

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL  
held remotely on Tuesday, 16 March 2021 at 2.00 pm.

**Council Members Present (virtually)**

The Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor  
Councillor Rob Wood (in the Chair)

Councillors

Dave Ashmore	Lee Mason
Matthew Atkins	Terry Norton
Chris Attwell	Stephen Morgan MP
Simon Boshier	Gemma New
Tom Coles	Robert New
Cal Corkery	Steve Pitt
Ben Dowling	Will Purvis
Jason Fazackarley	Darren Sanders
George Fielding	Jeanette Smith
John Ferrett	Lynne Stagg
David Fuller	Judith Smyth
Scott Payter-Harris	Luke Stubbs
Graham Heaney	Benedict Swann
Hannah Hockaday	Linda Symes
Suzy Horton	Claire Udy
Lee Hunt	Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Frank Jonas BEM	Steve Wemyss
Donna Jones	Matthew Winnington
Leo Madden	Tom Wood
Hugh Mason	Neill Young

**General Procedural Announcements**

[Agenda for Full Council on Tuesday, 16th March, 2021, 2.00 pm Portsmouth City Council](#)

The Lord Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting that is being held virtually in response to the limitations placed on government by the Covid 19 pandemic. He advised that the meeting would be run by reference to the model standing orders as set out in the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings Regulations 2020. The Lord Mayor then ran through the etiquette relating to virtual meetings.

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jo Hooper. Councillor Stephen Morgan advised that he would indicate to the Lord Mayor if he had to leave the meeting at any point owing to parliamentary business.

## 9. Declarations of Interest

The Lord Mayor advised that advice had recently been circulated from the Acting Monitoring Officer concerning the proposal to grant the freedom of the city of Portsmouth to all critical workers and volunteers. This advice was that although members are required to declare interests, in the circumstances, given the matters to be discussed and the wide remit of personal interests which may arise, such interests are not prejudicial in this instance and in any event a general dispensation is provided to allow all members a right to consider the matter.

Councillor Matthew Winnington declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his wife is a key worker.

Councillor Steve Wemyss declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he is an employee of the NHS.

Councillor Claire Udy declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that her partner and parents are key workers.

Councillor Jason Fazackarley declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he works in a supermarket.

Councillor Will Purvis declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that both he and his wife are key workers.

Councillor Hannah Hockaday declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that she is a key worker.

Councillor Ben Dowling declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his partner is a key worker in the NHS.

Councillor Gemma New declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that her mother works for the NHS.

Councillor Terry Norton declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he and his partner and sister are all key workers.

Councillor Rob Wood declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his wife, the Lady Mayoress, works for a local authority in a key area.

Councillor Lee Mason declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his sister works as a key worker.

Councillor Tom Wood declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that his partner is a key worker in an education charity.

Councillor David Fuller declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in that he works in a private residential care home.

## 10. Written Deputations

The Lord Mayor advised that one written deputation had been received for this extraordinary meeting and had been previously circulated. This was from Honorary Alderman Steven Wylie in respect of agenda item 3 - Granting of the Freedom of the City.

The Local Democracy Manager read out the deputation.

## 11. Granting of the Freedom of the City

It was

Proposed by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson  
Seconded by Councillor Donna Jones

To grant the freedom of the city of Portsmouth to all critical workers and volunteers.

The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group both spoke in support of the proposal.

The Lord Mayor advised that this proposal also had the formal support of the other two group leaders and the four deputy group leaders who each spoke in support as follows:-

Group Leader for the Labour Group, Councillor Fielding  
Group Leader for the Progressive Portsmouth People Group, Councillor Udy  
Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Pitt  
Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Stubbs  
Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Corkery  
Deputy Leader of the Progressive Portsmouth People Group, Councillor Smith

The Lord Mayor advised that a two-thirds majority was necessary in order for the proposal to be carried. The proposal was carried unanimously by assent.

The Lord Mayor said that a scroll setting out the granting of the freedom of the city would be presented to representative recipients at a future meeting.

**RESOLVED that in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972:-**

**The City Council wishes to record its gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful work done by critical workers and volunteers in many different roles to support residents of Portsmouth during the COVID 19 pandemic. The support given has been phenomenal and the City Council wishes to recognise the dedication, self-sacrifice, skill and hard work shown by so many, by awarding the Freedom of the City of Portsmouth to all critical workers and volunteers who have supported residents of Portsmouth during the pandemic.**

4 16 March 2021

**This resolution be engrossed on vellum and sealed with the common seal for presentation;**

**Arrangements be made for the presentation of this resolution and the formal admission to the Freedom of the City.**

The extraordinary meeting concluded at 2.37 pm.

.....  
Lord Mayor