

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 28th July 2021

NOTICE OF MOTION

The following notice of motion has been received, in accordance with Standing Order 19.

Motion from *Councillor Peter Hiller*

Seconded by *Councillor Mohammed Jamil*

“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 John Holdich.

Local government is in John Holdich's blood. His father Fred Holdich was a councillor for 47 years and there has been a Holdich on one council or another since 1880.

John won his first election in 1977 in the old Minster ward on Cambridgeshire County Council and then in 1979 he took on further responsibility after being elected councillor for Peterborough City Council, which at the time was a district council. In 1981 he lost his county council seat, whilst remaining on the city council, but was back again as a county councillor in 1988 representing 23 rural villages until 1997 when the unitary authority of Peterborough City Council was constituted.

John has represented the rural villages including Glington and Castor ever since. He and his wife Barbara, who he has been married to for 54 years, were Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborough in 1995/96 and Deputy Mayor and Mayoress in 1988/89. He has also served as a Glington parish councillor since 1979 - 20 of those years as chairman – and as chair of governors at City College Peterborough for 42 years which has been rated good by Ofsted for the past decade and provides access to education for 3,000 people every year. More recently he has served as deputy mayor of the combined authority since 2015.

He was chairman of the Peterborough Conservative Association for 12 years and campaign manager to the late Brian Mawhinney who served as MP for Peterborough from 1979 to 2005.

John Holdich has many career highlights, not least the OBE he received from Prince Charles in 1996 and his year as Mayor of Peterborough during which he and Barbara raised £37,000 for The Alzheimer's Society and Arthritis UK, a record he held for more than ten years.

He says he is most proud of his work with young people and those with disabilities, for example the adult training centre in Eye, Changing Days, which he helped set up to assist people with learning difficulties to gain independence and employment. He is also proud of

the project to transfer of the council's housing stock to Cross Keys Homes, giving residents at the time a better standard of home; a project he led as cabinet member.

However, his enduring legacy will be the work in the formation and delivery of Peterborough's new university.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary Freedom of the City upon John Holdich, of Peterborough."