

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN**

**8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 (6:00PM)**

**Present**

Councillor John Aston,	Councillor Michael Kelly
Councillor Jeffrey Baker	Councillor Howard Martin
Councillor Graham Ballinger	Councillor Christopher Nicholls
Councillor Arthur Buckley	Councillor Fran Oborski
Councillor John-Paul Campion	Councillor Tracey Onslow
Councillor Nathan Desmond	Councillor Michael Partridge
Councillor Helen Dyke	Councillor Julian Phillips
Councillor Peter Dyke	Councillor Ken Prosser
Councillor Howard Eeles	Councillor Mike Salter
Councillor Douglas Godwin	Councillor Michael Shellie
Councillor Jenny Greener	Councillor Dixon Sheppard
Councillor Paul Harrison	Councillor Kenneth Stokes
Councillor Marcus Hart	Councillor John Thomas
Councillor Pauline Hayward	Councillor Nigel Thomas
Councillor Malcolm Hazlewood	Councillor Stephen Williams
Councillor John Holden	Councillor Gordon Yarranton

**C.46 Prayers**

Prayers were said by the Reverend Linda Catlow, Minister of Callow Hill Methodist Church Stourport on Severn.

**C.47 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ahmed, Akathiotis, Clee, Fairbrother – Millis, S Hayward, Hingley, Meekings, Millis, and Price.

**C.48 Conferment of title of Honorary Alderman**

The Council had before it the recommendation of the Cabinet from its 26<sup>th</sup> June 2008 meeting to confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon former District Councillor John Simmonds in recognition of his outstanding service to the authority and the local community over many years.

The Leader of the Council expressed his great pleasure in proposing that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred upon John Simmonds. In his speech he related details of the commitment to serving the community, reminding Council of the positions he had held in local politics. He reminded the Council of a number of interesting anecdotes and referred to John

Simmonds interest in trees and other rural concerns. The Leader also drew attention to the support Mrs Simmonds had given her husband in his role as a Councillor. Councillor Hart articulated his delight in seconding the motion and recounted some of John Simmonds political achievements.

Group Leaders and other Councillors congratulated John Simmonds on his receipt of the title of Honorary Alderman. They paid tribute to his outstanding achievements and his long and dedicated service to the community and the inspiration and assistance he had given his fellow Councillors.

On behalf of Officers past and present, the Chief Executive added his congratulations and acknowledged the 50 years that John Simmonds had given in public service. The Chief Executive paid tribute to John Simmonds astuteness as a politician, his popularity with all parties and his ability to maintain a position of influence within the Council.

When the formal resolution had been passed, as set out in the decision below, the Chairman of the Council presented John Simmonds with his Badge of Office of Honorary Alderman and commemorative scroll. He also presented a small gift and bouquet of flowers to Mrs Simmonds.

John Simmonds unveiled a plaque in the Council Chamber inscribed with his name as Honorary Alderman.

The Council's first Honorary Alderman Mrs Mills added her congratulations. She explained that it was a great honour to be present at the meeting and was delighted that the Council recognised the contribution that John Simmonds had made to public life. She further thanked the Council for the generous welcome that she had been shown adding that it was lovely to be amongst friends. Alderman Mills received prolonged applause from all present at the meeting.

John Simmonds then thanked the Council for the award and for making him feel so welcome. He related a number of entertaining anecdotes about his life in public service and also expressed his thanks to the people of Rock Parish for their continued support. He further thanked all Councillors and staff, past and present for their support during his time as a Councillor.

At the conclusion of the meeting John Simmonds received a lengthy ovation from all present at the meeting.

## **Decision**

**(a) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the honour and title of “Honorary Alderman” be bestowed on John Clive Simmonds in grateful recognition of his eminent and distinguished service rendered to Rock Ward and Wyre Forest District Council for 31 years.**

**(b) The common seal of the Council be affixed to a scroll conferring the title of Honorary Alderman upon John Clive Simmonds.**

**(c) A Badge of Office and scroll be presented to John Clive Simmonds.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.10.

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