

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2021
ENGINE SHED, SAND MARTIN HOUSE, PETERBOROUGH**

THE MAYOR – COUNCILLOR STEPHEN LANE

Present

Councillors Ansar Ali, Imtiaz Ali, Jackie Allen, Steve Allen, Ayres, Barkham, Bashir, Bisby, Andrew Bond, Sandra Bond, Brown, Burbage, Casey, Coles, Dowson, Elsey, Mohammed Farooq, Saqib Farooq, Fenner, Fitzgerald, Judy Fox, Harper, Haseeb, Haynes, Hemraj, Hiller, Hogg, Howard, Howell, Ishfaq Hussain, Iqbal, Jamil, Jones, Joseph, Lane, Moyo, Gul Nawaz, Shaz Nawaz, Over, Qayyum, Robinson, Rush, Sainsbury, Sandford, Sharp, Simons, Skibsted, Tyler, Warren, Yurgutene

In Attendance Virtually

Councillors Day, Yasin

A minute's silence was observed in honour of Cathy Weaver, who served as a past Peterborough City Councillor, Group Leader, Leader, and Mayor.

Group Leaders paid tribute to Ms Weaver, highlighting her important contributions to the city, and her passion for local communities, education, and attracting people to the city.

29. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor John Fox, Councillor Yasin, Councillor Day, Councillor Knight, Councillor Cereste, and Councillor Walsh

30. Declarations of Interest

Agenda Item 4(b) 'Honorary Freedom of the City – RBL Peterborough'

Councillor Casey declared that he was a member of the Royal British Legion.

31(a). Honorary Alderman Award – Chris Ash

Councillor Hiller moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Casey.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Award the status of Honorary Alderman to the former Member of Council Chris Ash.
2. Award badge of office to the former Member awarded the status of Honorary Alderman at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed.

31(b). Honorary Alderman Award – John Holdich

Councillor Mohammed Farooq moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Casey.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Award the status of Honorary Alderman to the former Member of Council John Holdich.
2. Award badge of office to the former Member awarded the status of Honorary Alderman at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed.

31(c). Honorary Alderman Award – David Seaton

Councillor Hiller moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Casey.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Award the status of Honorary Alderman to the former Member of Council David Seaton.
2. Award badge of office to the former Member awarded the status of Honorary Alderman at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed.

31(d). Honorary Alderman Award – Darren Fower

Councillor Jamil moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Casey.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Award the status of Honorary Alderman to the former Member of Council Darren Fower.
2. Award badge of office to the former Member awarded the status of Honorary Alderman at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed.

31(e). Honorary Alderman Award – Diane Lamb

Councillor Hiller moved the recommendations, which were seconded by Councillor Casey.

A vote was taken on the recommendation and Council **RESOLVED** (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) to:

1. Award the status of Honorary Alderman to the former Member of Council Diane Lamb.
2. Award badge of office to the former Member awarded the status of Honorary Alderman at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed.

32(a). Honorary Freedom of the City – John Holdich

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 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 Glinton 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 Glinton 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.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Jamil and Members endorsed the comments made.

A vote was taken on the motion to grant honorary freedom of the city to John Holdich

(unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

32(b). Honorary Freedom of the City – RBL Peterborough

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 Peterborough Branch of Royal British Legion.

In May 1921 The British Legion was formed, bringing together four national organisations of ex-Servicemen that had established themselves to support those who had suffered as a result of service during the First World War. The Peterborough Branch was formed a month later on 27th June, and for 100 consecutive years has been supporting the local Armed Forces community; remembering those who have served and sacrificed during two world wars and subsequent conflicts.

A key moment for the Branch was the opening ceremony of the club house at Thorpe Lawn in 1921. General Lord Horne cut barbed wire to enter the club with cutters that were used through the war by General Strong. Lord Horne praised the Northamptonshire fighting men for their spirit and encouraged the public to support the club and the British Legion. One of the highlights of the Branch’s history was the opening of Haig Hall on 6th March 1931; and this building exists today and is home to Peterborough City College; with a memorial stone placed in the foyer referencing the building’s origins.

Over the years, the Branch has contributed towards four War Memorials. The first was the Peterborough & District War Memorial Hospital that opened in 1928.

The second Memorial was on Bridge Street and was in use from 1986 until 1995 when it was replaced by the third Memorial located on the north side of the Cathedral Grounds. In 2012 the Branch raised funds for the construction of the current War Memorial on Bridge Street. This memorial, in a prominent position, is the one used today by the Branch and the local community to commemorate anniversaries and remember all those who served and sacrificed to defend our freedom. It has become the centrepiece for civic occasions.

The Royal British Legion is the Custodian of Remembrance and is best known for its annual Poppy Appeal. In recent years Branch Members have managed to increase the amount of funds raised to support the Poppy Appeal and in 2018-2019 they raised an incredible £141,883.29. Over the years, the Branch has been extremely fortunate to have had lots of dedicated volunteers, a tribute should be paid to all of them. The logistical challenges are huge but they are ultimately raising funds for the welfare of our servicemen and women, and veterans.

The Branch is always represented at Civic occasions, for Remembrance Day, VE Day and VJ Day. But, as you would expect, Peterborough has a couple of unique events that attract attention from outside the City. Indeed, one of them from the other side of the World.

Among those remembered is the ‘lonely Anzac’ Sergeant Hunter, an Australian soldier who was neither born, nor lived in Peterborough but after being injured during WW1 he sadly died in the area in 1916 and is buried in the Broadway Cemetery.

The Branch also remembers the role that animals played during the Great War, with Jimmy the Donkey, buried in Central Park. Jimmy, a decorated donkey, was born on The Somme. He was retired to Peterborough after the war and was loved by soldiers as well as civilians.

In recognition of the above, WE DO HEREBY CONFER the honorary Freedom of the City upon Royal British Legion (Peterborough), of Peterborough.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mohammed Farooq.

A vote was taken on the motion to grant honorary freedom of the city to the Peterborough Branch of Royal British Legion (unanimous with no Members indicating to vote against or abstain) and the motion was **CARRIED**.

The Mayor
6.00pm – 6:34pm
28 July 2021
Sand Martin House
Peterborough

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