

COUNCIL

14TH NOVEMBER 2018

VERBATIM RECORD

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LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

**EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday, 14th November 2018

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(Councillor G Latty)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2018

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon, everybody. We are here to appoint Honorary Aldermen, colleagues who have retired. I would remind you that this is not the main meeting but we are being webcast and it would also be a good idea if everybody turned their mobile phones off or silent. Thank you very much.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Blake

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It is my enormous pleasure to be here to propose the moving of our Honorary Aldermen here today and it is a real pleasure to look at the bench at the back and to see people back here, and it is hard to imagine that it is six months now since you were last in this Chamber. I am sure it probably seems like a lot longer to you, and some interesting conversations to have about how you have found the last six months.

Council, it is quite extraordinary that the people who are coming forward for the office of Alderman today together share 212 years of service to our great city and to the people that they have represented so admirably over the time that they were on Council. That is an extraordinary achievement and I would like to welcome as well their guests who have come along to witness the occasion today.

I am sure you will understand, we are quite time constrained today so I will focus on the Members of my Group and I know the other Leaders will do right by the Members that have been nominated by their Groups.

For our nominees we are looking at a staggering total of 129 years of service. You would never believe it, would you, to look at them! (*laughter*) You do not have to answer that! I can honestly say that all of the five Members that we are celebrating today have just shown extraordinary dedication and commitment to serving the people not only in their own communities, and very diverse communities represented here today by the five today, but the city as a whole and really standing up as flag bearers and very proud representatives of our great city.

I am particularly proud of the way all of them have stood up and advocated on behalf of the most vulnerable members of our communities and I am sure you will all join me in thanking them profoundly for the work that they have done. Some of their work is very well documented and is very much out in the public domain, but I know that each and every one of you has done incredible amounts of work behind the scenes that you have not gone out to get public acclaim for.

Just in no particular order other than alphabetical, can I just say David, thank you for everything you have done on behalf of Beeston and Holbeck. Your

extraordinary local history knowledge is sadly missed, I have to say. We are all working very hard to get up to speed.

Mick Coulson, thank you so much for your 22 years. You are such a proud representative of your community up in Pudsey and the way you have promoted the unsung heroes in your community is highly commended.

Graham, so many things that we worked together on closely and your grip helping us in a very difficult time, getting the budget in line, will be remembered and particularly your work on behalf of the armed forces of the city.

Josie, just incredible the way that you brought your professional expertise around young people and made it absolutely real and made sure young people are at the heart of everything we do.

Brian, an incredibly 30 years, absolutely extraordinary. Well done on behalf of your communities but also in keeping us on the straight and narrow so many times and for your great work in the last few years as I have been Leader in the Museum and Galleries and Cultural parts of my portfolio.

Can I just ask everyone to really show your appreciation. Thank you so much for everything you have done.

(Standing ovation)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Andrew Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all can I associate myself and my Group with all the comments made by Councillor Blake. As we are time limited I will endeavour, as I always do, to stick to my time. *(laughter)* Let's start as you mean to go on!

Can I just single out a few people actually before I come to our Conservative nominee, Rod Wood. Sue Bentley and Chris Townsley, although political opponents, for six years we found ourselves in the same joint administration and I would like to record my personal thanks to them for their very hard work. It is not always easy different political parties working together but what we proved over six years was it could be done, so thank you very much indeed from a personal point of view from me.

Very briefly, on to Mick Coulson. Where is he? Mick and Josie, again different political parties but again when Rod, Amanda and I worked with them on our Area Committee, then the Community Committee, we were able to put party politics on one side to work together in the best interests of our constituents and indeed, all the residents of the old Borough of Pudsey, so again delighted to see them here today.

Also, Jack Dunn. I am very pleased to see that Jack has been awarded this honour today; a long-standing Member of this Council and, again, a member of an

opposing political party with whom I got on extremely well, so I am delighted to see him here today as well.

On to my good friend and former colleague – still colleague in many ways – Rod Wood, one of the unsung heroes. When Rod got on to the Council we moved up a gear in Calverley and Farsley in terms of the events that we put on and the different projects we masterminded around the whole of the ward, and I know constituents miss him and I certainly do. I should just tell Members of Council that not many weeks ago Rod had a very serious operation. That did not, however, stop him from masterminding our World War I Centenary Commemorations in the ward on Sunday when he was back to rude health, telling off (I nearly used a rude word) and organising various volunteers to ensure they did precisely what he told them to do to make sure that those events went off as well and as successfully as they did, so I am therefore personally delighted to have been able, on behalf of this Group, to put Rod's name forward to be an Honorary Alderman of our great city.

It gives me great pleasure to second the resolution tabled by Councillor Blake and thank all the nominees here today for their work over very many years for our city. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Stewart Golton, please.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I also would like to congratulate all of our Aldermen who are going to be made today. If you will allow me, though, I will not make reference to individuals to other parties other than my own, only because I have a tendency to ramble and I would not want to disappoint my own party Members for missing something out.

As you can see, Chris Townsley has sent me quite a list of all the organisations that he has been involved with over the years. I have to say, it is not showing off. It is actually a CV which says, "In my time in public service I have made sure that I have supported all these organisations", and I will read a few out. There is the Playhouse Board, Horsforth school governor at three schools, West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority, the Fire Authority. He mentions Horsforth Choral Society twice. I am not sure if that is age or that you just really like them!

The point is that Chris spent 25 years as a Leeds City Councillor but more importantly has also been a very active part of his community during that time, and that is primarily what we are celebrating here today.

I note that we had the news sent from the Lord Mayor's Office only yesterday, I think, that Dr Jeffrey Sherwin and David Schofield, two very prominent Aldermen, have actually passed away, but it just goes to show when those names came forward, especially Dr Sherwin, being an Alderman does not mean that your service is finished because you are not a Councillor any more. It is actually another baton that you take forward and you make sure that you are involved in the civic life of your city in which he did very well up until the end.

Sue Bentley. Sue Bentley has already been mentioned and, like Chris, Sue is somebody who came on this Council not to be a Liberal Democrat; she came on this

Council to be a change for her city and for her community and was very good at working with Councillors of all colours, especially on her area of expertise which turned out to be Children's. I think that came from the fact that Sue and Jonathan were able to build a very strong family and she wanted to make sure that was something which every family in this city had access to and she wanted to make sure that she was on those institutions that are best placed to deliver it, hence the dedication on things like the Corporate Carers Committee where I believe you are probably the longest serving Member of it, given all the administration changes and whatever, and it is also reflected, of course, in the gratitude that you got from people like the Foster Carers Association for making sure that their concerns were taken forward.

Unlike Chris, though, you were not as good a gossip. Sorry, Chris, but sometimes we particularly made a point of not telling you some things because we knew it would get to the other parties, but, as I said, overall the dedication is there. For Weetwood in particular, when I was the Councillor there we got majorities of around about 250. As soon as Sue turned up, and especially with the double act with Jonathan, those majorities went up to a thousand, so I know that it is not just the people in this Chamber who appreciate the work that Sue did but also the constituents as well.

I know that Chris and Sue have served a long time for the city and very much deserve to have the accolade of being an Alderman but just to remind you again, the work is not over yet. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Tom Leadley, please.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, top of my list has to be our nominee, Shirley Varley, who did two full terms before stepping down and was one of the less flamboyant Members but always reliable and conscientious and deeply interested in Adult Social Care, her chosen field. She gave much to the working parties as well as to the parent Scrutiny Board, whatever it happened to be called at the time. Her work continues through Chairmanship of Morley Elderly Action, one of the Neighbourhood Network organisations which covers the whole of the old Borough of Morley, as well as doing gardening in Rothwell, though not as yet Councillor Golton's allotment. *(laughter)*

There was some talk of her being the first Lady Honorary Alderman from Morley; really she is the second after Rita Verity, one of the six Councillors who spanned the change from the Borough of Morley to the City of Leeds.

David Congreve was Lord Mayor and one of the most precise and professional of Plans Panel Chairman, always painstaking in attention to detail, accuracy and procedural form. He has a strong Morley connection in that his wife, Christine, spent her whole teaching career at Morley Newlands Primary School, rising to become an inspiring Headteacher. Unfortunately Christine did not reach retirement and is at rest in Gildersome Churchyard. Whenever I go there I always pause to pay my respects.

For some years I sat beside Mick Coulson on Plans Panel West. We usually agreed and, of course, when we did we were always right. *(laughter)* We were the

only ones who voted to have housing on the large Clariant brown field site at Horsforth at a time when defending the green by building on the brown was claimed to be the driving force behind everyone's planning agenda. Clariant was allowed at appeal. It will have served many a green field during the Site Allocations Process.

Jack Dunn was one of my ward Councillors in Ardsley and Robin Hood. He had a name for being "t'only one that ever does owt". Graham Hyde was a member of the Flooding Working Group which I chaired in 2005/6. We made a lot of progress on flash flooding, then found in a number of places across Leeds and drew attention to the risk of systematic river flooding by the Aire and Wharfe. We were not much heeded on the latter. Prising cash to tackle it from the hands of the penny wise and pound foolish of Whitehall is a problem to this day.

Brian Selby is one of the many Members of the Leeds Jewish community who have served on the City Council since about 1905. (*laughter*) Not in Brian's personal case! When looking through a list of Members after this year's all out elections, the thought crossed my mind, so at the Lord Mayor's Investiture Dinner I asked Councillor Dan Cohen how many Jewish Members were left and he confirmed that he was the only one – or perhaps less than one (*laughter*) probably for the first time in over 100 years. If he had not got back there would have been a historic gap in this Chamber.

There is not enough time to do justice to them all. Chris Townsley was Lord Mayor, Sue Bentley was a sensible and efficient Liberal Whip, Rod Wood possibly was not really a politician, which was no bad thing in that it let him bring common sense to Plans Panel South and West regardless of politics. Janette Walker seemed to sacrifice her political career rather unexpectedly. Josie Jarosz was always pleasant and cheerful at times when some comrades held handkerchiefs to their noses if nearing a Morley Borough Independent. Her winding down towards retirement may have led to Labour's loss of two seats in Pudsey, nearly three. Sometimes people are missed more and better appreciated after they have gone.

My Lord Mayor, Morley Borough Independents welcome all eleven of today's nominees to the ranks of Honorary Aldermen. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Mark Dobson, please.

COUNCILLOR M DOBSON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Before I talk about the two nominees put forward by the Independents here in Garforth and Swillington ward, I would like to just pay special tribute to my former Labour colleagues, many of whom I served with for many years, who all served this city with enormous distinction. I should not single people out but a special word to Sue Bentley who was a friend, a confidante, my first Scrutiny Chair and an all round wonderful lady.

Talking briefly, then about our two nominations. First of all, Janette Walker. Janette I always think pulled off the biggest political coup of some time because, and I look to my colleagues to the left from the Liberal Groups, in beating Jamie Matthews back in 2012. If anybody remembers Jamie, that lad could campaign and he was everywhere. He got places water could not get in Headingley and I think that when

Janette did win it was probably the most unpopular win in political history. She was absolutely hated by most of the people who lived in Headingley and it is to her credit by the time she left four years later she was well liked and got a lot of people saying that she would be missed in that ward.

She is responsible for clogging up our email boxes every day with notices from Licensing, because in Licensing I always think a big achievement in Headingley was the fact that it was kind of out of control, Temporary Event Notices were being used and misused and she was the person working with the police, and her two ward colleagues who I also thank for putting a stop to that and making it a more sensible, rounded process.

Moving on, I always associate one word with Janette and that is brave. She made some brave decisions that made her quite unpopular in the ward of Cross Gates and Whinmoor but I think she was justified in what she said and her standing up for people living with dementia will always be one of her strong points. I always say the same thing, she is a tough lady, she is a miner's daughter, the oldest of five kids who went through 1984/5 unscathed and I take my hat off to her.

To talk about my friend Jack, I have not got time to do the man credit. Jack Dunn was my deputy at Parks and an absolute diamond to work with and for him to work for me. He was a real go-to guy at Parks. You only had to say to Jack, "Can you do something?" He would be, "All right love." Never a question, never a "Well, I'm busy", never "Well, I don't really want to do that." He was everywhere. He was an excellent colleague and an excellent Councillor and I am glad that his career will be ending on such a fitting way today, so well done, Jack. I really appreciate everything you did for me personally.

I will not take up any more of Council's time other than to congratulate all eleven nominees today and wish them every possible success for a long, positive life to come. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn, please.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I share the thanks that have been given to the eleven nominees by everybody else.

I am not going to speak about everybody. There are four or five individuals that I know pretty well. I have got to say, of the eleven nominees, ten of them I have served on committees with over the years but I will mention two Liberal Democrats, and that is Sue Bentley and Chris Townsley.

Chris served with me on Roseville when I was Chair of Roseville, though at the time we were winding it up. I have got to thank you for your support and the work that you did there. I remember as Lord Mayor the work that you put in as well and as a colleague in a Coalition, a three-party Coalition, and I thank you for that work you did there.

Sue Bentley served for a number of years with me on Green Leeds, which again I chaired. She was very supportive, very, very good. She served with my wife

as one of the Whips and was very, very good in that job. I will say she was a person that cross-party you had to appreciate. She was there for the good of the city like everybody else on this list but I think I have got to say more about my former colleagues from the Outer West Committee.

Josie Jarosz was former Chair. We have an odd thing in Outer West, we have a Vice Chair and a Chair. I have been her Vice Chair and she has been my Vice Chair and we work well together. Part of why Outer West worked so well was those three people along with the other members of the Outer West Committee where we all came from three different parties but we worked well for the area we represented.

Moving on, my two good pals, Mick Coulson who I have known for years. I knew him before he was a Councillor, before we were both famous! *(laughter)* I have got to say, this will be the first time ever I have got the last word with Mick because he has not got the right of reply, so that is a first!

Sometimes if you saw me and Mick together you would think they don't get on, but we always used to nobble each other like nobody's business, but we were very, very good friends and he was a close colleague in Outer West. Again, he has been my Vice Chair and I have been his Vice Chair on the Committee.

With Rod we formed this triumvirate – I think that is the word you use, it might be the wrong word but I think that is the word you use – and that was the Outer West Environmental Sub Group. That was a pleasure to be on because the fact is, we might sometimes disagree but we got on really well and we did loads and loads of different things.

I can remember us doing a dog show in Pudsey as a campaign against dog fouling. It must have been the first time ever that the three judges were more ugly than the dogs! *(laughter)* With that I will close it. It is my pleasure to support this motion for the eleven candidates. They all deserve it and well done. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you very much. I now call on Council to vote to admit these Honorary Aldermen. *(A vote was taken)* In that case, that is CARRIED.

It says here that on the resolution being passed the Honorary Aldermen shall be invited by me to come forward and sign the Roll of Honorary Aldermen, which will be on the table in the well of the Chamber.

The Honorary Aldermen, Lord Mayor and Chief Executive proceeded to the well of the Chamber.

The Honorary Aldermen, Lord Mayor and Chief Executive signed the Roll of Honorary Aldermen.

(Photographs)

The Lord Mayor and Chief Executive then returned to their seats.

THE LORD MAYOR: We will now close this part of the meeting, but because we are scheduled not to re-start until 1.15, we will not be starting until 1.15. I am told that is the legal advice, so make the most of the next 20 minutes. This is the time shown on the Summons, therefore we have to obey it. It is our fault for allowing too much time. I will see you back here at 1.15.

(The meeting closed at 12.50pm)

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