

**Draft Minutes of the Special meeting of the Council
of the Town of Abingdon-on-Thames held on Wednesday 25th September 2019
in the Roysse Room, Guildhall, Bridge Street, Abingdon**

Present

Cllr Charlie Birks	Mayor
Cllr Cheryl Briggs	Deputy Mayor
Cllr Gabby Barody	
Cllr Samantha Bowring	
Cllr Grace Clifton	
Cllr Andrew Coveney	
Cllr Eric de la Harpe	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	
Cllr Andy Foulsham	
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	
Cllr Robert Maddison	
Cllr Lorraine Oates	
Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom	
Cllr Andrew Skinner	

In Attendance

Mr Nigel Luker	Macebearer
Mr Steve Rich	Assistant Town Clerk / Head of Services
Mr Nigel Warner	Town Clerk (Clerk to the meeting)
Mrs Susan Whipp	Treasurer/ Responsible Financial Officer

C64 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Margaret Crick, Alex Greenaway and Helen Pighills.

C65 Declarations of Interest

None.

C66 Freedom of Abingdon-on-Thames

The meeting received and considered the report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Town Council which took place on 23rd January 2019 two motions in relation to nominations for Honorary Freedoms

were moved and seconded. In accordance with the Council's established procedure, having been moved and seconded these motions had stood adjourned until 20th March 2019 when, in accordance with its powers under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), nominations were approved to award the Freedom of the Town to:

1. Lesley Legge;
2. Marilyn Badcock;
3. Julie Mayhew-Archer;

The order detailed above was the order in which the nominations were received and therefore made.

The Council had approved the nominations and the three individuals have accepted the nominations.

Following approval of nominations then appointment must be by a resolution approved at a meeting of the Council which is specially convened for that purpose and approved by not less than two-thirds of the Members who vote on it. It was noted that whereas nominations are discussed in private session, the grant of a Freedom is considered in open session.

It was proposed by Cllr Samantha Bowring, seconded by Cllr Lorraine Oates and that in accordance with its powers under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), to award the Freedom of Abingdon to Lesley Legge, Marilyn Badcock and Julie Mayhew-Archer as persons of distinction and who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to Abingdon.

In proposing the motion the Leader, Cllr Samantha Bowring, stated that the amount of work done by volunteers in Abingdon was fantastic. The award of the Freedom of the Town was the highest award which the Council could make and was given to women and men who made a significant contribution over and above what was usual and that was the case with these three individuals, whose contributions she outlined. She asked for the support of the Council.

The motion was debated and a number of Members spoke to support the nominations. The Mayor, Cllr Charlie Birks, stated that in going around the town he was in awe of the amount of work undertaken by volunteers, it was incalculable.

On being put to the vote it was **resolved** unanimously:

That in accordance with its powers under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), to award the Freedom of Abingdon to Lesley Legge, Marilyn Badcock and Julie Mayhew-Archer as persons of distinction and who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to Abingdon.

It was noted that it was customary to celebrate the award of the Freedom at a ceremony at which a scroll and badge are presented, at a later date. This was later confirmed as 5th November 2019.

The meeting rose at 9.30 pm.

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Mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames

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Date