17,000 visits each year, with 90 people being fed each day and around 50 food parcels being distributed daily. He also acknowledged that the Mayor usually attended The Friary on Christmas Day to assist with Christmas Dinner.

Councillor Clarke recognised the level of support given to the users of The Friary by Ann Bremner, and in doing so highlighted her drive, commitment and enthusiasm in her work. He also drew attention to her role nationally whereby she had been consulted by Government and also other agencies.

In concluding Councillor Clarke stated that this award was for Ann Bremner's work locally in the Borough and that she had been nominated in recognition of her achievements with regards to The Friary on Musters Road over the last 25 years. He added that the nomination had been put forward by the Trustees of The Friary, many of whom were in attendance.

Councillor MacInnes congratulated Ann Bremner on behalf of the Labour Group on her nomination for the highest award which could be bestowed by the Council and reminded Council that it was only awarded in exceptional circumstances. He reiterated that it had only been given seven times in the 30 years of the Borough Council. He believed it was a special award, and even more special as the recipient was from the voluntary sector. He stated that the award marked 25 years of The Friary and the distinguished career of Ann Bremner and highlighted the working in collaboration between The Friary and the ward councillors. He recalled the beginnings of The Friary and the community of people with complex needs living in the Musters Hotel who were in need of assistance. He considered that from this The Friary began and now provided a significant range of services. Councillor MacInnes spoke of his experience of people who had grown in confidence and self esteem, and whose lives had changed for the better having been helped by The Friary.

Councillor MacInnes recognised Ann Bremner's inspiration and leadership qualities within the team and believed that she had served the community with distinction and was truly worthy of this award.

Councillor S Boote stated that in an age when people glorified transient success for themselves it was right and proper to recognise people who served the community and put others first. He believed that decency and respect were the founding principles of The Friary and that the Borough should be thankful for it. He acknowledged that it was a rare privilege for Council to award this honour and expressed his delight on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group.

Councillor Khan said that it gave him enormous pleasure to support the nomination as he had known Ann Bremner personally for over 20 years. He believed that her dedication and selflessness were most remarkable. He reminded Council that often Ann Bremner dealt with people who presented great challenges, but with her resilience and patience she was able to assist them. Councillor Khan added that the award also recognised the staff and volunteers of The Friary.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY that:

- a) pursuant to Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Rushcliffe be conferred on Ann Bremner MBE, in recognition of eminent service rendered to the Borough of Rushcliffe; and that
- b) Ann Bremner MBE be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Rushcliffe.

The Mayor formally announced the admission of Ann Bremner MBE as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Rushcliffe following which everyone present gave a standing ovation. The Mayor and Chief Executive signed the Certificate of Admission which was presented to Ann Bremner MBE by the Mayor.

Ann Bremner MBE thanked Council for considering her worthy of this prestigious honour and acknowledged the relationship which had developed between The Friary and the Borough Council. She highlighted a number of factors including financial donations from the Council, the Mayors' visits on Christmas Day, the valuable links with Housing Officers. Ann Bremner thanked the trustees of The Friary for nominating her for the Honour and stated that it was recognition for the work they had carried over the last 25 years. She added that this was also recognition of the people who used the centre, the staff and volunteers, the trustees and her family.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

MAYOR