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NORTH DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL FULL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2019

Present: Cllrs P Batstone, B Batty-Smith MBE, P Brown, A Burch (Vice-Chairman), G Carr-Jones, A Cattaway, A Chase, B Cooper, D Croney, V Fox, J Francis, M Gould, T Handford, S Jespersen, A Kerby, N Lacey-Clarke, C Langham, E Parker, V Potheary (Chairman), B Ridout, M Roake, D Skipwith, J Somper, Jackie Stayt, John Stayt, J Tanner, D Walsh, J Westbrook and P Williams MBE

Apologies: Cllrs D Beer, C Dowden and G Jefferson

Also present:

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Stuart Caundle (Head of Paid Service), Stephen Hill (Strategic Director), Elaine Tibble (Democratic Services Officer) and Jason Vaughan (Strategic Director)

40. **Honorary Alderman**

Proposed by Cllr Carr-Jones, seconded by Cllr Beer (Full Council 18 May 2018)

Resolved:-

That, in recognition of his service to the District as Councillor, this Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on David Milsted.

Proposed by Cllr Carr-Jones, seconded by Cllr Potheary (Full Council 28 November 2018)

Resolved:-

That, in recognition of their service to the District as Councillor, this Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on Cllrs William Batty-Smith, MBE, Mrs Deborah Anne Croney, Victor Fox and Michael Roake

Speeches are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Appendix - member speeches

Duration of meeting: 11.00 am - 12.09 pm

Chairman

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DAVID MILSTED

It is unfortunate that David is not able to join us this morning to receive his Alderman award, but I would like to say a few words to thank him for 15 years of dedicated service to NDDC.

As a councillor, David was one of those rare people who could appreciate the difficulties the authority was facing, who would work tirelessly to address the issues and ensure that front line services continued, whilst still remaining true to his political beliefs. He was an extremely effective leader of the opposition who chaired the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an honest and open approach – and won the respect of every member of this council.

David, we thank you for your hard work and loyalty, and wish you well in your retirement.

BILL BATTY-SMITH

Bill is the patriarch of this council and after 20 years has earned the right to step down from chairing the most difficult committee we have – Planning!! His advice and good counsel has stood us all in good stead, and on a personal level, he has kept me in line with a firm word - whilst always being there, on hand, to distil his wisdom and offer support. The council going forward will very much miss your expertise.

Thank you Bill for your unstinting loyalty to the district and to this council.

DEBORAH CRONEY

Deborah and I were elected on the same day 12 years ago – both of us raw recruits! Deborah quickly settled in and it soon became apparent to everyone that she had the rare qualities of intelligence, steely determination, organisational skills and a capacity to get to the nub of the matter – whatever the issue. Here was a quiet force to be reckoned with! Fortunately for NDDC Deborah also has an attitude of total commitment – if a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well, and this council has been the lucky recipient of her labour and dedication to a job well done.

As a council we tend not to bestow the honour of Alderman after only 12 years, but in Deborah's case, it was felt that her visionary and inspirational contribution had been so great that she should receive our highest award for services given. Thank you Deborah.

I would also like to thank her personally for all her help with our celebrations today. The balloons are a triumph!

VICTOR FOX

Victor is another very longstanding member of this council and has contributed tremendously to its successes. Over the 20 years of his councillorship he has stepped up to represent many aspects of our work – culminating of course in being Chairmen of the council 2015 - 2017. The town of Sturminster Newton will feel your loss as their Dorset Council representative, as will we all. Victor, we wish you a peaceful and healthy retirement – you have earned it!

MICHAEL ROAKE

Michael is a quiet man, but his 20 years of service to this council has not been a quiet affair. He has held many positions of responsibility and been a member of the cabinet since 2001, 5 years of which were deputy leader of the council. I think it's fair to say that without Michael's tenacity and commitment, the exemplary Dorset Waste Partnership programme would not exist. He holds strong opinions about many things, but his approach is always tempered by good manners and respect for another's point of view. He is a gentleman.

Michael, on behalf of the entire district – thank you for your determination to ‘make a difference’ you absolutely succeeded and we wish you well.

Chairman, Friends & colleagues, lavishing honorary Aldermanship's upon these fine Councillors in recognition of their commitment, dedication and passion to this council, will not enable them to go **Tar Barrel Burning** down Blandford High Street, **nor graze their sheep on the Mildown** but maybe it should.....

Because. These five outstanding Councillors deserve our recognition for their collective 88 years of loyal service they have given to North Dorset District Council.

Three of the Councillors are also known as the Class of 1999.

Prior to their election there was only one Conservative Councillor on the District Council.

The title of honorary Alderman is not about party Politics, it is about service to the community. Public service,Duty, and a job well done:

Before we go on to talk individually about "the famous five"

I would just say: "That Carlsberg don't make Councillors", but if they did..... these five would probably be the best.....!

David Milsted:

The First Alderman being honoured today. David was a true public servant to this Council & his Ward in Gillingham, which he represented diligently during his 16-year term in office.

David stood down in May 2017

As leader of the opposition & Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny David always acted in the best interests of this Council. Working cross party for the good of our residents.

David sent me a fitting tribute to the Council with his thanks and appreciation, at being Alderized... If there is such a word!

Regrettably with the technology available we are unable to upload his clip. His best wishes go to the other members being recognised and honoured today

Cllr: Bill Batty-Smith.

Bill is the reason I'm here on the Council, well, it was his late wife Anne actually who told Bill to tell me to stand for Council in 2003!

As I said, Bill is one of the class of 99. He has been the

Vice Chairman, Housing Policy Committee May – November 1999

Vice Chairman, Standards Committee May 2000 – May 2001

Vice Chairman, Overview & Scrutiny Committee 2007 – May 2011

Twice Bill has been Chairman of the Standards Committee May 2001 – May 2003

And September 2012 until Committee disbanded in 2014

Bill is probably best known to us as an outstanding Chairman, of Development Management Committee from May 2003 to date he's still in the chair!. 15 years later, so if residents do complain about development anywhere, they can all blame Bill!

Our third councillor becoming an Alderman today is: **Deborah Croney**,

Deborah is a dedicated public servant. First Elected to Hill Forts Ward in 2007
Deborah served as Chairman of Planning Policy Panel from May 2008 – May 2012

After time spent on both Planning and Scrutiny Committee. Deborah joined the cabinet where she held the Portfolio for Economy and served two years as Deputy to Peter Webb, before becoming the Leader of this Council in 2012 – until 2016

Deborah was commended by central Government for her work in reforming local government, and of course she was instrumental in developing the Dorset Councils Partnership, the first Tri- council partnership in the UK.

Deborah has served as a member of the Local Government Association's Environment, Housing and Transport Board and She has also been a member of the Rural Commission and was elected to the Rural Policy Review Group and the LGA's Councillor's Forum.

I'd like to thank Deborah for putting her faith in me to serve as her deputy, a role I enjoyed immensely, because it's a darn sight easier than being leader!

Our next honorary Alderman is: **Victor Fox**,

Vic is another member from the class of 99 Elected to the Stour Valley Ward as one of the two members.

Victor served as Vice Chairman, DSO Board, and Vic I still can't think for the life of me what that is,

Vic has been Chairman of the Sport & Recreation Policy Committee

Vice Chairman, Development Control Committee

Chairman, Service Review Committee May 2007 – May 2012

Vice Chairman of Council May 2013 – May 2015

I know that Victor was extremely proud and honored to serve as Chairman of Council from May 2015 – May 2016

Victor and Liz have been wonderful ambassadors for this Council, a testament to their commitment to North Dorset and the chain gang.

Last but by no means least:

Cllr: Michael Roake, (affectionately known as Krusha.)

Michael is another 1999-er

Before joining the Cabinet, Michael was Chairman Planning Policy May 1999 – May 2001

Michael has been an absolute “brick”, rock solid and a loyal Cabinet member serving under Angus Campbell, David Whitehead, Peter Webb, Deborah Croney and myself.

Michael was also the Deputy Leader for 5 years

As Cabinet Member for the Environment and Leisure Michael has achieved a great deal including: the Town Centre Enhancements in, Blandford Shaftesbury and Sturminster Newton
As well as being a leading role in our “Tough Choices” programme and the Restructuring of leisure provision, Michael was also Project Lead for 3 Rivers Leisure Centre in Gillingham.

He established the Parish Liaison Meetings with Great Dorset Steam Fair and the highly successful temporary traveller site.

Michael was a Lead and founder Member of the Stour Valley Poole and Dorset Waste Partnerships

As asset management lead Michael has overseen the Nordon project board and the Shaftesbury Cattle Market sale to their successful conclusions.

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Fellow Councillors

When, in 1996, I returned to England after 25 years of working in the more unstable parts of the Middle and Far East, and the last couple of them in dealing with the unexploded detritus left by the Allied forces in Kuwait in the first Gulf War, I little expected that, three years later in 1999, I would be elected to the North Dorset District Council as one of the members for the Blackmore Ward. I even less expected that 20 years later, three weeks before my 90th birthday, I should have the privilege of being appointed an Honorary Alderman, in the company of the other two remaining '99ers' Victor and Michael and our charming former Leader, Deborah.

Times have been eventful and interesting. Many years ago David Whitehead asked me to join his Cabinet but I declined with thanks, feeling that I could do more useful work in Planning. Over the years I have served on almost every Committee, and as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of most of them, but my main emphasis has been on Planning, which I have chaired for the last 15 years. This has had its amusing moments, such as a person put in an application to divide a curtilage and then when it came before Committee, spoke eloquently against the division. There were also times when the agenda at full council was sleep-inducing. In my early days I could rely on Angus Campbell to dig me in the ribs but when this service was no longer available there was one occasion when Michael Oliver, in the Chair, had to use his gavel to wake me up.

North Dorset has, I think, set a standard for not only the county of Dorset but for how local government should operate. Controversial items have been resolved by sensible discussion between members of all parties and there has been none of the childish and immature 'slinging' which seems to be fashionable in the higher levels of what passes for Government these days.

We have been very fortunate in our Officers. Back in the 1940's, when I was commissioned from Sandhurst, Field-Marshal Sir William Slim in his speech said "Remember Gentlemen, there are no bad Regiments, only bad Officers". Liz Goodall and her 'gang' I think gave us outstanding service – always available and always ready with advice when necessary

To all of you who are standing for the new unitary Dorset I wish the very best of luck and when you are elected, as I am sure you will be, every success in what will be, I am sure, very challenging times.

Thank you all very much for this honour.

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Councillor Bill Batty Smith,

When you joined the Council, I was living on my farm with Horses and Goats working as a sculptor blissfully unaware that what I really wanted to do was spend my whole life in committee meetings. That was a lifetime ago Bill

Ever since I joined the Council Bill has been Chair of Planning that was a given Cllr Bill Batty Smith is Planning and that was never questioned, He has always been held in the highest regard by me and all who work with him.

I was on the Planning committee for a year and we used to have some fun because there were two David's, David Milsted and myself and it had become common place for David Milsted to speak first, well I had found something that I liked "Planning" and I had lots that I wanted to say.... on a good day some was even relevant.... Other times Bill would shut me up with a look or a word. When Bill asked for comments... I would put my hand up.... He would say David..... and David Milsted would start to speak Until Bill calmly said No the other David and that really annoyed our Lib Dem friend, who would posture and sigh heavily.

Bill has such a way of controlling a situation without being controlling as we all know Planning can be so contentious and when members of the public come to a meeting they are going to do their utmost to speak and I have witnessed some pretty outrageous situations where they try to be confrontational and even draw the Chairman into an argument but he would never rise to it. He would deal with it so calmly that you didn't even realise there had been an issue.

Bill has been a fine Ambassador for North Dorset District Council, a figure head for Planning, a true English gentleman that I greatly respect as a colleague but even more ... hold dear as a friend.

Bill you really do deserve this honour and not because you have been on North Dorset District Council for 20 years because any posterior can keep a seat warm. It is for all the hard work that you have done in that time for the people of North Dorset whilst representing this Council. I am truly honoured to know you and speak to this.

Well done mate!

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Thank you speech for Aldermanship and Goodbye to North Dorset

Val: Thank you for this honour and for all of your support as Chairman over the past few years

Graham: thank you so much for proposing this honour

Liz: Fantastic you are able to join us today and great to see other Aldermen and guests here today.

I'd like to take you back to 1974: The Year that the Local Government Act was made and the Year that North Dorset District Council was formed:

In 1974 I was five and a half years old. I was rather energetic, had a lot to say for myself and was (according to my Mother) rather "bossy".

I vividly recall 1974 because this was the year that I was allowed to stay up late and watch the Eurovision Song Contest.

It was held in Brighton. The interval act was "The Wombles". Olivia Newton-John sang the UK entry but ABBA who sang **Waterloo** won the contest.

Well; when they came on to perform, I was mesmerised by their outfits, the girls long hair and glossy lips and long legs.

I knew, in that moment, that I wanted to be a singer and dancer.

I was going to become the fifth member of ABBA.

I knew that the band's name was an anagram of the first letters of their first names so; when I joined ABBA I was going to give them a choice for a new name.

We could be called DABBA or ABBA-D.

Years rolled by and ABBA had hit after hit and global success.

I learned all the songs and all of the dance moves. I was joining ABBA when I grew up and took my singing and dancing very seriously.

In 1982, when I was 14, sadly, ABBA broke up.

I was quite sad but not too dis-heartened as I had discovered boys and that kind of distracted me from my ambition of joining the world's greatest pop band.

I put to the back of my mind my ambition to join the **Super-troup** and becoming a **Dancing Queen**.

Years rolled by even more and in 2007, The electors of Hill Forts Ward **Took a chance on me**, and elected me their 2nd Councillor to North Dorset District Council.

I soon found out that ***The Name of the Game*** was all about ***Money, Money, Money***. It seemed as though the Council was ***Under Attack*** with constant, increasing demand for services and ever decreasing funds and resources.

But Liz, and latterly, Matt and then Stuart and the whole team here at North Dorset District Council have kept the services going ***On and On and On***. So professionally and also, with so much compassion.

And so, as we celebrate ***Our Last Summer***,
And we say ***So Long*** and ***Hasta Manana***.

I would like to thank you for ***Taking a Chance on Me***, as a Councillor, Portfolio Holder, Deputy Leader and Leader.

Although ABBA are no longer together. Their legacy lives on. We all remember them with fondness and recognise the brilliant and substantial contribution they made to the world of pop music and as individuals, they are still writing and performing and are still recognised as part of one of the worlds greatest pop bands.

And ***When All Is Said and Done***.

Just like ABBA: Our legacy lives on.

And we will remember with fondness and respect.

The Way Old Friends Do

The substantial contributions that the officers and councillors of North Dorset District Council have made to and for the community of North Dorset.

And although, the Councillors going forward from North Dorset will be part of the new Dorset Council and North Dorset District Council will be no more. You will always be recognised as part of, in my opinion, part of, probably, the Country's greatest District Council.

Thank you and very best of luck.

Deborah Croney

Firstly, I have to mention that I first knew I would be doing the congratulations was at just after 11-00 p.m. last night - so please accept my apologies for these seemingly random utterings spluttering from my vocal cords.

Councilor Batty – Smith MBE.

I will forever associate yourself with the words addressed to myself 'I hope you ARE NOT HERE once AGAIN TO MAKE TROUBLE' before the commencement of a planning meeting!

I quacked and quivered but somehow managed to carry on at the meeting hands shacking with my notes clenched tight.

To be serious Bill's dedication, fair minded approach and air of authority saw through many a contentious application. Always courteous he over many years was the exemplar of committee chairpersons.

I wholeheartedly congratulate you on your honour, is it the right word elevation.

Councilor Deborah Croney

I have two insights into Deborah – if I may be so bold as to address you by your first name.

Firstly, of course as a District Councilor, indeed leader of this council where her pragmatic, clear sighted approach enabled this then embattled council to strive forward to many a national award. To not only survive but in many ways to flourish.

Secondly, as my district councilor who attendance and diligence in taking forward the requests, the asking for helps by Pimperne Parish Council meant she was the 'go to person'

North Dorset and Pimperne owes a debt of gratitude to Deborah making this honour totally deserved.

Councilor Victor Fox

Victor and I hope you do not mind me calling you Victor has been I think in many ways the representative of I what I think of as Dorset on the council. Many a time I have chatted to Victor about Stur and the old shops for example my relatives years ago had a shop that sold the curious combination of sports goods and antiques! Victor is like that shop always looking to look forward with the modern but remembering to hold on to the best from the past. For bringing to the council good common sense and the need for continuity of values. Victor more than merits the award of Honoree Freeman.

David Milstead.

David worked tirelessly, he brought erudition to the council chamber, pragmatism to the tasks he undertook and friendship to all. In so many ways he was the embodiment of the core value of our council, in a few words 'what would be best for the people of North Dorset and how can we bring that about.' The saving of non-statutory services was achieved by an across the council drive.

As a consequence I never thought of David as having a party label, as with so many others here in North Dorset it was about a collegiate approach and for that reason he totally merits this title of honoree freeman of this council.

Councilor Michael Roake.

When I think of Michael, I think of passion, standing for no-nonsense. When residents reflect on council services, normally one of the first to spring to mind is rubbish collection. When refuse collection, re-cycling clearly needed reform. Michael brought a fierce determination that drove this through to completion. Pragmatism to ensure costs were kept under control and strength of character to withstand criticism. Not just North Dorset is in your debt but much of the county. Of course, you undertook much more as has been mentioned for which you deserve thanks.

Michael you have been a true servant of this council. And this award is rightly yours.

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Honorary Alderman reply speech.

Thank you Madam Chairman and thank you colleagues, friends for recognising my 20 years of service on this Council, Uniquely, as I may have mentioned before, in 1974 I was working for the old Sturminster Rural District Council and so I was there at the start of North Dorset District Council and now, sadly, I am here, 45 years later, to witness it's demise. N. Dorset was a good Council with a great atmosphere of working together, from both Officers and elected Members, for the benefit of our residents.

Looking back at my two decades as a District Councillor it can be divided into two parts, in the first half Michael and I helped achieve much for Sturminster Newton despite the closure of both the Cattle Market and the Cheese Factory, a leisure Centre, The Trailway, The Exchange and not forgetting Sturquest the first Community Partnership in the UK that won many awards for this Council.

The fact that Sturquest no longer exists signals that our second decade has been a constant round of Central Government Grant reductions resulting in the formation of the new unitary Dorset Council in a few weeks time, a decision we were, in reality, forced to make to ensure we continued to deliver essential services to our residents.

I wish to pay tribute to my two friends Michael and Bill who along with myself were first elected in 1999 'the 99ers' and who did such a great job in their different roles, at the same time we must remember those who started out with us and are sadly no longer here to share this day with us.

In 2015 you did me the great honour of electing me as your Chairman a role I greatly enjoyed even though I was never to achieve the standards set by previous holders I tried my best to represent this Council well as I lunched my way across the County!

I must not forget the support I received from all Council Officers and in particular, Democratic Services who did so much to assist me in dealing with the confusing world of Local Government I shall miss them all.

Finally, I must thank my lovely wife Liz who has supported me through elections, delivering leaflets, even attending the election counts, assisting me when I was Chairman and not forgetting the phone calls from residents just as a meal is ready!

And so as the power and status is drained away from me I will end with thank you all it has been great fun!

Cllr Victor Fox.

NDDC 1999-2019.