

Southwater Parish Council



Full Parish Council Meeting Freedom of the Parish

Wednesday 25th October 2017, 7.30pm

Beeson House
Lintot Square
Southwater
Horsham
RH13 9LA

Committee Members

Cllr Graham Watkins (Chairman)
Cllr Michael Neale (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Laurie Apted
Cllr Geoff Cole
Cllr Paul Davies
Cllr Ross Dye
Cllr Pauline Flores-Moore
Cllr Joy Hutchings
Cllr Derek Moore
Cllr Rachael O'Toole-Quinn
Cllr Chris Pearce
Cllr Hayley Timson
Cllr Barbara Varley
Cllr Claire Vickers
Cllr Neil Whitear

Non Voting Committee Members

Mr Grant McGill, Mr Geoff Scoon



SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

Beeson House,
26 Lintot Square,
Fairbank Road,
Southwater,
West Sussex
RH13 9LA



Clerk: **Mrs.C.M.Tobin**
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MINUTES

The Minutes of the FULL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – FREEDOM OF THE PARISHED AREA OF SOUTHWATER meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2017 in the Council Chamber, Beeson House, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9LA commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Chairman: Cllr G Watkins

Cllr G Cole	Cllr P Flores-Moore
Cllr J Hutchings	Cllr D Moore
Cllr M Neale	Cllr H Timson
Cllr B Varley	Cllr C Vickers
Cllr N Whitear	

**Mr G McGill, Co-Opted Non-Voting*
Members of Council**

Clerk: Mrs C Tobin

County Councillor: None

District Councillors: None

Press: None

Members of the Public: 26

FR01/10/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman asked those present to turn off their mobile phones for the duration of the meeting, unless in an emergency, when they should go through the Chairman. In the event of a fire alarm sounding, everyone should evacuate the building via the exits indicated.

The Chairman advised that the meeting was not being recorded but minutes would be produced.

FR02/10/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies noted and agreed from Cllrs Apted, Davies, Dye, O'Toole-Quinn and Pearce and non voting member Geoff Scoon.

Members NOTED and APPROVED* the absence.

FREEDOM OF THE PARISH

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Graham Watkins, welcomed all to the meeting and expressed great pleasure at being able to preside over a special meeting to present three outstanding members of the community with such an honour.

He explained that although Freedom of the Parish had been awarded previously to Hazel Barnard, Jeremy Senneck, Tony Bull, Bob & Betty Piper and Audrey Broad, the meeting represented two firsts:

- 1) It was the first time a serving member of Council had received the award.
- 2) It was the first time the award had been given to someone who is not a resident of Southwater.

The Chairman stated that the Freedom of the Parish was not bestowed lightly and recipients must have achieved a status within the community that warrants a proposal to and approval from the Parish Council.

The Chairman stated he could not be able to the job he did for the Parish Council without the aid of Laurie Apted and Barbara Varley.

All three awardees Cllr Laurie Apted, Cllr Barbara Varley and Brad Watson OBE have achieved this status and prior to presenting the award, the Chairman informed those present that due to ill health Mr Laurie Apted was unable to make the meeting. The Freedom would be conferred tonight but the actual certificate would be presented at a later date when Cllr Apted was feeling better. Warm wishes were extended for his quick recovery.

Cllr Apted is the only remaining councillor today who was appointed when the Council was formed in 1987. During his time on the Council he also served twice as Chairman, an achievement in itself. Laurie moved to Southwater in 1961. He has been a member of the Southwater Horticultural Society and is still a fully qualified flower and vegetable Judge. He directed the Southwater Annual pantomime for ten years and was active in the first Southwater Youth Club and Badminton Club. It must be a pleasure for him to see the young people still in the community that he has helped to set up. Both Laurie and his wife Barbara were awarded the Southwater Cup for services to the village.

Cllr Varley moved to the village in 1966, has selflessly worked on behalf of others within the community as well as bringing up a family. Barbara started the Village Hall playgroup which still exists today and she also ran the after school club.

She has raised money for various charities and served as a District Councillor in 2003. Barbara is a serving Parish Councillor, a member of the village hall management committee and involved with various luncheon clubs. She is a real asset to the Parish Council with her great local knowledge.

Finally, Brad Watson OBE has tirelessly given his time to the local community and Southwater in particular. He has been a community Councillor, District Councillor

and lastly Council Councillor, representing Southwater. He is very much respected by the whole of Horsham but especially by the Community in Southwater.

Brad was involved in the Horsham Town Centre Re-Development Committee which has been awarded a dozen national and international awards. He has represented the Local Government Association in various roles. More recently Brad was instrumental in setting up the Sussex Police and Crime panel.

He was instrumental in achieving Southwater's new Library and on a lighter note, he was Southwater's Santa for twelve years, no mean feat.

The list of awards Brad has achieved in his career are many. The Chairman and Brad first met about four years ago when they realised they were both Freemen of the City of London, and it did not take long for Brad to get one more accolade.

Brad received his OBE in 1996 for working on the community charge with Michael Portillo under the Margret Thatcher Government, what may have come of that we will never know. The award also encompasses the work in the local community and for the regeneration of Horsham.

In summing up, the Chairman offered thanks to all three for their tireless work in and on behalf of the local community.

FR04/1017

TO RECEIVE A RESPONSE FROM THE RECIPIENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PARISH AWARD

Brad Watson OBE addressed the Council. On behalf of himself, Laurie and Barbara, he thanked all for the award stating he was very honoured to think that their actions had been worthy of merit sufficient to justify the Freedom of the Parish. He extended best wishes to Laurie for a quick recovery and that both Laurie and Barbara were contact points and font of all local knowledge.

Brad has enjoyed the privilege of being the County Councillor for Southwater for 16 years. His association with Southwater went back some way. His first recollection of Southwater was in 1962 as Vice Chairman of Horsham District Council when he remembered attending Southwater to watch the demolition of the chimney stack attached to the Brickworks.

Looking back, he reflected that he hope he had made a difference. That, the purpose of his actions were to make a difference. Especially in the case of the Southwater Library where he faced much resistance from the County Council who felt it could not be run independently.

He closed by saying that he was looking forward to running his sheep locally! And thanked all for the award saying it would have pride of place at home.

FR05/1017

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 29th November 2017

The meeting ended at 7.45pm