

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 3.30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 22 MAY, 2013

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Todd, R. (Chairman)
Grice, Mrs. D. (Vice Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Gamble, B.
Alcott, G.	Gilbert, P.
Allen, F.W.C.	Grocott, M.R.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Holder, M.J.
Anslow, C.	Johnson, J.
Ball, G.D.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Bennett, C.	Lovell, A.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bernard, J.D.	Molineux, G.N.
Bottomer, B.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.	Pearson, A.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Snape, P.A.
Dixon, D.I.	Spicer, Mrs. A.
Dudson, A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.
Fisher, P.A.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Freeman, Miss M.	Toth, J.

110. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Davies; Ms. J.L. Jones; R. Jones; J. Rowley; Mrs. Z. Stretton; M. Sutherland; and Mrs. L. Whitehouse.

111. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

Snape, P.A. Corporate Member of the Chase Leisure Personal Centre

No other Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

112. Granting the Freedom of the District to Mrs. Ethel Powell, M.B.E.

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Item 3.1 – 3.4 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED (by a unanimous vote):

That:

- (A) The Freedom of the District on Ceremonial occasions be conferred upon Mrs Ethel Powell M.B.E in the following form and the same be illuminated in scroll form and present to the recipient.

“To Mrs. Ethel Powell, M.B.E.

We, the Chairman and Councillors of the Council of the District of Cannock Chase in the County of Staffordshire, in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, do by these presents confer upon Mrs Ethel Powell, M.B.E., the Honorary Freedom of the District in recognition of, and gratitude for, your tireless campaigning to improve the conditions and wellbeing of patients at Cannock Hospital and for residents of Cannock Chase.

The Common Seal of the Council of the District of Cannock Chase was hereunto Affixed the day of two thousand and thirteen”.

- (B) The Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Freedom Scroll.
- (C) The supplementary estimate and budget required, as detailed in the financial implications contained in the report, to host the ceremony and ceremonial regalia, be agreed and established.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, a Principal Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose, confer the Honorary Freedom of the District on Mrs. Ethel Powell, M.B.E. who has campaigned tirelessly since 1977 to help raise more than £1.5 million for medical care in Cannock Chase.

Freedom of the District is granted to persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of Council rendered eminent services to the District. This does not carry any rights or responsibilities but is the most honourable distinction that a District Council can bestow.

A request for Council to consider bestowing the Freedom of the District had been received for Mrs. Ethel Powell, M.B.E., in acknowledgement of the work she had undertaken to improve the conditions and well-being of patients at Cannock Hospital.

Mrs. Powell, M.B.E., was a volunteer between 1974 and June, 2012, and with some dedicated friends formed the Chase Hospital League of Friends. As well as raising more than £1.5 m for medical and other equipment, Mrs Powell re-mortgaged her own home to install lifts at the then Chase Hospital that helped many in-patients to see the outside world, many of whom had not been outside for 10 to 20 years.

Council was requested to consider granting the Freedom of the District to Mrs. Ethel Powell, M.B.E., in recognition and gratitude for her tireless campaigning to raise funds that had helped to improve the conditions and wellbeing of patients at Cannock Hospital and for residents of Cannock Chase.

Due to Mrs. Powell's current health and wellbeing it was not considered appropriate to host a celebratory event to mark this occasion. Council was, therefore, requested to consider a supplementary estimate and budget required to commission the design and production of an Honorary Freedom Scroll and casket, which upon production would be awarded to Mrs. Powell in a private ceremony at her home.

(The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN