

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Friday, 4 March 2016 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Bill Brown, Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Liam Curran, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall, Carl Handley, Ami Ibitson, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Helen Klier, Jim Mallory, David Michael, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Rachel Onikosi, Crada Onuegbu, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Pat Raven, Joan Reid, Gareth Siddorn, Alan Smith, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdeslam Amrani, Councillor Peter Bernards, Councillor Simon Hooks, Councillor Alicia Kennedy, Councillor Roy Kennedy and Councillor Paul Maslin.

46. Summons

Dame Joan Ruddock DBE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that this special meeting of the Council was to confer upon Dame Joan Ruddock the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham.

The 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 November 25 2015.

The Chief Executive formally reported that it was resolved that Dame Joan Ruddock be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham "It is recommended that Dame Joan Ruddock DBE be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham in recognition of her service to the Borough and, in particular, the residents of Deptford whom she served during 28 years as their Member of Parliament. During that time she worked tirelessly on their behalf both individually as a constituency MP and also by providing leadership locally and nationally on issues including women's rights, climate change and opposition to the renewal of Trident. Her campaigning skills were deployed many times on behalf of issues of concern to her constituents and her determination and compassion was seen clearly in her work with the New Cross Fire Parents' Committee to secure a second inquest. Her dedication to her constituents and determination to serve them was reflected in the warmth in which she was held. She is an appropriate recipient of the highest award the borough can make."

Dame Joan Ruddock then signed the Freedom Roll of Honour and her signature was witnessed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

The Chair, after paying his own personal tribute to Dame Joan then called upon, in turn, the Mayor, the Rt Hon Harriet Harman QC MP, Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor Pauline Morrison, Councillor David Michael and Councillor Joan Millbank to speak in support of the Council's recommendation.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, then presented to Dame Joan Ruddock 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 8.52pm