

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

Date: Monday, 2 September 2024

Time: 7.00pm

Place: Council Chamber

**Present:** Councillors: Jim Brown, (Mayor), Nazmin Chowdhury, (Deputy Mayor), Myla Arceno, Julie Ashley-Wren, Sandra Barr, Philip Bibby CC, Stephen Booth, Robert Boyle, Leanne Brady, Lloyd Briscoe, Rob Broom, Kamal Choudhury, Forhad Chowdhury, Peter Clark, Akin Elekolusi, Alistair Gordon, Lynda Guy, Richard Henry, Jackie Hollywell, Coleen Houlihan, Mason Humberstone, Lin Martin-Haugh, Conor McGrath, Andy McGuinness, Sarah Mead, Robin Parker CC, Claire Parris, Ellie Plater, Tom Plater, Ceara Roopchand, Loraine Rossati, Graham Snell, Simon Speller, Jeannette Thomas, Carolina Veres, Anne Wells, Nigel Williams, Jade Woods and Tom Wren

**Start / End**      Start Time:    7.00pm  
**Time:**            End Time:      7.55pm

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

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Alistair Gordon.

There were no declarations of interest.

**2      MRS JOAN E LLOYD - PRESENTATION OF FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular Mrs Joan Lloyd, her husband John and the rest of her family members.

The Chamber was reminded that at a Special meeting of the Council on 31 July 2024 a resolution was agreed that the Council should confer the title of Freeman of the Borough on Mrs Joan E. Lloyd.

The Mayor expressed his delight at being able to pay tribute to Mrs Lloyd, and spoke of her commitment to Stevenage, in particular the Bandley Hill area.

Councillor Richard Henry, Leader of the Council spoke of Mrs Lloyd's remarkable contribution to Stevenage having first been elected in 1976. He referred to her various roles over the years including Chairing Committees, the Mayor of the Town and latterly as Deputy Leader and Resources Portfolio Holder. Councillor Henry advised Members that Joan had been instrumental in persuading both him and Councillor Hollywell to first become involved with the Council. He advised that he was delighted that the Freedom of the Borough, the highest award the Council could

bestow upon an individual, was being awarded to the very deserving Mrs Lloyd.

A tribute was paid by the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Stephen Booth who congratulated Mrs Lloyd on her award.

The Chief Executive then paid tribute to Mrs Lloyd on behalf of current and former Officers of the Council who had worked with her over many years and thanked her for the contribution she had made in overseeing the Council's finances alongside her many other roles. He spoke of Joan's support to Strategic Director and S151 Officer, Clare Fletcher who she had worked closely with over 18 years. He then read a letter of tribute from former Assistant Chief Executive Bill Welch.

A number of Members then spoke in tribute to Mrs Lloyd as a colleague and friend, recognising her long service, her tireless work for the community particularly in the Bandley Hill Ward, in championing the role and leading the way for women as local councillors. Her pivotal roles such as overseeing the work of the Planning and Development Committee and then as the Portfolio Holder for Resources were acknowledged.

Kevin Bonavia MP spoke of Mrs Lloyd's warmth and kindness and congratulated her on this well deserved, public recognition of her many years of service to the Town and advised that he was delighted to be part of her celebrations.

Baroness Sharon Taylor, OBE, spoke in tribute to Mrs Lloyd and her well deserved honour. She spoke of Joan's extraordinary service and her roles over the years particularly in regard to the economic development of the Town. Her thoroughness, efficiency and thoughtfulness had helped to build the financial foundations that Stevenage borough Council was now fortunate enough to stand on. She thanked Joan for her inspiration, encouragement, support and friendship.

A framed scroll was then presented to Mrs Lloyd.

Mrs Lloyd then read out the Freedom of the Borough Oath and made an acceptance speech in which she said that the Council had given her the greatest honour of being awarded the Freedom of the Borough. She advised that she had been very fortunate to work with dedicated officers and councillor colleagues and had been in a privileged position to be able to help shape and deliver the Town we live in today. She especially thanked her family for their support over the years.

## **CHAIR**