

# MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Friday, 23 March 2018 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Damien Egan, Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Paul Bell, Peter Bernards, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Bill Brown, Janet Daby, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall, Mark Ingleby, Jim Mallory, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Joan Reid, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Alan Till and James-J Walsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdeslam Amrani, Councillor Chris Barnham, Councillor David Britton, Councillor Suzannah Clarke, Councillor Brenda Dacres, Councillor Amanda De Ryk, Councillor Joe Dromey, Councillor Carl Handley, Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin and Councillor Susan Wise.

## 154. Summons

*Wozzy Brewster*

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that this special meeting of the Council was to confer upon Wozzy Brewster the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham. He reported this was only the 15th time in the borough's 53 year history that a Freedom had been conferred.

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 Acting Chief Executive to read out the resolution of the Council passed at a special meeting of the Council on November 22 2017.

The Acting Chief Executive formally reported that it was resolved that Wozzy Brewster be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham "It is recommended that Wozzy Brewster OBE FRSA be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham in recognition of her service to the Borough and in particular its young people. She grew up in Deptford and has been making a difference to young people ever since, helping many of them become involved in music and arts. She founded the Midi Music Company and is still running it today. Her wider involvement in the life of the borough includes Deptford City Challenge whose board she sat on, and she has also been an extraordinary ambassador for Lewisham creating and delivering international arts projects in Italy, Lithuania, Ireland, Germany, the USA and Mauritius. She has been a marvellous source of advice, encouragement and inspiration to many in Lewisham across all ages, demonstrating why she is an appropriate recipient of the highest award the borough can make."

Wozzy Brewster then signed the Freedom Roll of Honour and her signature was witnessed by the Mayor and the Acting Chief Executive.

The Chair, after paying his own personal tribute to Wozzy, then called upon, in turn, the Mayor, Beverley Glean MBE, Artistic Director IRIE! Dance theatre, Rachel Bennett, Shovell, the percussionist from the dance band M People and Councillor Joan Millbank, Cabinet Member for the Third Sector, to speak in support of the Council's recommendation.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, then presented to Wozzy Brewster a casket containing the Council's resolution inscribed on a vellum scroll and sealed by the Council. The Mayor also presented Wozzy with a personal gift of her favourite alcoholic beverage.

The Honorary Freewoman then responded and concluded by thanking the Council for the honour that had been accorded to her. The Council then adjourned for an evening of musical entertainment.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.