

EFC03/12/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Clerk referred Members of Council to information issued in relation to the Member's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders and asked whether any Member had at this point in the meeting anything of note to declare.

The Clerk stated that she had received no declarations at this point in the meeting.

EFC04/12/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that he would like to take this opportunity of thanking those present for coming along to a meeting which would see three local residents honoured for their work within the community and wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year.

EFC05/12/15 FREEDOM OF THE PARISH

The Chairman of the Council prior to presenting, Mrs.Betty Piper, Mr.Bob Piper and Mrs.Audrey Broad with the honour of Freedom of the Parish informed those present that unfortunately due to ill health Mrs.Audrey Broad was unable to make the meeting tonight but that her daughter Jenny Ansell was present to receive the reward on her behalf. The intention being that this will be presented by the Chairman and family in the near future.

The Chairman in welcoming everyone to the meeting stated that the Council was here today to present The Freedom of the Parish to three residents namely, Mr.Bob Piper, Mrs.Betty Piper and Mrs.Audrey Broad.

The Piper family have been stalwarts of the village for many years. They have directly contributed to four new windows in the parish church, provided a new standard for the Sea Scouts and have raised over £250k for the Village Hall.

The family have also been very active in the Horticultural Society.

Bob is a life member of The Royal British Legion, The Royal Corps of Signals, Palestine Veterans and the Royal Sussex Regiment Association. Bob was also a founder member of the Shipley Scouts and the Southwater Local History Group. He was integral in the raising of funds for the building of the Southwater War Memorial and was Chairman of the Village Hall for many years.

Betty was active in the WI movement and was Chair of the Welcome Club for 37 years. She also had committee positions on the Horticultural Society. Betty was also a founder member of the Southwater Trefoil Guild.

Audrey Broad moved to Southwater in 1946 to work in Southwater woods as a measurer with the Timber Corp of the Women's Land Army. She worked for the Forrestry Commission in their office in Southwater.

She taught needlework at the Southwater County Primary School in the 1960's.

She was Tawny Owl for the 1st Southwater Brownies and Lieutenant for 1st Southwater Guides.

She was a member of the Women's Institute in Southwater until its closure.

Audrey remains a member of the Horticultural Society having held various committee roles including Chairman and President and participated in their pantomimes.

She was also a founder member of the Southwater Methodist Church.

Unfortunately, Audrey cannot be here tonight, but her daughter Jenny is here to accept the Award on Audrey's behalf.

It gives me great pleasure therefore in awarding the Freedom of Southwater Parish to Bob and Betty Piper and Audrey Broad.

At this point in the meeting the various presentations took place along with photographs of the Award Ceremonies.

Mr. Bob Piper said that he would like to say a few words, stating firstly that both he and Betty were extremely honoured to have received the Award from the Parish Council. Mr. Piper said that it had been an exceptional year for him in that he had received a honour by way of a medal from the French Government in recognition of events in the World War. He had been invited along to meet the Duchess of Cornwall for the 70th Anniversary of VE Day.

It had been his 90th birthday in June, and both he and Betty had celebrated 60 years of marriage. In August he had attend with 16 other veterans events in Normandy where he had met many nationalities, stating that the beaches of Normandy had certainly been quieter than when he had first visited them, this was extremely moving in the context of the story provided to those present at the meeting. When in Normandy the veterans had visited a number of museums and cemeteries, with many French children who had been visiting at the same time, very honoured to have had the chance to meet and hear their stories. The visits to the cemeteries had been moving indeed he had had an opportunities of laying flowers on a grave of someone who had died from Southwater, the person having lived in Cripplegate Lane and the family known to his family.

Bob stated that he had also attend other ceremonies during the year and concluded by saying that it was remarkable that having lived through such events, he still remained in contact with friends including a Flemish family encountered during the War. Bob Piper concluded in thanking the Council again for the honour of the Freedom of the Parish.

At this point the Chairman concluded the end of the meeting at 7.20pm. Mr. Buckley asked everyone to stay for the Full Council meeting which would commence at 7.30pm after which refreshments would be served.