

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

10TH SEPTEMBER 2015 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: C Rogers (Chairman), A T Hingley (Vice-Chairman), S Arnold, J Baker, R Bishop, J-P Campion, S J Chambers, S J M Clee, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, P Dyke, J Greener, I Hardiman, S Harrington, J A Hart, M J Hart, K Henderson, L Henderson, N Knowles, T A Muir, F M Oborski MBE, J Phillips, M Rayner, J A Shaw, J D Smith, S J Williams and G C Yarranton.

C.36 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Aston, G W Ballinger, J R Desmond, S E Fearn and D Little.

C.37 Declarations of Interests by Members

There were no declarations of interests.

Councillor R Bishop entered the meeting at this point, 18.02pm.

C.38 Conferment of Title of Honorary Alderman

On the recommendation of Cabinet at its meeting on 14th July 2015 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon former District Councillor

Pauline Vera Hayward

in recognition of her outstanding service to the authority and the local community over many years, Councillor M Hart, the Leader of the Council, moved that:

- (a) Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the honour and title of "Honorary Alderman" be bestowed on Pauline Vera Hayward in grateful recognition of her eminent and distinguished service rendered to Blakedown and Blakedown & Chaddesley Wards and Wyre Forest District Council over a period of 33 years.
- (b) The common seal of the Council be affixed to a scroll conferring the title of Honorary Alderman upon Pauline Vera Hayward.

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- (c) A Badge of Office and scroll be presented to Pauline Vera Hayward.

Councillor Hart referred to the long and distinguished service that former District Councillor Hayward had given to Wyre Forest District Council and to the wards that she had represented. Her contributions had been valued and measured.

Councillor Helen Dyke, Leader of the Independent and Liberal Group, seconded the Motion and referred to former Councillor Hayward's hard work over many years, and as a champion of rural areas.

Councillor N Knowles, Leader of the Labour Group, congratulated former Councillor Hayward on her appointment as Honorary Alderman and wished her well for the future.

Councillor M Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Independent Community Health Concern Group, supported the motion and said that Pauline Hayward had always been an honourable person and was much-loved by her community.

Councillor F Oborski said that Pauline Hayward had given outstanding service to Wyre Forest District Council and to her wards. She was looking forward to seeing her in her role as Honorary Alderman.

Councillor S Williams supported the motion. He had first met former Councillor Hayward in 1999 when there were only 4 Conservative members on the Council. They formed a "special relationship" when the Blakedown & Chaddesley ward was formed in 2004, which they both represented until 2015. She was a regular attender at fund-raising events by successive Chairmen.

Councillor A Hingley congratulated former Councillor Hayward on the honour. Councillor Hingley had moved into Blakedown in 1982 when Pauline Hayward was first elected. She read a note of thanks from the secretary of the Blakedown, Churchill and Broome Conservative Association.

Councillor J-P Campion spoke in support of the motion and referred to Pauline Hayward's role in articulating the concerns of rural areas, and the way in which she quietly made a difference for the communities she represented. He thanked her for her advice during the time he was Leader of the Council.

Councillor N J Desmond entered the meeting at this point, 18.20pm.

The Chief Executive spoke on behalf of present and former staff of Wyre Forest District Council to echo the comments that had already been made and to thank former District Councillor Hayward for the courteous way in which she had dealt with staff throughout her time as a member of the Council. He also referred to the very large majorities she had enjoyed in the 2010 and 2014 elections when he had acted as returning officer.

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The Chairman referred to the presence at the meeting of the Chairmen of Chaddesley Corbett, Churchill and Blakedown, and Rushock parish councils. Councillor Laurence McCurrich of Rushock parish council was invited to address the meeting. He expressed thanks to Pauline Hayward for her support for the parish council and the warm welcome she extended whenever members of the parish council attended meetings at the District Council, and gave her best wishes for the future. The Chairman also read out a letter from Councillor Don Billington, Chairman of Broome Parish Council, who was unable to be present and wished to extend the thanks of that council for the support that Pauline Hayward had given to the parish.

Having put the motion to Council, the Chairman declared that it had been **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

C.39

The Chairman presented Honorary Alderman Hayward with her Badge of Office and a Scroll, and invited her to address the Council. Honorary Alderman Hayward thanked the Council for conferring the title on her. She felt that she had not done anything special to deserve it. She had enjoyed her 33 years as a councillor, and that this had been a privilege and a position of trust. She reflected on the many meetings with members of the Royal Family on visits to Wyre Forest, and the introduction of computing during her time with the Council. Her year as Chairman of the Council had been a busy one for her late husband and herself. She considered herself fortunate to have served the wards for so long and thanked the Council again for the honour that had been conferred on her.

The Leader of the Council then presented Honorary Alderman Hayward with some flowers and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.29 p.m.