

**KIDDERMINSTER TOWN COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
FREEMEN INVESTITURE**

**MINUTES of the meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.00pm in the Music Room, Kidderminster Town Hall, Kidderminster**

Present: The Mayor (Councillor J. Smith)  
Councillors R. Bishop, D. Chambers, G. Connolly, K. Gale, D. Hine,  
B. Hopkins, S. Miah, T. Muir, F. Oborski MBE, M. Rayner, S. Rook,  
D. Ross and E. Stokes

- C.661 Apologies**  
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Aston, H. Dyke, N. Gale and J. Phillips
- C.662 Prayers**  
The Mayor's Chaplain, Fr Tim Williams, Area Dean Kidderminster & Stourport, opened the meeting with a prayer
- C.663 Welcome from the Town Mayor**  
The Town Mayor, Councillor J. Smith, welcomed everyone in attendance to this special meeting of the Town Council which was being held to invest the four new Freeman of the town
- C.664 Investiture of the Freeman**  
Councillor D. Ross reminded Councillors of the previous minutes of the Town Council that had formally agreed the honour of Freeman of Kidderminster on each of the four distinguished citizens.
- Specifically, he mentioned the Town Council meeting in December 2020, and minutes C.512 & C.513 which agreed to bestow the honour of Freeman of Kidderminster on Mrs Anne Hingley and Mr Keith Bannister.
- He also referred to the meeting in May 2021 where the Town Council agreed, minute C.617 refers, to bestow the honour of Freeman of Kidderminster on former councillors, Mr Jeff Baker and Mr Mike Kelly.
- Councillor D. Ross added that the impact of Covid had stopped the celebration of these appointments earlier but he was delighted that the Council had managed to gather here on this evening to honour the new Freeman.
- Councillor D. Ross concluded by announcing Mrs Anne Hingley as Freeman. He referred to her long and dedicated service to Kidderminster and also to her key role in Kidderminster attaining parish status in 2015.
- Councillor K. Gale then announced Mr Keith Bannister as Freeman referring to his work of over 46 years in a senior financial role serving the various Councils governing Kidderminster. Councillor K. Gale also referred to Mr Bannister's long service with the former Kidderminster Chartered Trustees.

Councillor R. Bishop announced Mr Jeff Baker as Freeman referring to his long service as both a town and district councillor. She said that Mr Baker was Kidderminster through and through.

Finally, Councillor F. Oborski MBE announced Mr Mike Kelly as Freeman. She referred to long his service to Kidderminster which began back in the early 1970's as a councillor with the former Kidderminster Borough Council. Councillor F. Oborski MBE added that Mr Kelly had also played a significant role in Kidderminster gaining parish status.

**C.665 Oath of Allegiance**

The Town Clerk invited all the four newly appointed Freeman to take the Oath of Allegiance witnessed by the Town Council.  
All four freemen confirmed their Oath of Allegiance.

**C.666 Responses**

All four Freeman, Mrs Anne Hingley, Mr Keith Bannister, Mr Jeff Baker and Mr Mike Kelly gave individual responses to thank their families, colleagues and the Town Council for bestowing the honour of Freeman of Kidderminster on them.

At the conclusion of the responses all those present gave a round of applause to the four Freeman.

**C.667 Close of Meeting**

The Town Mayor closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance and support and she invited all present to join in the singing of the National Anthem

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm

Mayor

Date