

**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**

**EXTRAORDINARY  
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2012

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC HALL,  
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR  
(COUNCILLOR REV A TAYLOR)

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**VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon, everybody and can I first of all just give our one or two instructions? First of all to welcome people in the public gallery and, for your information, we are on page 1 of the green Order Paper. Then to remind Members that if they are carrying a mobile and that mobile is on, it is at your peril because if it goes off then there is the customary £10 fine that goes to the Lord Mayor's Charity.

COUNCILLOR COULSON: That is a bit inflationary.

THE LORD MAYOR: Quite right, and I do that because it is a noble cause.

It is now my pleasure to call on Councillor Andrew Carter.

COUNCILLOR A CARTER: Thank you, my Lord Mayor. Members of Council, it gives me great pleasure to move this resolution today that Ruth Feldman, formerly Councillor of Leeds City Council, be an Honorary Alderman of the City in recognition and appreciation of the long and distinguished public service rendered by her.

In moving that formally can I pass a few comments? Besides being a personal friend of mine for almost 40 years, Ruth was an exceptionally diligent and efficient member of Council, on the surface appearing quite quiet but actually with a huge determination and a great efficiency. As an Assistant Whip in our Group for a number of years, I can tell you colleagues always did as they were requested by Ruth. Actually, Ruth, we miss you because at the moment they do not take any notice, it would appear to me! (*laughter*) That was not the case when you were one of our Assistant Whips.

Also, of course, you were a very distinguished Lady Mayoress, partnering Ronnie a number of years ago as Lord and Lady Mayoress of our city and in that role I know that you are still very fondly remembered by very many people around the City of Leeds.

It is not an easy thing to work in public life for as long as you did, either supporting and beside Ronnie but also working in charitable organisations in your own right, and then to come on the Council and to also make an impact and be so well respected by Members of all political groups.

I have great pleasure in formally moving this resolution today and I am sure it will receive the unanimous support of everybody present. I move, Lord Mayor.  
(*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Atha, please.

COUNCILLOR ATHA: Lord Mayor, I have great pleasure in seconding this. I have known Ronnie for a very long time and I could not ever think of Ronnie without thinking of Ruth. There is an old song from the shows, "They go together like a horse and carriage". That is not necessarily a very flattering comparison as to who is the horse and who is the carriage (*laughter*) but then it goes on, again the song, "You can't have one without the other." I think that is basically how we have seen the Feldmans.

Ronnie I have always had the greatest respect for as a colleague and a person who can bring business-like approaches to local issues. I think Ruth has had the same quality. To merely announce the number of committees they have been on is a total bore but it is enough for me to say that when you leave this Council, you go with the respect and the good wishes of us all. It is great to be able to say at times in a Council Chamber like this, when we are often being fractious and argumentative, to say in all honesty and with conviction that we do appreciate the work that you have done, the qualities you have brought to the Council and in due course we shall celebrate another Feldman's departure, I understand, which is a sadness to me that that is going to be the case, but you will get your name up twice and what annoys me, the word "Feldman" has all these letters whereas the word "Atha" is only that little bit (*laughter*) so that is one up on us all.

God bless you both in your retirement; you in the future, you now. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Chapman, please.

COUNCILLOR CHAPMAN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It gives me great pleasure to offer my Group's support for the nomination of Ruth Feldman as an Honorary Alderman for the City of Leeds.

Ruth has been a Conservative Councillor since 1999 and I first came across her when I stood against Ronnie for election in 2001 and Ruth the following year. I can tell you that the quietly spoken, somewhat retiring lady Ruth appears to be is not at all like that when she is challenged. She and I had quite a battle that year, but she was too good for me and, as you know, she won that election and then served another four years afterwards.

When I was later elected I found myself sitting next to Ronnie in a Scrutiny Board meeting. We were both very early so, passing the time, I asked him why he was there early. Well, it was Thursday morning, the hairdresser came at 7.30 and Ronnie had to leave the house. (*laughter*) What can you say to that? Not much!

Then tea arrived. I offered to get tea for Ronnie but Ronnie drank water – several cups. Why? Well, he would be in trouble with Ruth if he did not keep drinking. From then onwards I did not talk about the Feldmans but Ruth and Ronnie.

During her 52 years of marriage to Ronnie she has played an active role in the Jewish community of Leeds as past Lady Chair of Etz Chaim Synagogue and served as a member on the Alyn Ravencrofts Committee. Together with her Council duties as both Deputy and Lady Mayoress of Leeds, I think you will all join with me in wishing her well in her retirement from Council duties.

I am sure, though, we will see you again in action as an Honorary Alderman of Leeds. May I wish you and your family mazel tov on your impending appointment. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to speak on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents on Ruth Feldman being appointed an Honorary Alderman for the City of Leeds.

Ruth has been a responsible Member of the Council and well respected and, as Deputy Lady Mayoress in 1983/84 and as Lady Mayoress in 1991/92, she was a well liked, stylish ambassador for Leeds City Council.

Congratulations, Ruth, on your well deserved appointment. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. On behalf of the Green Group we would like to give our support to the motion that Ruth Feldman become an Honorary Alderman. I have got to say, on another level as being part of a husband and wife team, I know how difficult it is when you have got two people in the same household who are Councillors - not about disagreements! As I say, you have shown yourselves worth of that task and I know how hard it is when you have the family commitments and that are pulling you in all sorts of directions, it is very, very difficult.

I think it is well deserved. I think Ruth and Ronnie I would regard as friends – Ruth got elected the year after I did – and it is well deserved. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I am now going to call for the vote, in Councillor Andrew Carter's name, that Ruth Feldman be admitted as an Honorary Alderman in the City of Leeds. All those in favour? *(A vote was taken)* There is no need to me to ask if anybody is against or if there are any abstentions and I am delighted with that, thank you. CARRIED.

*(The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and Councillor Ruth Feldman signed the Roll of Honorary Aldermen)*

*(The meeting closed at 1.46 pm)*