

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL**SPECIAL COUNCIL
MINUTES****Date: Wednesday 22 May 2013****Time: 7.50 pm****Place: Council Chamber**

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

Also present: A Mboho – Youth Mayor
J Barnes – Youth Council
A Danaher

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.50 p.m.
End Time: 8.25 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Clark, L Harrington, M Hearn and B Underwood, the Right Honourable Shirley Williams, Stephen McPartland MP, Hilda Lawrence and Major Tony Jones, Royal Anglian Regiment.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH – DR. JOACHIM GERHARD

The Leader welcomed Dr Gerhard to the meeting and paid tribute to him in German.

Continuing in English she said that she had known Dr Gerhard for twenty years and that she very much respected the work that he had undertaken to establish and then strengthen links between Stevenage, Ingelheim and latterly Autun.

The Leader added that the nomination for Freedom of the Borough represented a bond of lasting friendship between the two towns and

concluded by wishing Dr Gerhard and his party a wonderful time in Stevenage, a town that he could now call home.

Councillor Richard Henry CC, who seconded the original motion, said that he was delighted to see Dr Gerhard and added that Dr Gerhard's name joined a short list of those that had been awarded the Freedom of the Borough.

Paying tribute to Dr Gerhard Councillor Henry CC added that Dr Gerhard was always a welcoming host whose hospitality went a lot further than mere civic duty.

He concluded that Dr Gerhard had been a good personal friend and a true friend of Stevenage.

Other Members and Aldermen Ken Vale and Brian Hall then paid tribute to Dr Gerhard for his friendship and dedication to town twinning, adding that Freedom of the Borough was not given lightly and that Dr Gerhard had thoroughly deserved the award.

A certificate was then presented to Dr Gerhard.

Dr Gerhard then made his acceptance speech.

He said that he was deeply moved to receive the honour and thanked the Council, especially his friends Councillor Sharon Taylor and Alderman Brian Hall.

He spoke with affection about his memories of Stevenage and about how he first came into contact with the town as a result of a student exchange visit to Ingelheim by Fred Dunn from Walkern and of the return visit made by him and his parents to Stevenage in 1966.

He said that following his election to Ingelheim Town Council in 1979 he had always tried to participate in the meetings in Stevenage and following his election to Mayor he had responsibility for partnerships and had always enjoyed his dealings with the town,

Dr Gerhard then spoke of the importance of maintaining civic links in Europe as a way of maintaining the peace that had existed since 1945.

He concluded by thanking everybody involved and saying that his wish for the partnership was for it to grow and be successful in the future. He looked forward to the fiftieth anniversary of the town twinning.

Mayor