

## HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the COUNCIL held in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 14 November 2012.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs B E Boddington – Chairman.

Councillors J D Ablewhite, S Akthar,  
M G Baker, K M Baker, Mrs M Banerjee,  
I C Bates, P L E Bucknell, G J Bull,  
E R Butler, R C Carter, S Cawley,  
B S Chapman, K J Churchill, S J Criswell,  
I J Curtis, J W Davies, D B Dew, P J Downes,  
R S Farrer, R Fuller, D A Giles, J A Gray,  
S Greenall, N J Guyatt, G J Harlock,  
R Harrison, D Harty, R B Howe, C R Hyams,  
Mrs P A Jordan, P Kadewere, Ms L Kadic,  
S M Van De Kerkhove, Mrs P J Longford,  
A J Mackender-Lawrence, P G Mitchell,  
M C Oliver, J W G Pethard, P D Reeve,  
Mrs D C Reynolds, T V Rogers,  
M F Shellens, R G Tuplin, D M Tysoe,  
P K Ursell, R J West and A H Williams.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors W T Clough, Mrs L A Duffy, A Hansard and T D Sanderson.

### **36. PRAYER**

The Reverend A Barrett, Vicar of St. Mary's, Buckden and All Saints Church, Offord Cluny opened the meeting with Prayer.

### **37. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No interests were declared by the Members present.

### **38. PRESENTATION TO ALDERMAN M F NEWMAN**

The Council was reminded that at a Special Meeting held on 18th May 2011, the Council conferred the title of Honorary Alderman upon former Councillor M F Newman in recognition of his distinguished service to Huntingdonshire. To acknowledge his office of Alderman, particularly on occasions when required to attend civic functions on behalf of the Council, the Council considered that it would be fitting for Mr Newman to wear a form of insignia by which he would be formally recognised as an Alderman.

Therefore and having invited him to approach the dias, the Chairman, Mrs Boddington presented Mr Newman with his Alderman jewels.

### **39. FREEDOM OF THE DISTRICT**

By reference to a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Council was invited to consider whether to confer the title of Honorary Freemen under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 upon the 423rd Air Base Group at RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth and RAF Wyton. The Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite addressed the Council in support of the recommendations.

With Remembrance Sunday having just taken place, Councillor Ablewhite considered that it was particularly appropriate, at this time, to formally acknowledge those who commit their lives to the Armed Services, the contribution they make to the economy and the strong connection that Huntingdonshire has enjoyed with the military bases over many years.

In indicating his wholehearted support for the recommendations, Councillor Ablewhite paid tribute to the significant contribution made to the community in Huntingdonshire by the Armed Services.

These sentiments were endorsed by Councillors D B Dew, P J Downes, R Harrison and C R Hyams. Having looked forward to the events planned to commemorate the honour should it be conferred, the Council, in recognition of the positive contribution made to the social and economic life of the District and the hospitality and friendship shown to the community of Huntingdonshire by the Squadrons over many years

#### **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- (a) that in accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the 423rd Air Base Group at RAF Alconbury and RAF Molesworth be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the District of Huntingdonshire;
- (b) that in accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, RAF Wyton be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the District of Huntingdonshire; and
- (c) that arrangements be made for appropriate ceremonies and presentations to admit the 423rd Air Base Group and RAF Wyton as Honorary Freemen of the District to be held during April and August 2013.

The meeting ended at 7.14pm.

Chairman