

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

Extraordinary Council

Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport-On-Severn

Wednesday 20 July 2005 (6PM)

PRESENT:

Councillors S J Williams (Chairman), J C Simmonds (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M B Aston, J Baker, G W Ballinger, A J Buckley, J-P Campion, S J M Clee, N J Desmond, Mrs I M Dolan, J W Dudley, Mrs H E Dyke, P Dyke, Mrs L Edginton, Mrs J Fairbrother-Millis, B T Glass, P B Harrison, M J Hart, Mrs P V Hayward, Mrs S M Hayward, Mrs A T Hingley, J Holden, Mrs L Hyde, W G Jones, M B Kelly, Mrs R L Lewis, Miss M A Mason, Miss S C Meekings, C D Nicholls, M M G Oborski, M W Partridge, Mrs A R A Poole, Mrs P A Rimell, Mrs J L Salter, J A Shaw, M J Shellie, K J Stokes, R Wheway and A D Williams.

CM.29 MINUTES SILENCE – LONDON BOMBINGS

The Council stood for one minute's silence in memory of the victims of the London bombings.

CM.30 PRAYERS

Prayers were said by the Reverend Alice Goodman, Saint Mary's, Kidderminster.

CM.31 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs M H Baillie, M A W Hazlewood and Mrs F M Oborski.

CM.32 HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Council had before it the recommendation of the Cabinet from its 25th May 2005 meeting (Minute CAB.5 refers): to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Stourport Town Councillor, former District Councillor and former Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council, Mrs Elizabeth Mills, MBE. This was in recognition of her outstanding service to the authority and the local community over many years.

The Chairman highlighted the fact that that this was a very important event as it was the first time the District Council, in all of its 31 years of existence, had conferred the title of Honorary Alderman. He welcomed former Officers and Chairmen and honoured guests to the proceedings.

The Leader of the Council expressed his honour in proposing that the title of Honorary Alderman of Wyre Forest District be conferred on Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mills. In his speech, he also referred to her background in local politics and spoke of Mrs Mills' passion, dedication and commitment over many years in the service of the public since the 1960's.

Group Leaders and other Members congratulated Councillor Mrs Mills on the receipt of the title and paid tribute to her outstanding achievements in her long and dedicated service as a Councillor. They drew attention to her ability to work with all Councillors across the political spectrum for the good of the local community.

The Chairman of the Council read out an e-mail of congratulations that had been received from Stan Baldwin, a former Chief Executive of Wyre Forest District Council, and his wife.

On behalf of all officers past and present, the Chief Executive added his tribute to Councillor Mrs Mills. He echoed the sentiments that had been expressed, particularly the view that to be the District Council's first Honorary Alderman was a well-deserved achievement in the light of her public service extending to nearly five decades.

When the formal resolution had been passed, as set out in the decision below, the Chairman of the Council presented Councillor Mrs Mills with the Badge of Office of Honorary Alderman, a commemorative scroll and a bouquet of flowers.

Councillor Mrs Mills unveiled a plaque in the Council Chamber inscribed with her name as the Council's first Honorary Alderman.

Councillor Mrs Mills then responded to the Council. She spoke of her honour at being conferred with this title and thanked all those who had made it possible. In addition, she expressed appreciation to the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and the staff, who had been responsible for the arrangements for this ceremony. She thanked Councillor W G Jones for making the scroll box and plaque.

Then, in a witty and entertaining speech, she reminded members of her background in local politics and included anecdotes about her experiences. She also acknowledged the encouragement and support she had received from her father and her late husband.

At the conclusion of her response, Councillor Mrs Mills received a prolonged standing ovation from the Council and all present at the meeting.

DECISION:

- 1. In pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mills be admitted as an Honorary Alderman of the District of Wyre Forest in recognition of the eminent services which she has rendered to Wyre Forest.**
- 2. The common seal of the Council be affixed to a scroll conferring upon Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mills the title of Honorary Alderman.**
- 3. A Badge of Office and scroll be presented to Councillor Mrs Elizabeth Mills.**

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm.,