

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Friday, 1 November 2019 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Damien Egan (Mayor), Obajimi Adefiranye, Tauseef Anwar, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Bill Brown, Juliet Campbell, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Caroline Kalu, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank, Hilary Moore, John Muldoon, Olurotimi Ogunbadewa, Jacq Paschoud (Chair), John Paschoud, Kim Powell, James Rathbone, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Eva Stamirowski and James-J Walsh.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Abdeslam Amrani, Councillor Chris Barnham, Councillor Paul Bell, Councillor Andre Bourne, Councillor Suzannah Clarke, Councillor Patrick Codd, Councillor Tom Copley, Councillor Joe Dromey, Councillor Colin Elliott, Councillor Aisling Gallagher, Councillor Alan Hall, Councillor Carl Handley, Councillor Sue Hordijkeno, Councillor Coral Howard, Councillor Mark Ingleby, Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin, Councillor Louise Krupski, Councillor Sophie McGeevor, Councillor Pauline Morrison, Councillor Lionel Openshaw, Councillor Stephen Penfold, Councillor Joani Reid, Councillor Luke Sorba and Councillor Susan Wise.

38. Summons

Kris Hibbert & Sir Steve Bullock DL

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that this special meeting of the Council was to confer upon Kris Hibbert and Sir Steve Bullock DL the Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham. She reported this was only the 16th and 17th time in the borough's 54 year history that a Freedom had been conferred. The Chair read out a congratulatory message received from Honourary Freeman Terry Waite who could not be present at the meeting.

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'. She then called upon the Chief Executive to read out the resolution of the Council passed at a special meeting of the Council on July 24 2019.

The Chief Executive formally reported that it was resolved that Kris Hibbert be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the London Borough of Lewisham "It is recommended that 'It is recommended that Kris Hibbert be awarded the Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham in recognition of her service to the Borough and its citizens over many years. Kris served as a Councillor for eight years, from 1982-90. She was a pioneer, helping set up the first local government committee on women's issues anywhere in Britain, the Women's Committee, which she served on from 1983-89. She also served on many of the Council's other major committees including Police; Leisure; and Employment and Industry, which she chaired from 1986-88. Kris also led the fundraising work for the Lavender Trust charity. Her drive, determination and energy has led to Lewisham raising £225,000 to support younger women

with breast cancer. Kris has also made an outstanding contribution to improving the life chances of many of Lewisham's young people. She has been a governor in Lewisham for 29 years and serves as Vice Chair of the Lewisham School Governors Association. Lewisham is proud to have Kris as an ambassador for our borough and her dedication to Lewisham makes her an appropriate recipient of the highest award the borough can make.'

The Chief Executive formally reported that it was resolved that Sir Steve Bullock DL be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Lewisham 'It is recommended that Sir Steve Bullock DL be awarded the Freedom of the London Borough of Lewisham in recognition of his service to the Borough and its citizens over many years. Sir Steve was the first directly elected Mayor of Lewisham, serving for 16 years from 2002-2018. Prior to that he was elected as a Councillor from 1982, where he served as Chair of Finance, Chair of Leisure and Deputy Leader of the Council, before serving as Leader of the Council from 1988-93. Whilst he was Mayor, Sir Steve created the Young Mayor's Programme, which has been emulated throughout England and across Europe; led the council's response to save Lewisham A&E; and he ensured that every single secondary school in Lewisham was rebuilt. He has brought changes to Lewisham that will endure for many decades to come and his service to the borough perfectly illustrates the Council's motto 'Salus Populi Suprema Lex'; the welfare of the people above everything else. Sir Steve was knighted in 2007 for services to local government and was commissioned to be a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in 2018. Sir Steve's unique contribution to the borough and to local government in general over the past decades means that he is an appropriate recipient of the highest award the borough can make.'

Both recipients then signed the Freedom Roll of Honour and their signatures were witnessed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

The Chair, after paying her own personal tribute to Kris and Sir Steve, then called upon, in turn, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Claire Kober, former Leader of Haringey Council, Penny Philipps and John Smith, both personal friends, Jacob Sakil, a former Young Mayor and Councillor Alan Smith the Deputy Mayor from 2010-18, to speak in support of the Council's recommendation.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council, then presented to both recipients a casket containing the Council's resolution inscribed on a vellum scroll and sealed by the Council. The Mayor also presented personal gifts to both recipients.

The Honorary Freewoman and Freeman then responded and concluded by thanking the Council for the honour that had been accorded to them. Sir Steve Bullock also presented a gift to former Acting Chief Executive Janet Senior for her help during his tenure. The Council then adjourned for an evening of refreshments and entertainment.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.