

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL  
18 SEPTEMBER 2013  
7.00 - 7.45 PM**



**Present:**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Jan Angell), Councillors Kendall (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Angell, Baily, Mrs Barnard, Dr Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Brossard, Ms Brown, Brunel-Walker, Davison, Dudley, Finch, Finnie, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Hayes, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Kensall, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Mrs Pile, Porter, Sargeant, Mrs Temperton, Virgo, Ward and Ms Wilson

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Mrs Ballin, Harrison, Ms Miller, Thompson, Turrell, Wade and Worrall

**21. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**22. Honorary Freedom of the Borough Award**

The Mayor advised the Council that this extraordinary meeting had been convened under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 to consider a motion conferring the Freedom of the Borough of Bracknell Forest on John Nike OBE DL. She then called upon the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison, to move the motion.

Councillor Bettison reminded members that the Freedom of the Borough was the highest honour the Council could bestow and was reserved for those who had rendered eminent service to the Borough. Only three individuals and one organisation have been awarded Freedom of the Borough of Bracknell Forest.

Councillor Bettison advised the Council that John Nike OBE DL had moved to Bracknell Forest in 1964, always had at least two jobs and set up his first company in 1967. He was best known for the public-facing businesses e.g. the Olympic sized ice skating rink, Ski and Snowboard Centre and Coppid Beech Hotel. The Leader added that John Nike OBE DL always looked for ways to benefit the community with activities such as opening the ice rink on Christmas morning for free; the after school club the 'Playing for Success Scheme' and subsidised skating and ice show tickets for disadvantaged children and young people. In 2002, John Nike OBE DL was recognised in the 2002 New Year Honours List with the award of the Order of the British Empire for services to business and the community in Bracknell. He was commissioned as a Deputy Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire in 2005. The Leader considered John Nike OBE DL a champion of the borough and asked for the list of his accolades to be appended to the minutes. John Nike OBE DL had forged strong links with the Borough and had become a major employer and benefactor to Bracknell Forest especially in the realms of education, sports and leisure and for this reason Councillor Bettison considered it an honour to move the motion that he be conferred with the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough. This was seconded by Councillor Leake.

A number of Councillors spoke in support of the motion and concurred with the recognition of all that John Nike OBE DL had contributed to make the borough a special place.

On being put to the vote all Members unanimously voted in favour of the motion. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** that by virtue of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, John Nike OBE DL be admitted an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Bracknell Forest in recognition of his eminent service to the Borough.

John Nike OBE DL then took the Freeman's oath. Whereupon, the Mayor formally declared that John Nike OBE DL had been duly appointed as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

John Nike OBE DL then made an address thanking members of the Council for the honour bestowed upon him.

**MAYOR**