

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**SPECIAL COUNCIL
MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday 9 September 2015

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber

Present: The Mayor (Councillor H Burrell) and Councillors
D Bainbridge, S Batson MBE DL CC, L Bell, L Briscoe,
R Broom, J Brown, L Chester, E Connolly, D Cullen,
M Downing, J Fraser, J Gardner, M Gardner,
L Harrington, S Hearn, M Hurst, C Latif, Mrs J Lloyd,
J Lloyd CC, M McKay, L Martin-Haugh, J Mead,
S Mead, M Notley, R Parker CC, R Raynor,
C Saunders, G Snell, S Speller, P Stuart,
S Taylor OBE CC, J Thomas and A Webb.

In Attendance: Yvan Tiako (Youth Mayor) and A Thurley (Youth
Council)

Start/End Time: Start Time: 7.00 p.m.
End Time: 8.00 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from the Councillors P Bibby, R Henry CC, G Lawrence A McGuinness and V Warwick.

There were no declarations of interest.

The Mayor informed the meeting that a letter would be sent on behalf of the town to congratulate the Queen on becoming the longest serving monarch of our country.

The Leader then made a statement concerning the Syrian refugee crisis.

She said that she welcomed the support offered by the Government and that Stevenage had been one of forty Councils that had offered to assist refugee families. In recognition of the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Syria the Council would be working with Partners, including Hertfordshire County Council and the National Health Service, to aid those relocated in the area.

To assuage concerns that might be expressed in some quarters she stressed that the Council would continue to provide a full service to the residents of the town. It was the

intention to bring a full report to Council on the issue at a later date.

2. HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Chamber was reminded that at a special meeting of the Council on 22 July a resolution was agreed that the Council should confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Patrick David Kissane.

Members then spoke with fondness in tribute to David Kissane, recognising his tireless work for the community, his support to local charities, including GEMMS, The Haven and the Furniture Recycling Scheme, his ambassadorial role as Mayor and his mentoring of other Councillors during his period as a Councillor from 1986 until 2015.

Members recalled that he demonstrated expert listening skills, personal kindness and a self-sacrificing approach to his approach to case work and would always put the townspeople first in his considerations. He was also a firm believer in cross-party / cross functional working and successful projects, such as the Bus Users Group, that he had been involved with displaying those beliefs were listed.

The view was expressed that David Kissane had been an exemplary Community Councillor and a peerless representative for the people of the town. It was hoped that his work for the community would continue, especially with the Bus Users Group and the Old Town Community Forum.

A certificate was then presented to Alderman Kissane.

Alderman Kissane made an acceptance speech in which he said that he was both proud and humbled to have received the award.

He thanked the late Councillor Mick Cotter who had been his mentor when he had been a new Councillor, his fellow Symonds Green councillors over the years, the people of Symonds Green for their faith in electing him in 1986 and their ongoing support in subsequent elections, current Members, Officers of the Council, especially Member Services, Constitutional Services, Housing Staff and the Community Development Officers. In particular he thanked and paid tribute to his family for their support to him over the years.

Mayor