

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 04 MARCH 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

**Motion from Councillor Peter Hiller, Chairman of Honours Panel
Seconded by Councillor Nazim Khan MBE**

“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. Wyndham Thomas CBE.**

Mr Wyndham Thomas was one the most instrumental men in the development of Peterborough during a significant chapter in its history when it was declared a new town. In 1968 he was appointed the general manager of Peterborough Development Corporation, which had been set up to take forward the expansion of Peterborough. Never before had a new town been built upon an already existing town, and Peterborough was chosen to be the first. Following the appointment, Wyndham set up a team of dedicated officers with expert knowledge who worked with him in this exceptionally unique project.

A true visionary, Mr Thomas was in charge of the city’s development for over 14 years overall, during which he excelled and contributed tremendously to this great city. With his vast wealth of planning and local government knowledge he was able to lead a team including both city and county councillors. By encouraging and guiding them to work together seamlessly, he enabled them to succeed phenomenally in their task.

It was thanks to the incredible work of this hard-working team that the beautiful Nene Park, Thorpe Wood Golf Course and very efficient Parkway System were created, all of which Mr Thomas had a hand in planning and establishing. Another one of the many benefits this expansion brought to Peterborough was the attraction of major companies, such as Thomas Cook and John Lewis, which thereby lead to a major increase in job opportunities. Wyndham and his team travelled the world with the aim of selling Peterborough, where he used his excellent speaking skills to get the message out and bring the people in. The city grew from a population of approximately 70,000 to a magnificent 120,000 plus as a result of this commendable effort.

Mr Thomas has made many other significant achievements in his lifetime. He became Mayor of Hemel Hempstead, and at the time would have been the youngest Mayor ever to be appointed. He was made vice-president of the Town and Country Planning Association in 1992 (a position he still holds today), as well as a member of the council of the Royal Town Planning Institute. Most notably, Mr Thomas was recognised for his outstanding work in the New Towns project in 1982 by being awarded a CBE.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary freedom of the city upon **Mr. Wyndham Thomas**, of Peterborough.”

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