

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

**EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday, 14th November 2012

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR A CASTLE)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Transcribed from the notes of
J L Harpham Ltd.,
Official Court Reporters and Media Transcribers,
Queen's Buildings, 55, Queen Street,
Sheffield, S1 2DX

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th NOVEMBER 2012

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon everybody, and may I welcome the people in the public gallery. May I remind everyone to please switch off their mobiles phones so as not to cause a distraction during the meeting.

Councillor J L Carter, please.

COUNCILLOR J L CARTER: My Lord Mayor, members of Council, I think you will all notice that I am not Andrew Carter. I am also not his daughter, who is our PCC candidate in the forthcoming election. However, unfortunately Andrew cannot be here today and he really is sorry but he has gone to a funeral, that is why he cannot be here at this moment in time. He will be with us later but he would have loved to have been here when Bill receives this honour.

His not being here gives me the privilege of moving that Bill be elected as an Honorary Alderman of the City of Leeds. Bill represented the wards of Temple Newsam and Halton for 25 years. He grew up in Whitkirk where he attended Temple Newsam School and then moved to Leeds Central High School. His school record shows he was a scholarly child who enjoyed his school means! *(laughter)*

His first job was at TSB, then the Leeds Skyrac & Morley Saving Bank. He was a banker when it was a respectable profession. *(laughter)* This was followed by National Service. He was serving in the Suez Canal zone. He joined Marks & Spencer's as a management trainee in 1954 and then he was recalled to the Army service one week before his marriage to Patricia. Oh, Patricia, who did that to you?

He served a further five months as a Captain during the Suez emergency and returned to civilian life in January 1957. He had various management jobs with M&S which took Bill and Pat to many exotic places in the world. They travelled to Doncaster, Halifax, Huddersfield, Scarborough and then he ended up in Sheffield. Bill spent seven years in Sheffield. Indeed, whilst in Sheffield he obtained his first taste of Local Government by being elected to the Sheffield City Council, which is no mean feat for a Tory! *(laughter)* This was a role which made him an expert on dealing with the Labour Opposition.

In 1970 he returned to his native Leeds with his wife Pat. He started his first news agency business in Menston, an area known to this day as Hyde's Corner, followed by a further shop and a mobile service in Seacroft Hospital. In 1988 he was appointed Managing Director of the Bridewell Group which was set up to give shopkeepers purchasing power which might help them in competing with supermarkets – very important for small shopkeepers.

His record of service on this Council is long and distinguished. Amongst his many roles he has served on Education, Housing, Personnel, Leisure Services – I do not like leaving anything for the guys who are following me, by the way! He has also been Scrutiny Chair, a school Governor, a Trustee of a number of charities, a Director of the Grand Theatre and he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by Leeds College of Music for his distinguished work for them.

In 2005 he became Lord Mayor of Leeds, at which he and Pat did a splendid job. Indeed, only this Sunday as Bill was leading the march past, a former Councillor who will remain nameless remarked to me that he had the perfect build for the job of Lord Mayor. *(laughter)*

I could go on – indeed members of this Council always say that I do go on but never mind, I will try not to. Time is too short to give all the details of his service – the Royal British Legion, President of the Rotary Club, his work with his church and many other activities that he has participated in.

He has always been willing to help and give advice to people. He has been a great servant of this Council and his local community and I know of no person more fitting to receive this honour.

My Lord Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to propose that William S Hyde is made an Honorary Alderman of the City of Leeds he has served so well. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Wakefield.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I did actually worry whether Bill would make it this afternoon, because when I came in at eleven o'clock I saw his wife Pat and I said, "Is it the excitement that has got you here so early or were you expecting packed audiences?" and she said, "No, he's gone over for an injection to the hospital." I thought, I know Councils can be pretty painful but I did not know Alderman-making was painful either. I am sure it will not be because we are all happy to say positive things about you.

I think the first thing is, I think you actually deserve it because you have overcome two big political obstacles in Leeds. The first, you were born in Lancashire. I know you have tried to hide that, Bill, but I did look and find that. The second thing is, as Les has just mentioned, you served in Sheffield as a Conservative Councillor. It said in administration – that is even more of a miracle if that happened in Sheffield in 1966. You have overcome those obstacles and here you are as an Alderman.

One of my colleagues in East Leeds will endorse this, one of my endearing memories of Bill will be at the Outer East Area Committee because I have spent many hours listening to Bill talk with Councillor Mick Lyons the pleasantries of life and the differences in ward views, the differences in world views and, of course, their military experiences, all of which made a meeting last two hours longer than it had to be! *(laughter)* Bill even did, when there were eleven Labour and one Bill, he still would not wave the white flag and I can assure you, Bill, the meetings are a lot quicker now.

On a serious note, we always took Bill as a very serious and formidable opponent, because, as Les has just mentioned, he is well known in the East Leeds and Cross Gates area not only because he was a local politician but because of his news agency business and all the work he has done with all the groups around East Leeds, particularly community groups and charity groups and so on.

I think we will probably know him better in terms of his contribution to education, not only in his local schools but, as you know, he chaired Scrutiny Board at a time when all of us had high regard for Scrutiny in terms of education and, indeed, Ofsted praised the work of the Scrutiny Board chaired by Bill, so I think those contributions have made this Council and this city a lot better by his contribution.

I always wonder about people's hobbies and Bill has a range of interesting hobbies: Yorkshire cricket; music; I know you travel to New Zealand and I know your daughter plays in an orchestra and so on, but the one that struck me as odd was deep sea fishing expeditions. I just wonder, Bill, if you are still looking for Moby Dick. He has gone actually, but I know in retirement you will have plenty of time to pursue

those, travel and so on, with Pat and I can say on behalf of our Group we wish you all the best for a long and happy retirement. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Cleasby.

COUNCILLOR CLEASBY: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Council, I was delighted with the Liberal Democrat Group asked me to convey their best wishes to Bill Hyde today. As we have heard, Bill was the complete Councillor – good in his ward and equally good in our city. This was ably demonstrated by him during his year as our Lord Mayor.

I was first made aware of Bill Hyde during my election campaign in 1995. I benefited from Bill's absence from the Council. Two of Bill's loyal supporters came across the city and helped me get elected, so it was with expectation that I awaited his return, and I was not disappointed. Over the ensuing years I worked on Committees and Scrutiny with him. Here I came to understand why the Armitage family held him in such esteem.

Council, as I left home this morning my wife shouted after me, "And don't forget to thank Pat". Pat had been a great help to Jo, encouraging her whenever she could as we settled into our year in high office so, Pat, thank you for the confidence you gave us and the friendship shared.

On behalf of the Liberal Democrats, may I wish you both much happiness well into the future and many congratulations on achieving this honour today. Thank you, Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to speak on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents in support of Bill Hyde to be admitted as Honorary Alderman of our great city.

Bill as Lord Mayor and Pat as his stylish Mayoress did us proud. He has served the city long and loyally in his capacity as a Councillor and his involvement with the Royal British Legion has to be taken into account.

Bill stood for Parliament in Morley in 1983 and he has supported Morley whenever he could, for which we thank you. A truly well-deserving recipient of the honour, we are supportive of the proposal and wish both Bill and Pat every good wish for the future. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have got to say, I have got great pleasure in supporting the motion that Bill Hyde become an Honorary Alderman of this city.

Bill is one of those people, and there are a number of them, a number of his colleagues last time as well, who have the respect of everybody no matter what their political persuasion. They are ultimate Councillors and Bill falls into that. Of course, there is a team there, Bill and Pat. I had the great pleasure of having a chat with Bill this morning before Council, a bit like old times when I was on the Council, so I hope as an Honorary Alderman you will come and visit us occasionally and we can have those chats.

It is a very, very well-deserved honour that the city is bestowing upon you and I hope you have a lovely retirement. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: I am now going to call for a vote on the proposal in the name of Councillor J L Carter that William Schofield Hyde be admitted as an Honorary Alderman of the City of Leeds. *(A vote was taken)* I think that is unanimous and I am delighted.

May I invite the new Honorary Alderman to please join me in the well of the Council Chamber in order to sign the Roll of Honorary Aldermen.

(The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and Honorary Alderman signed the Roll of Honorary Aldermen)

THE LORD MAYOR: I now declare the Extraordinary Meeting closed. I do hope that Honorary Alderman Hyde is going to stay until half-past seven.

(The meeting closed at 1.34pm)