

Special Council

The Special Council Meeting held on Monday, 3 December 2018 at 6:30pm in Council Chamber, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Bernadette Khan (Chair);

Councillors Humayun Kabir (Vice Chair), Hamida Ali, Muhammad Ali, Jamie Audsley, Jane Avis, Jeet Bains, Sue Bennett, Margaret Bird, Simon Brew, Alison Butler, Jan Buttinger, Janet Campbell, Robert Canning, Sherwan Chowdhury, Chris Clark, Stuart Collins, Mary Croos, Jason Cummings, Patsy Cummings, Mario Creatura, Nina Degrads, Jerry Fitzpatrick, Sean Fitzsimons, Felicity Flynn, Clive Fraser, Maria Gatland, Lynne Hale, Simon Hall, Patricia Hay-Justice, Maddie Henson, Simon Hoar, Steve Hollands, Yvette Hopley, Shafi Khan, Stuart King, Toni Letts, Oliver Lewis, Stephen Mann, Maggie Mansell, Stuart Millson, Vidhi Mohan, Michael Neal, Tony Newman, Steve O'Connell, Oni Oviri, Ian Parker, Andrew Pelling, Jason Perry, Helen Pollard, Tim Pollard, Joy Prince, Badsha Quadir, Helen Redfern, Scott Roche, Pat Ryan, Paul Scott, Manju Shahul-Hameed, Niroshan Sirisena, Andy Stranack, Gareth Streeter, Robert Ward, David Wood, Louisa Woodley and Callton Young

Apologies: Councillors Badsha Quadir (for lateness), Alisa Flemming, Richard Chatterjee, Luke Clancy, Pat Clouder and Karen Jewitt

PART A

35/18 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests. Members confirmed their disclosure of interest forms were accurate and up-to-date.

36/18 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There were no items of urgent business.

37/18 **Granting of the Freedom of the Borough**

The recommendations from the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee for granting the Freedom of the London Borough of Croydon were put forward to Members of the Council.

Madam Mayor, Councillor Bernadette Khan, invited Councillors Tony Newman, Leader of the Council, and Tim Pollard, Leader of the Conservative

Group, to respectively move and second each of the Freedom of the Borough recommendations and to make a short speech in support of the recommendations.

In moving the recommendation for Mr Roy Hodgson to receive the Freedom of the Borough, Cllr Newman highlighted Mr Hodgson had been born and had grown-up in the borough but was better known for his success in managing high profile football teams. It was noted that very few could match his achievements. His leadership of Halmstads BK, Malmo FF, Inter Milan, Liverpool FC and the England national team was specifically highlighted. Under his management, England gained qualification to the 2014 World Cup to the pride of the nation. In 1999, Mr Hodgson had coached a World XI team in a match played to honour Nelson Mandela. Mr Hodgson was reunited with Croydon when he was employed by Crystal Palace Football club in 2017. He went on to lead the team to Premier League survival last season. It was also noted that Mr Hodgson had brought integrity, dignity and passion to all of his roles at a time in the 1970s and 1980s when football did not always portray those values.

In his speech Councillor Tim Pollard shared that it was a pleasure to second the nomination in recognition of Mr Hodgson's lifetime achievements in domestic and international football, and as a leading member of the Croydon community. Mr Hodgson's return to Croydon and Crystal Palace Football Club was welcomed and his successful efforts in keeping the club in the Premiership would be remembered for many years to come. It was also noted that Mr Hodgson had been a teacher at Monks Hill Comprehensive School.

Councillor Newman went on to make a speech in moving the motion for Ms Donna Fraser to receive the Freedom of the Borough. He shared with Members of the Council that she had been born in Thornton Heath, and had a stunning record in domestic and European athletics as a 400m runner. She had represented the country at four successive Olympic Games, an achievement matched by very few. It was highlighted that since retiring from athletics, Ms Fraser had continued to inspire and give hope to many. She had publicly battled breast cancer and had supported many cancer charities. Additionally, Ms Fraser had put much back into sport as UK Athletics' Equality, Diversity and Engagement Lead and then as the organisation's Vice President.

Councillor Tim Pollard shared that it was a delight to second the nomination based on Ms Fraser's achievements within the borough, in addition to her representation of the country on many occasions and given that she had won medals at many major championships.

Ms Fraser was recognised for being a role model not only in sporting achievements, but also in the way she had overcome injuries and other health issues to come back stronger. Her charitable work had inspired the whole of the community. Ms Fraser was noted as a worthy recipient of the borough's highest civic honour.

Madam Mayor thanked Councillors Newman and Pollard for their remarks. The recommendation to award the Freedom of the Borough to Mr Roy Hodgson and Ms Donna Fraser was put to the vote and carried.

The Freedom of Borough was granted to Ms Donna Fraser and Mr Roy Hodgson. Both guests received their citation, an Honorary Freedom badge and a gift, which was presented by Madam Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Humayun Kabir.

Both recipients of the Freedom of the Borough were invited to make a speech in reply.

In her speech Ms Donna Fraser highlighted to Members of the Council that her connection to the borough began when her parents had come to Croydon in the 1960's and expressed that it was her upmost desire to give back to the borough. Ms Fraser gave her thanks to her sister, Jenny Fraser, who had taken her to the tracks at the Croydon Arena, and Mike Fleet, who had introduced her to athletics through the Croydon Harriers. She gave her thanks for being granted the Freedom of the Borough which she highlighted as a huge honour.

Upon receiving his award, Mr Roy Hodgson shared with Members of the Council that Croydon had played a massive part in his life; he had his first taste of coaching in Croydon. He highlighted that it was a great honour to be awarded the Freedom of the Borough and gave this thanks for being nominated. He had never dreamt that his journey in life would take him from walking to Selhurst Park with his father and sitting on the cross-bar at the Holmesdale Road end to managing the club he had always supported and being recognised by Croydon Council for his career in football. He dedicated his receipt of the Freedom of the Borough to his parents.

38/18 Admission of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen

The recommendations from the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee for admission to the Distinguished Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen were put forward to Members of the Council.

Councillors Newman and Pollard respectively moved and seconded the recommendations. The Council agreed to the nominations contained in the report for the admission to the Distinguished Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen.

Madam Mayor invited Councillors Newman and Tim Pollard to make a short speech in support of those former Councillors who were nominated.

In moving the recommendation, Councillor Newman paid tribute to former Councillor colleagues from both the Labour and Conservative Parties:

- Carole Bonner was an unsung hero for the support she offered to many through her community work, dedication and support for the then Fieldway Ward;
- John Wentworth gave many dedicated years of public service to the Council. He served as the Labour Group Chair and led many policy discussions especially related to his passion - the good education of all of Croydon's young people;
- Wayne Trakas-Lawlor brought positivity and inspiration into his role as Mayor. He had transformed the lives of many he met for the better;
- Mike Selva served the Council with a quiet distinction and dignity which few managed. He also took his role as a local ward councillor very seriously helping hundreds of local people resolve their issues;
- Timothy Godfrey's contribution as Cabinet Member for Culture had been significant especially in ensuring the future of Fairfield Halls, which would deliver an iconic cultural centre for residents; and
- Mark Watson's contribution to bashment music was highlighted along with his support for the go-digital campaign and the regeneration of Surrey Street. His greatest achievement was bringing the Pride Festival to Croydon.

In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Tim Pollard paid tribute to the over 200 years of combined service to the people of Croydon represented by those being admitted to the Honorary Roll: 129 years from the former Conservative Councillors and 72 years from Labour:

- Sara Bashford had to step down before the last election due to taking on a job that was politically restricted but her track record of service made her a very worthy nominee as a former Member of Cabinet and a Deputy Leader of the Conservatives. Personal thanks was given for her support;
- Mike Fisher was a Leader of the Council from 2006 to 2014 taking enormous pride in the work of his administration which included bringing Westfield to Croydon;
- Dudley Mead had a thirty-eight year career which saw him Chair many committees, in addition to having been Mayor, a Leader of the Opposition, Council Deputy Leader and a respected Cabinet Member for Housing;
- Margaret Mead served for a twenty-eight years, was Mayor and for many years led on Adult Social Care and health integration as Cabinet Member. Her policy knowledge was encyclopaedic; and
- Chris Wright served for twenty-eight years, was a champion of Old Coulsdon and was a font of knowledge on planning issues. He held a variety of senior positions in his career and his depth of knowledge and experience was what made him so respected.

Madam Mayor thanked Councillors Newman and Pollard for their remarks. The recommendation to admit the eleven former Councillors to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen was put to the vote and carried.

Admission to the Distinguished Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen was granted to Sara Bashford, Carole Bonner, Mike Fisher, Timothy Godfrey, Dudley Mead, Margaret Mead, Mike Selva, Wayne Trakas-Lawlor, Mark Watson, John Wentworth and Chris Wright. Each was presented and received their citation and a gift from Madam Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

39/18 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Not required.

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Signed:

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Date:

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