

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER

28TH SEPTEMBER 2016 (8.10PM)

Present:

Councillors: R Bishop (Chairman), J D Smith (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, J Baker, J-P Champion, S J Chambers, N J Desmond, S E Fearn, N Gale, I Hardiman, J A Hart, M J Hart, K Henderson, V Higgs, A T Hingley, N Knowles, D Little, N Martin, S Miah, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, C Rogers, J A Shaw, R J Vale, S J Walker, S J Williams, R Wilson and G C Yarranton.

C.49 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: S J M Clee, J R Desmond, H E Dyke and P Dyke.

C.50 Declarations of Interests by Members

There were no declarations of interests.

C.51 Conferment of Title of Honorary Alderman

On the recommendation of Cabinet at its meeting on 14th June 2016 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon former District Councillor:

Mike Kelly

in recognition of his outstanding service to the authority and the local community over many years, Councillor M J Hart, 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 Mike Kelly in grateful recognition of his eminent and distinguished service rendered to Habberley and Blakebrook Ward and Wyre Forest District Council over 34 years elected service.
- (b) The common seal of the Council be affixed to a scroll conferring the title

of Honorary Alderman upon Mike Kelly.

- (c) A Badge of Office and scroll be presented to Mike Kelly.

Councillor M J Hart referred to the distinguished and unstinting service Mike Kelly had given to his fellow citizens of Kidderminster Town and the District of Wyre Forest. He added that the decisions Mike had made over last 34 years were always for the good of the residents he served, and he fully deserved the title of Honorary Alderman.

Councillor F M Oborski MBE, Deputy Leader of the Independent and Lib Dem Group, was honoured to second the proposal and referred to the former District Councillor Kelly as 'Mr Kidderminster', and passed on a message of congratulations from a former colleague, Brian Binley.

Councillor N Knowles, Leader of the Labour Party, supported the proposal and stated how proud the Labour Group were of former District Councillor Kelly for all the work he had done for the party and for the people of Wyre Forest over many years. He added the duties of the office of Honorary Alderman would be in safe hands and the compassion and care for others that former District Councillor Kelly had shown over the years would continue.

Councillor J Baker expressed how much he respected former District Councillor Kelly and that he fully deserved this title. He also thanked Mrs Chris Kelly for all the support she had given to her husband over the years.

Councillor M Rayner, Leader of the Independent Community and Health Concern Group, said that Mike Kelly had always been a well respected Member of the District Council and was proud that he was now a Member of the Kidderminster Town Council. She spoke of the kindness he had shown to her when she was first elected to the District Council and became a Charter Trustee.

Councillor D Little said that he was proud to have served on the Council many years ago with former District Councillor Kelly, and congratulated him on his honour.

Councillor N Gale spoke of the support former District Councillor Kelly had given her in her District Council role on the Community Housing Group Board and as a Charter Trustee. She was proud to serve alongside him on the Kidderminster Town Council and referred to his as one of life's 'people persons' and congratulated him on his honour.

Councillor I Hardiman spoke of the thoughtfulness he had been shown by former District Councillor Kelly, when he was elected to the Blakebrook and Habberley South Ward in 2010, and wished him well for the future.

Councillor J Shaw, spoke of an incident in 1990 when former District Councillor Kelly had been involved in a very serious accident, and to make

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a recovery as he did and continue to serve the community as he does shows his strength of character. He added that he had always served with integrity of purpose and he fully deserved the honour which had been bestowed on him, and he is - as he has always been - a man of the people.

Councillor T Onslow said that Mike Kelly was an absolute gentleman and passed on her congratulations to him.

Councillor N Desmond commended former District Councillor Kelly on his outstanding public service career which spanned over 40 years. He referred to him as a formidable political opponent, a man of integrity and he fully deserved the title and there would be no doubt that he would be an outstanding Honorary Alderman for the District of Wyre Forest.

Councillor A Hingley spoke of a trip to the Kidderminster twinning town of Husum in 2005, where it was apparent former District Councillor Kelly had forged friendships with the twin town and was pleased that he was serving on the newly created Kidderminster Town Council, which he had campaigned for over the past 40 years. She passed on her congratulations and thanked him for all he had done for Kidderminster.

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 passed on their congratulations to him.

He read out a letter from the former Chief Executive of the Council, Stan Baldwin, which made particular reference to the major contributions former District Councillor Kelly had made in the leisure services area where he had gained a regional reputation for his innovative leadership.

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

C.52

The Chairman presented Honorary Alderman Kelly with his Badge of Office and a Scroll, and invited him to address the Council.

Honorary Alderman Kelly thanked the Council for conferring the title on him and was humbled by all the kind words which had been said. He stated that he first was elected to Kidderminster Borough Council in 1970 and the people he met over the years had all had an influence on him in one way or another.

He said that he had enjoyed his time on the District Council and thought long and hard about accepting the title. He thanked his wife Chris, for all the support she had given him over the years, and thanked the Council for bestowing the title upon him.

The Chairman invited Honorary Alderman Kelly, Members, Officers and guests to a reception and declared the special meeting closed at 8.55pm.