

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: Thursday, 19th July, 2007

Time: 7.00pm

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danstrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors: Councillor Graham Clark (Mayor), H. Burrell, M. Cherney-Craw, R.A. Clark, M. Downing, P. Gallagher, J. Gardner, Mrs E. Harrington, R.J. Henry, J. Hollywell, T.G.M. Kent CC, P.D. Kissane, E. Knight J.P., L.A. Lambert, C. Latif, J. Lloyd CC, Mrs J.E. Lloyd, M. Mason, S.M. Myson, M. Notley, M. Patston, J. Pickersgill, R.J. Smith MBE, DL, Mrs L.G. Strange, P. Stuart, S. Taylor, H.C.L. Tessier, J. Thomas, B.G. Underwood and Mrs P.A. Webb

In Attendance: Baroness Shirley Williams, Freeman of the Borough and Mrs Hilda Lawrence, Freeman of the Borough

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00pm
End Time: 8.00pm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S. Batson, B. Jackson, R.G. Parker CC, J.R. Raynor, D Royall, G. Snell, S. Speller, A. T. Turner and Barbara Follett MP

There were no declarations of interest

2 CONFERRING THE TITLE – HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting which had been convened to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Brian Peter Hall and Kenneth Vale.

At an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 23rd May 2007, Stevenage Borough Council passed the following resolution:

“That in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on Brian Hall and Ken Vale who have each rendered eminent services to the Council, serving for over 39 years as elected Members until they stood down in May 2007”.

Before presenting Brian Hall and Ken Vale with their title and badges of office, the Mayor called upon several people to pay tribute to them both.

Councillor Sharon Taylor, Leader of the Council welcomed Ken, Brian and their guests to the meeting and paid tribute in particular to Stella Hall and Betty Vale for their involvement, support and encouragement throughout the time their husbands had been involved with the Council.

Councillor Taylor read two tributes from Councillor Simon Speller and Barbara Follett MP who had been unable to attend on this occasion.

Councillor Speller praised Brian Hall's record of achievement particularly in relation to the Arts and Leisure Centre and Fairlands Valley Park. For Ken Vale, Councillor Speller focussed on Ken's love of sport and the championing of all those involved in sport.

Barbara Follett MP sent her congratulations to Brian and Ken stating that the titles were most deserved.

Councillor Taylor then continued by stating that Ken had been doing an excellent job in mentoring the new Councillors and also continuing his work with the Voluntary and Community Sectors in Stevenage. Brian was continuing to be a huge support to her as his successor as Leader of the Council. Councillor Taylor thanked them both for the inheritance that had been left to the people of Stevenage, their common sense and good humour and for dedicating their lives to Stevenage. As the first Aldermen on the Council she was sure that they would develop their roles to the greater good of the Council and the Town.

The Mayor then invited Baroness Shirley Williams, Freeman of the Borough, to say a few words. Baroness Williams stated that she was pleased to be at the meeting to honour, in particular, Brian Hall who she knew well and who had been a remarkable Leader of Stevenage Borough Council through times of great change. She remarked that the Town owed a huge debt to Brian for his work and dedication.

The Mayor then invited Hilda Lawrence, Freeman of the Borough to speak. Mrs Lawrence paid tribute to Brian Hall as the greatest enabler there had ever been for the Town and spoke about the Stevenage Bill and the work undertaken following the set up of the Borough Council. Mrs Lawrence also spoke about the time and dedication both Ken and Betty Vale had given to Stevenage particularly when involved with children's play and the Timebridge Centre.

Following these speeches, a number of Council Members spoke in tribute.

At this point Brian Hall and Ken Vale were invited to read aloud and sign the Acceptance of Title. The Mayor then countersigned the declaration and presented both with framed certificates and their Badges of Office.

The Mayoress presented Stella Hall and Betty Vale with flowers as a mark of thanks for the great support given by them to Brian and Ken.

In response, Brian and Ken acknowledged their Honours and addressed the Council meeting.

Brian thanked his wife and said that without Stella and his family's support very little would have been achieved. He also said that all the other successes achieved in Stevenage over the years had been due to the dedication of all the other Councillors who had been prepared to work to make the Town what it was today. He also mentioned the MP's for Stevenage who had been a support to him during his time as Leader, including Shirley Williams, Bowen Wells, Timothy Woods and now Barbara Follett. He also paid tribute to Ken Vale who had been a magnificent supporter all the way through as his time as Leader.

Ken Vale said that he was accepting the award with great pride and thought himself fortunate to have been able to work on the Council and particularly with Brian Hall for such a long time throughout his service to Stevenage.

All present were then invited by the Mayor to join him for a reception for the two new Honorary Aldermen.

MAYOR