

**RECORD OF OUTCOMES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER 2016  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**3. Honorary Alderman Award**

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED** that Council:

1. Awarded the status of Honorary Alderman to the following former members of Council:

Charles Swift OBE  
Adrian Miners  
Sheila Scott OBE

2. Awarded badges of office to any former Councillor awarded the status of Honorary Alderman, at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed.

**4. Honorary Freedom of the City**

**(a) James Fox**

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED**:

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. James Fox.

James Fox first started rowing at Peterborough rowing club at the age of 11, and went on to represent Great Britain as a junior at the Coupe de la Jeunesse. Whilst studying in London, he continued rowing for the University of London Boat Club, where it seemed he was set to achieve great things. Unfortunately, not long after he started university, tragedy struck and rendered James unable to train properly for two years due to a broken back.

Many may have let such a horrendous accident stop them in their tracks and determine a new course for their lives, but James showed tremendous courage and strength as he refused to let this hold him back from doing what he loved. Today, James trains full time with the Great British Para-rowing squad, and moreover has contributed to Peterborough's Olympic success.

James and his coxed fours team mates won the para mixed gold medal in Rio 2016, finishing ahead of the United States and Canada. This success comes at the price of much hard work and training, as James trains for up to about 3 hours a day. This isn't taking into account all the preparatory work he needs to do before each training session.

James has taken part and succeeded in many other competitions, including the World Championships in South Korea in 2013. This was his first world championship win, and a very proud moment for James. He had planned to pursue rowing success from a young age, and this moment saw his dream realised, even after facing the immense setbacks that he did.

Even through all this, James hasn't forgotten his hometown of Peterborough, and the ways in which the city has contributed to his success. He credits Jack Hunt School for teaching him how to balance his various workloads, as he strove to do the best he could do in both sporting and academic fields. The Peterborough Masons supported James earlier on in his career by raising funds to help him on his way. Such an admirable journey has no doubt inspired many young sportsmen in Peterborough, and the world over, to never give up on their dreams.

In recognition of the above, the honorary freedom of the city was conferred upon Mr. James Fox, of Peterborough.

**(b) Lee Manning**

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED**:

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. Lee Manning.

Lee Manning began his wheelchair basketball career at the age of 15 after experiencing a taster session of the sport at school. He then joined the Peterborough Phoenix club, and only 3 months later was invited to attend the Great British Junior Camp and went on to represent Great Britain at the under 22 European Championships only a year after starting the sport.

Taking part in various tournaments around the world, such as the BT Paralympic World Cup, he continued to excel and develop his natural talents. He played for several clubs, including the champions of the Europe Challenge Cup in 2012, the Sheffield Steelers. In 2014 Lee represented Great Britain in the World Championships, followed by winning gold in the 2015 European Championships and culminating in the admirable achievement of assisting the Great British team to win a bronze medal at Rio in 2016.

Lee acknowledges the support he received from Papworth Trust and the role this charity played in helping him along his journey. The charity sponsored Lee for two years, and Lee notes that he would not be where he is today without that support. That being said, Lee has certainly worked very hard in his own right, to develop his career. He undertakes an intense daily training programme, including gym work, on and off the court preparation and even video analysis of his previous games and future opponents.

Another former Jack Hunt student, Lee has done Peterborough proud through his many successes and unstoppable passion. When he isn't competing, Lee is a qualified Grade 2 wheelchair basketball coach, passing on his knowledge and love of the game.

It is always phenomenal to see a person overcome physical disabilities, and even more so when they go on to find such commendable success as Lee has. He is truly an inspiration to many young athletes who aspire to compete professionally and more so to all who hear of his phenomenal journey.

In recognition of the above, the honorary freedom of the city was conferred upon Mr. Lee Manning, of Peterborough.

**(c) Louis Smith MBE**

A vote was taken (unanimous) and it was **RESOLVED**:

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. Louis Smith.

Louis Smith has done a commendable service for the city of Peterborough through his Olympic achievements. In 2008 he became the first British male gymnast to win an Olympic medal since 1908. Following this, in 2012, he added another 2 pommel medals to the tally. Representing the United Kingdom again in 2016 he obtained another silver pommel medal.

Born in 1989, Eye, Peterborough, Louis has dedicated his life to the sport of gymnastics, training in Huntingdon Gymnastics Olympics Club, and he has the accolades to show for it. Since 2006 he has won in the region of 20 medals while representing the United Kingdom (and of course, Peterborough). Perhaps his proudest moment and esteemed accolade was bestowed in 2013 when he was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours 2013.

In order to get to where he is today Louis has had to overcome various barriers. Diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder at a very young age, this couldn't stop him from discovering his passion for gymnastics, and focussing on progressing himself through the sport. He gave up his social life to focus on his goals and through such commitment has no doubt inspired many young sportsmen to fight their own battles and keep pushing for success.

Gymnastics has not been Louis' only stage. In 2012, the same year he brought home 2 Olympic medals, he also managed to dance his way through to the final of Strictly Come Dancing, winning the series and gaining yet another trophy for his wall.

Louis himself claims that he is "the result of people" around him. This simple statement alone highlights how proud the city of Peterborough can be of the success that Louis Smith has achieved. Peterborough is shown to be a diverse city, encouraging champions of all kind to dream big and believe in world-wide success.

In recognition of the above, the honorary freedom of the city was conferred upon Mr. Louis Smith, of Peterborough.