

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2012
NOTICE OF MOTION, ITEM 3(iii)

**The following notice of motion has been received, in accordance with
Standing Order 15.**

Motion from Councillor Nigel North

Seconded by Councillor Graham Casey

“Council resolves:

THAT we, the Members of Peterborough City Council, assembled in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 acknowledge the eminent service rendered to the City by **Mr Dick Preston**.

The City of Peterborough recognises the significant contribution Dick Preston, President of Baker Perkins Historical Society, has made to the city throughout his entire working life with Baker Perkins, an international engineering company and major employer within the city for over a century, representing a sector which for many years was critical to the local economy.

Baker Perkins can trace its history in Peterborough back to 1903, being a well-established name in the bakery, biscuit, confectionery, chocolate and chemical machinery industries. Baker Perkins, and the Westwood Works offices and factory, continued into the late 1980s when the business became part of APV. At its height, approximately 2,900 employees were located at Westwood Works, Peterborough, where the Company HQ and its largest manufacturing unit were located.

Dick Preston began his career with Baker Perkins as an apprentice and his dedication continued, transitioning through a technical career in the drawing office to a more commercial career and ultimately working as Group Marketing Director by the time he retired in 1994. It was Dick Preston's dedication and enthusiasm to Baker Perkins over 40 years that led to his remarkable and successful efforts in developing the means of recording the history of the people and business activities of Baker Perkins. Dick identified the need to capture this heritage for posterity and has worked voluntarily since 2003, displaying commitment and enthusiasm for this project throughout.

Dick Preston's achievements as President of the Baker Perkins Historical Society are impressive. The creation and development of the website 'Westwood Works' in 2003 captured all aspects of Baker Perkins' Westwood Works and became a focal point for the exchange of information for former employees around the world. Dick's commitment and determination contributed to the creation of the Baker Perkins Historical Society in 2005, formed to capture and recognise the history of Baker Perkins beyond the local context of Westwood Works. Working in conjunction with Peterborough Museum and the Archive Services at the Central Library, the society's achievements have been significant. With Dick's unstinting and passionate involvement a second website has been developed, five books published, many reunions organised and through working in conjunction with the city council commemorative plaques have been erected within the city.

These achievements have been secured by countless hours of dedication to the task and Dick's enthusiasm has helped record the history of a major local employer and to capture much of the essence of the city of Peterborough's engineering sector in the 20th century, making a significant contribution to Peterborough's heritage.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the Honorary Freedom of the City upon **Mr Dick Preston.**"