

**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD
4 MARCH 2015**

The Mayor – Councillor David Over

Present:

Councillors Allen, Ash, Brown, Casey, Cereste, Davidson, Elsey, Ferris, Fitzgerald, Fletcher, Forbes, Fower, F Fox, JR Fox, JA Fox, Harrington, Harper, Herdman, Hiller, Holdich, Iqbal, Jamil, Johnson, Khan, Knowles, Lamb, Lane, Lee, Maqbool, Miners, Murphy, Nadeem, Nawaz, North, Okonkowski, Over, Rush, Saltmarsh, Sandford, Scott, Serluca, Shaheed, Sharp, Swift, Thacker, Thulbourn and Walsh.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Arculus, Day, Martin, Peach, Sanders, Seaton, Shabbir, Shearman, Stokes and Sylvester.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Honorary Freedom of the City

3.1 Mr Wyndham Thomas CBE

Councillor Hiller addressed the meeting and moved the following motion:

“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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Khan.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

3.2 The Salvation Army

Councillor Cereste addressed the meeting and moved the following motion.

“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 **The Salvation Army**.

Primarily a church and well-known for its work as a charity, the Salvation Army tirelessly strives to reach out and serve communities all over the world. Founded in the East End of London, the Army reached Peterborough in 1881 and since then the self-proclaimed ‘poor man’s cathedral’ has been making a significant difference through their remarkable labours.

Heart to God; Hand to Man. There is an impressive array of examples that illustrate their efforts to live by this slogan. After the Great War they were the first to set up safe houses and soup kitchens, affording vital aid to the injured. Every Christmas they host an event for those who have nowhere else to go, providing a traditional meal and perhaps even more praiseworthy; a family to share. Never fearing the tough battles, the Army also runs a transportation service for victims of human trafficking, moving them to safe houses and offering them practical support and counselling. Thanks to these admirable soldiers, there is never a need for anyone to feel lonely in Peterborough.

Their Community Centre presents a variety of services, including showering and laundry facilities and food parcels. Twice a week they offer a Luncheon Club and Day Centre for the elderly, and play host to many groups from the community including a Café for Dementia sufferers and ante-natal classes. They also offer a Debt Advice Service which operates on a weekly basis The Good Neighbours Scheme supports the most vulnerable people of the city, visiting them at home and providing a listening ear as well as help in the garden and with their shopping. The Army is involved in several key events in the city, including Christmas Eve carol singing, Remembrance Services, visiting PC Hospital on Christmas day and the Crematorium Annual Remembrance Service. Working in partnership with various other organisations such as Hope Into Action, the Citizen’s Advice Bureau and the council, the Army seeks to aid all those who suffer, never allowing differences of race or religion to hinder their fight. In fact the

Salvation Army has played a major role in the interfaith cohesion work in Peterborough.

In July this year the Salvation Army will celebrate worldwide to mark an outstanding 150 years of service and ministry. Peterborough has shared in the benefits of this, where this force for good continually step up and bring both aid and joy to millions.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary freedom of the city upon **The Salvation Army**, of Peterborough.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Swift.

A vote was taken (unanimous) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

Chairman
6.30pm – 6.40pm

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