

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Sevenoaks Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 9 May 2011 at 7:47 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs M E Crabtree – Town Mayor
R J Parry – Deputy Town Mayor

Cllr S L Arnold
Cllr C L L Baker
Cllr G R S Clack
Cllr A S Clayton
Cllr Mrs A E Dawson
Cllr A Eyre
Cllr R M C Hogarth

Cllr Mrs M A London
Cllr R L Piper
Cllr S G Raikes
Cllr M G Short
Cllr P E Towell
Cllr Mrs P C Walshe
(15)

Also Present

John Brigden
Sue Camp
Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Committee Clerk
Press
Members of the Public - 25

Apologies for absence: Cllr J M Canet

21 DECLARATION OF INTEREST
No declarations of interest were received.

22 CREATION OF FREEMAN
Councillor R J Parry proposed that Councillor John Frederick London be given the honorary title of Freeman of the Town of Sevenoaks, which Cllr Mrs A E Dawson seconded

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that

Cllr John Frederick London be granted the honorary title of Freeman of the town of Sevenoaks

The Town Mayor stated:

I, on behalf of Sevenoaks Town Council, would like to present you with this scroll to grant you, John Frederick London, the honorary title of Freeman of the Town of Sevenoaks in recognition of your outstanding work and distinguished services to the community over the past 50 years. On behalf of your colleagues and towns people of Sevenoaks this is to thank you for the 50 years of dedicated service.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Crabtree, praised Cllr London's long and distinguished career.

He was the youngest councillor elected to the Sevenoaks Urban District Council in 1959. He rose to become chairman of the Urban District Council in 1970/71. He joined Sevenoaks Town Council when it was created in 1974. He was Town Mayor in 1974/75, 1988/89 and 2000/01. As well as carrying out duties as a Town Councillor, Cllr London has also been a County Councillor for 14 years and had the honour of being Chairman of the County Council in 2005/06.

The Town Mayor remarked on his stunning career and said that it had been an exceptional honour to work with such an exceptional man and offered the full Council's congratulations.

As a Freeman of Sevenoaks Town, Cllr London is entitled to attend future Council meetings and the Town Mayor confirmed her delight that John is able to keep a careful watch over the council in future years.

Cllr Mrs Dawson stated that Cllr London, a Councillor for 50 years, is an outstanding and unusual man and the Town Council had hugely benefited from his sound advice and exemplary gentlemanly manner. She said that many councillors would be happy to achieve what he had in the last 50 years. Cllr Mrs Dawson emphasised how much Cllr London would be missed as a friend and a colleague. She thanked him for all he had achieved for Sevenoaks.

Cllr Clayton said how much he and his colleagues appreciated the advice Cllr London had shared with them over the last 24 years. He referred to the dinner given by Cllr & Mrs London to welcome new members of the Town Council in 1988 and how much it had been appreciated by councillors. Cllr Clayton hoped that Cllr London would exercise his right to attend future Town Council meetings.

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Crabtree, presented Cllr London with a scroll of the Freemanship of the town of Sevenoaks

Cllr John London received the scroll and thanked all present stating that the granting of Freeman of the Town was totally unexpected and he was most surprised and honoured when he received the letter informing him.

He outlined his early career as a councillor when he was 24 and how local government had altered over the years. He stated that he had worked with many good town clerks and councillors. He reminded councillors of the replanting of the seven oaks which had taken place twice, various local schemes proposed for the town of Sevenoaks, some which materialised and some shelved. More recently the taking over of the running of the Stag Community Arts Centre by the Town Council and its success.

Cllr London said he was delighted to be a Freeman and asked all present to stay for a glass of champagne in celebration of this honour.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm

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Town Mayor