

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER**

19TH JULY 2023 (7.30PM)

Present:

Councillors: C Rogers (Chairman), J F Byng (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, E Bourne, B Brookes, L Carroll, V Caulfield, G Connolly, N J Desmond, R Drew, P Dyke, K Gale, N Gale, J Griffiths, I Hardiman, P Harrison, M J Hart, K Henderson, D Little, M McDonnell, S Miah, D Morehead, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow, M Rayner, D Ross, D Russell, A Sutton, L Whitehouse, N Wilson and P W M Young.

The Chairman welcomed the Chairman, Manager and four players from Kidderminster Harriers FC to the meeting.

C.88 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: H E Dyke and N Martin.

The Chairman announced that the meeting was purely celebratory with no substantive budget or policy recommendations. Any members who were season ticket holders or sponsors, or have any other connections with the Harriers, should declare an other registrable interest (ORI) and may stay and participate fully in the celebratory proceedings.

C.89 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor M Hart declared an ORI as he is a season ticket holder and a trustee of Kidderminster Harriers FC Football in the Community.

Councillor T Onslow declared an ORI as her close family includes season ticket holders.

Councillor F Oborski MBE declared an ORI as she is a season ticket holder and a match sponsor for home matches.

Councillor L Carroll declared an ORI as he is a match day volunteer and a season ticket holder.

Councillor G Connolly declared an ORI as he is a season ticket holder.

C.90 Recognition of Promotion of Kidderminster Harriers Football Club

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In recognition of promotion of Kidderminster Harriers FC, the Chairman moved a Resolution that Wyre Forest District Council;

- congratulates Kidderminster Harriers Football Club on its promotion to the Vanarama National League, and pays tribute to the playing squad, members of the board, manager, other staff and volunteers on this achievement;
- welcomes the return of nationwide league football to Kidderminster and the economic benefits and recognition for the Club, Kidderminster and wider district that will arise from the promotion;
- wishes the Club further success in the future.

The Chairman said it was a privilege to bring the recommendation to Council. He said the Harriers were formed in 1886. The Club found a home at Aggborough; a location provided by the then Borough of Kidderminster, and the local authority had hosted the Harriers ever since.

He added that he was proud to be a supporter of the Club and officially recognise this amazing achievement. He sincerely hoped the local Club would go on to achieve bigger and better things in the future.

The Leader of the Council said he was delighted to second the motion and it gave him great pleasure to congratulate the Club on its promotion.

Councillor M Rayner, Deputy Leader of the Independent and Green Group, supported the proposal and stated that the Club had a long and celebrated history over the years. She added that the Club was an inspiration to many for their motivation and perseverance to overcome challenges. She thanked the Club for the enjoyment it gave to the community.

Councillor L Whitehouse, Leader of the Labour Group, congratulated the Club on their success and wished them all the very best of luck achieving further success over the coming season.

Councillor F Oborski MBE, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, said the promotion was a fantastic result. She said, when the Harriers do well, the whole town does well; it raises people's spirits in the town and there is a general feel good factor around the place.

Councillor N Desmond congratulated the manager Russell Penn, the players and the Chairman of the Club Richard Lane on a truly fantastic season and a fantastic achievement.

Councillor J Byng, as a former director of Bromsgrove Rovers FC, spoke about some of the great games between the Harriers and Rovers. He said when Rovers went into decline and obscurity, the Harriers did the opposite and rose through the leagues to the dizzy heights of the Football League. He said it was great to see the Club on the rise again. He congratulated them on the last season and wished them well for the forthcoming one.

Councillor G Connolly said that the promotion had brought a real community spirit back into the town and there was a real buzz around the

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place. He wished the Club all the very best for the future. Councillor L Carroll said as a dedicated season ticket holder he has had the privilege of witnessing countless unforgettable moments including the FA cup run. He quoted the words of Diego Maradona; *when people succeed it is because of hard work, luck has nothing to do with success*. He said the words were true of the players and management staff of this remarkable Club.

Councillor S Miah said that football was inspirational and that, if you believe, you can do anything. He added that as our local Club it was an inspiration to see where the Club was a few years ago to where it is now. He said that from all levels football galvanises everyone. He recognised that there were still many issues in society but was grateful for the Kick It Out campaign. He congratulated the Club on their success.

Councillor T Onslow congratulated the Club on their success. She said it was absolutely brilliant for the people of Kidderminster and long may the success continue.

Councillor N Gale commended the Club for the work of the Academy and the positive impact it has within the community. As ward member for the area where the training ground is based, she spoke about the outstanding way the youngsters from the Academy behave when they are walking around the estate; they are always polite and respectful and are great ambassadors for the Club.

The Chairman thanked members for their contributions and sharing their stories.

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

C.91

On being declared carried, the Chairman presented the Club with a copy of the Resolution and invited the Chairman of the Club, Richard Lane, to respond.

Mr Lane said he was proud to be at the meeting and thanked Council for their kind words and shared history of the Club, that links everybody with their families. He said the Club was lucky to have such a dedicated manager and praised the team and board members for all their hard work, dedication and belief they have in the Club.

He added that the Club were prepared for the new challenges that lay ahead. However, with the support from the Council, local businesses and the wider community, he was confident they would deal them.

The Chairman declared the end of the special meeting at 8.15pm, and invited guests, Elected Members and Officers to a buffet.

The meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website <https://wyreforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

