

**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL****SPECIAL COUNCIL  
MINUTES****Date: Monday 10 December 2012****Time: 6.30 pm****Place: Council Chamber**

**Present:** The Mayor (John Lloyd CC) and Councillors  
S Batson MBE DL, L Bell, P Bibby CC, H Burrell,  
M Cherney-Craw, L Chester, G Clark, D Cullen,  
J Gardner, M Gardner, L Harrington, R Henry,  
J Hollywell, C Hurst, PD Kissane, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd,  
M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley, J Pickersgill,  
R Raynor, G Snell, S Speller, S Taylor CC, H Tessier,  
J Thomas, B Underwood, V Warwick, A Webb and  
M Yarnold-Forrester.

**Also present:** A Danaher – Youth Mayor  
A Pritchard – Youth Council

**Start/End Time:** Start Time: 6.30 p.m.  
End Time: 6.55 p.m.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, R Clark, M Hearn, J Mead, R Parker CC, P Stuart and S Walker.

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. FREEDOM OF ENTRY – ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT**

The Mayor welcomed the Deputy Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson (Royal Anglian Regiment), Civic dignitaries, Councillors and the public to the meeting.

At a Special Council meeting on 23 May 2012 a resolution was passed conferring upon the Royal Anglian, the Honorary Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Stevenage and the Mayor welcomed the opportunity at this meeting to formally present the certificate of Freedom of Entry to the Royal Anglian Regiment, the first such Honour the Council had awarded.

The Mayor expressed the view that the country had a duty of care to its Armed Forces and that it was crucial, especially for the welfare of its personnel, that the Government and the nation continue to recognise the unique and immense sacrifices of the Armed Forces Community.

The Mayor welcomed the Armed Forces Covenant which came into law after receiving Royal Assent on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2011 and that as a result of this law, Hertfordshire Community Covenant was established earlier in the year, a living document which would ensure that all Local Authorities in Hertfordshire honour and celebrate their Armed Forces.

The Mayor then called upon Councillor S Taylor CC.

Councillor Taylor CC acknowledged the work undertaken by both men and women of the Armed Forces on behalf of the country and welcomed the honour being bestowed on the Royal Anglian Regiment. Councillor Taylor recounted her delight in being a signatory to the Community Covenant on behalf of Stevenage in December 2011 as it demonstrated a commitment from its citizens to both serving and retired members of the armed services that necessary assistance and support would be made available when required. Councillor Taylor CC reminded the meeting of the very long and proud history of the Royal Anglian and that she specifically wore a rose brooch for the occasion in recognition of the Regiment's tradition going back to the Battle of Minden in 1759.

The Mayor then called upon Colonel Kevin Fitzgerald, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire to address the meeting. Colonel Fitzgerald stated that although Stevenage had no recognised regiment, he welcomed the Community Covenant that had been introduced in the county. He also noted that as the army underwent a number of reorganisations and amalgamations of its various regiments it was important that it kept in touch with its roots.

The Mayor thanked Colonel Fitzgerald and invited the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire, the Honourable Mrs Arabella Stuart-Smith to address the meeting. Mrs Stuart –Smith thanked the Council for the invitation. As the granddaughter of Field Marshall, Bernard Law Montgomery, the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montgomery of Alamein she saw a number of plaques around his house inscribed with the words “freedom of city”, and it was only later in life that she appreciated its significance. The High Sheriff acknowledged the skills and courage of the men and women in the forces who put their lives at risk whilst protecting the country.

Baroness Shirley William thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend this event and speak in tribute. As she herself had been awarded the Freedom of the Borough she could appreciate what an honour it was for the Royal Anglian Regiment. She added that it was particularly poignant as she had recently attended the Memorial Service for her son-in-law who had also served in the army.

The Mayor thanked everyone and then invited Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment to receive the Certificate of Freedom of Entry to Stevenage Borough.

In his acceptance speech, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson, Commanding Officer of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Anglian Regiment expressed the Regiments appreciation to Stevenage and its citizens for the privilege, honour and distinction of being able to march through the streets of the Borough of Stevenage.

**Mayor**