

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
24 MAY 2000**

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Ms Brown, Browne, Mrs Clifford, Edger, Egan, Finnie, Flood, Glasson, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Henfrey, Jones, Kendall, McCormack, McCracken, Mills, North, Piasecki, Mrs Pile, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Wallace, Ward and Worrell

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillor Mrs Mattick

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR BARRY EGAN, IN THE CHAIR

65. Freedom of the Borough of Bracknell Forest

The Mayor advised the Council that this special 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 the immediate past Mayor, Councillor James G Finnie. He 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. He then called upon the Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison, to move the motion.

Councillor Bettison reminded the Council that Councillor Finnie had been elected to the former District Council in 1976 and had served as Chairman of the Development Committee from 1978 to 1984 and the Planning Committee from 1994 to 1995; as Chairman of the Liaison Committee for the Physically Disabled from 1992 to 1994 and Vice Chairman of the Access Committee from 1996 to 1997. He continued to serve on many committees and sub committees of the Council and had been a member of Crowthorne Parish Council since 1975. He had been elected Mayor of the Borough in May 1997 and had played a full part in the transition to a unitary authority. He had been re-elected Mayor when the Council became a unitary authority on 1 April 1998 and had served the Borough as Mayor until the present day. His commitment to the Borough and all its residents was beyond question and he had been tireless in his determination to see Bracknell Forest succeed as one of the new Unitary Authorities which were quickly becoming established as a model for the future. Councillor Finnie had served the Council and the community with much distinction during a particularly critical period 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. On being put to the vote 29 members present voted in favour of the motion and there were no votes against the motion. It was therefore

RESOLVED that pursuant to the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, to mark his eminent service as a Councillor since 1976 and, more particularly his term of office as Mayor from May 1997 to May 2000, Councillor James G Finnie FRICS be admitted an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Bracknell Forest.

Councillor Finnie then took the Freeman's oath. Whereupon, the Mayor formally declared that Councillor James G Finnie had been duly appointed as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

The Chief Executive advised that a commemorative scroll and casket had been commissioned and would be presented to Councillor Finnie at a later date. He then presented Councillor Finnie with a signed certificate and read letters of congratulation from the Lord Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire, the High Sheriff of Berkshire, the immediate past High Sheriff of Berkshire and other civic dignitaries.

Councillor Finnie then made a short address thanking members of the Council for the honour bestowed upon him.

The meeting commenced at 8.30pm
and concluded at 9.00 pm

MAYOR