

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Friday, 14 March 2014 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jackie Addison, Anne Affiku, Pauline Beck, Duwayne Brooks, Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Amanda De Ryk, Damien Egan, Julia Fletcher, Patsy Foreman, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Darren Johnson, Helen Klier, Chris Maines, Jim Mallory, Joan Millbank, John Muldoon, Alan Smith and Eva Stamirowski.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye, Councillor Christine Allison, Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor David Britton, Councillor Suzannah Clarke, Councillor Alexander Feakes, Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons, Councillor Madeliene Long, Councillor Pauline Morrison, Councillor Crada Onuegbu, Councillor Jacq Paschoud, Councillor John Paschoud, Councillor Philip Peake and Councillor Susan Wise.

208. Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that this special meeting of the Council was to confer upon Baroness Doreen Lawrence of Clarendon the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham.

The Vice-Chair then announced that, under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, a Borough Council can admit to the Honorary Freedom of the Borough, 'persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough'. He then called upon the Chief Executive to read out the resolution of the Council passed at a meeting of the Council on 26 June 2013.

The Chief Executive formally reported that it was resolved that Baroness Doreen Lawrence be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham "in recognition of her work in seeking justice for her son, Stephen and creating a positive and dynamic legacy in his honour through the setting up of the Stephen Lawrence Centre and Charitable Trust. To do one of these things in the wake of such a devastating personal tragedy would be remarkable but to do both indicates someone deserving of the highest recognition. The dignity and humanity that she has demonstrated throughout the last 20 years makes her a truly inspirational figure in our Borough.

Baroness Lawrence then signed the Freedom Roll of Honour and her signature was witnessed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

The Vice-Chair then called upon, in turn, the Mayor, the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP (via recorded video message), Councillor Duwayne Brooks, Councillor Darren Johnson, Imran Khan, Reverend David Cruise, Rt Hon David Blunkett

MP (via recorded video message), Her Excellency Aloun Ndomet-Assamba, High Commissioner of Jamaica, and finally, Stuart Lawrence, to speak in support of the Council's recommendation.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, then presented to Baroness Lawrence a casket containing the Council's resolution inscribed on a vellum scroll and sealed by the Council. The Honorary Freewoman then responded and thanked the Council for the honour that had been accorded to her.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm