



SOUTHWATER PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council – Freedom of the Parish, held on Wednesday 18th September 2019 in the Council Chamber, Beeson House, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9LA commencing after the Full Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm.

Present: **Councillors:** G Watkins (Chairman), M Neale (Vice-Chairman), G Scoon, G Cole, D Moore, C Vickers, P Flores-Moore, N Knott, H Timson, N Whitear, S Lewis, C Stranks and B Varley.

Members of the Public: 14

Clerk: Dawn Spouge

District Councillors: Councillor C Vickers (is also a Parish Councillor)

County Councillors: Councillor N Jupp

Press: Not Present

ACTIONS

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 being recorded.

This meeting ended at 9.50pm after the Confidential session had completed.

**01/19. Public Forum – (maximum 3 minutes per person with an overall limit of 15 minutes).
All parishioners wishing to speak, must make their name known to the Clerk prior to the commencement of the meeting.**

Brad Watson attended and was in the public forum, the Chairman stated he was glad to see him and explained that he had also received the Freedom of the Parish.

02/19. Apologies for absence
None.

03/19. Freedom of the Parish
The Chairman thanked all present who had attended tonight not really here to attend the business of the Parish Council but for the presentation of the Freedom of the Parish award along with previous recipients of the award.

He reminded all with humour, that there really is no longer the ability of the person receiving the award to drive or graze sheep on any part of the Village, even if they did have sheep to do so.

He stated that this award is given on an irregular basis and recognises the valuable contribution given by individuals, some who are in public service, it is not awarded necessarily to Parish Councillors, although service to the Parish is a necessity when considering the award.

The award has always been at the discretion of the Parish Council, once put forward by the Chairman of the Council for consideration.

On this occasion, this award is being made to a District and Parish Councillor.

Councillor Vickers became a Parish Councillor in 1989, some 30 years ago and followed this by being elected to the District Council in 1991, which she has served on Finance and General Purposes, Housing and Leisure Services and Personnel Committees. She was Chairman of Horsham Council in 2001/2 and again in 2010/12 and currently has the challenging task of being Cabinet Member for Planning and Development, not an easy task with the constantly changing regulations, which may become even more difficult in November this year or January next year.

It is felt we are all in agreement that Councillor Vickers has given a lot of her personal time in helping the community with her Council roles and also in the past in her involvement in governorship of a local school. Claire constantly tries to help find solutions to problems highlighted by the Public flagged though social media or in her monthly council surgeries.

SPC feel that Councillor Vickers has given her time selflessly as a public servant and have great pleasure therefore in presenting her with this award which is felt is justly deserved.

Flowers and Framed Certificate are presented.

04/19. To Receive a Response from the Recipient of the Freedom of the Parish Award

Councillor Vickers stated that she was flattered to receive the award. She informed those present that she had seen nine chairmen in nearly thirty years.

She stated that she had originally become involved with the Council in regards to a local issues and had enjoyed her time and seeing the development of Southwater Centre and liaising with the general public.

She thanked everyone for the award.

05/19. Date of the next Full Parish Council Meeting – 20th November 2019

Meeting ended at 9.05pm.

Refreshments were enjoyed by all afterwards.