

**LEEDS CITY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2013

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
CIVIC HALL,  
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR  
(COUNCILLOR T MURRAY)

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**VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL  
MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

THE LORD MAYOR: Good afternoon everybody and welcome to this special part of this afternoon's events. Can I give a special welcome to ex-colleagues of ours, Alec Hudson and Don Wilson, both from Rothwell, sitting on my left, and a special welcome to their families who are up in the gallery.

We are here, of course, for the appointment of both of them to become Honorary Aldermen. I would like to open the meeting and call upon Councillor Wakefield to propose the motion.

COUNCILLOR WAKEFIELD: Thank you, Lord Mayor. Can I say how delighted I am to be able to nominate Alec Hudson and Don Wilson to be Aldermen of this Council. Obviously I will spend more time on Alec because many people remember Alec served from 1980 to 2002.

I was looking back at the contribution that he made to this Council through the committee system, which is quite extraordinary because he served on 42 committees. Twelve of them he chaired and, as we know, we used to spend many hours on committee systems in this Council. Of course, there was a committee for Housing, there was a committee for Social Services, there was a committee for Education, there was a committee for Planning and so on and so on. Alec served on nearly every one and chaired most of the big committees. He also served on a committee that John Illingworth might remember, the Computer Sub, because if you were naughty or badly behaved they sent you on Computer Sub. I even served on one – I do not know why but I got off after a year! Alec served for three years and so did John, so you must have been bad all the time! *(laughter)*

If I look back and think, actually it is very hard when you have done 22 years to look back at all the achievements you have made and I think Alec made a number of them, so I thought I would choose a couple of quirky ones and one of significance.

The first one – and I was reminded by Councillor Mick Lyons today – is that he holds the world record for chairing a working group that never met. I think it took five or six years before Councillor Lyons reminded him that we ought to meet. You will not be surprised – it was the Gypsy and Travellers Working Group 1993. *(laughter)* I think it is still waiting to meet, Alec, it has not met! Councillor Lyons did confirm it did meet eventually after eight or nine years of waiting.

The second thing, we all have obsessions, passions or whatever when we serve on this Council and there is no doubt that Alec's passion was housing. I think people will remember in the early 1990s he chaired a partnership across the city that delivered over 4,000 social houses in our communities, and I think that is a fantastic legacy. I wish that we could repeat it today. It is something I think we can be very proud of because it was of its type, the first time any Local Authority had put together a housing partnership with other housing associations to deliver 4,000 – I think many of us still have them in our communities still being used and still desperately needed by families and elderly people.

I think the third one, because he did have another passion we all know about, when we used to have representation on Leeds United, Alec was one of our Directors and if you think what he achieved – he achieved promotion from the First

Division in 1992 – not only that, we actually won the Championship in 1992 and he got us all the way to the European semi-finals where we played Valencia and that was because of his leadership on the Board of Leeds United, so thanks, Alec, for that. *(Applause)*

When you do Aldermen now, years ago, as we know, there used to be a constitutional role for Aldermen, they used to serve on some of the committees and it is a great pity that we cannot still use their talent and experience that they have had. I think nominating Alec today is one way of saying thank you for the service to the people of Rothwell and Leeds and thank you for the contributions you have made to the life of this Council. Congratulations, Alec, on that one.

Can I briefly move to Don, because when I saw Don Wilson up I thought how ironic, two people in Rothwell who used to go head to head on many occasions. There is one thing I always believe in – respect your opponent; whoever you are against always respect them because I think Don was living proof that he was literally in every civic organisation in Rothwell whether it was the Bonfire Night, whether it was the Civic, whether it was the Historical Society, whether it was anything else, Don Wilson was always there. I respect the efforts and commitments he made to the people of Rothwell. Again, I think it is well overdue, this recognition, so again, on my behalf and on behalf of the Labour Group I am delighted to be able to support your nomination, Don.

I move, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: On the Order Paper we have Councillor Carter to second but unfortunately Councillor Carter has had to send in his apologies, he has got a family bereavement. We do have Councillor Castle who is stepping in to be able to do the seconding. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR CASTLE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am delighted to support the two nominations on behalf of the Conservative Group.

I first came across Alec Hudson 25 years ago when he was a well-established Councillor in Rothwell and I was a very new Councillor in Weetwood. We both served on a number of committees together, including the former Housing Committee. Margaret Thatcher was Prime Minister at the time and Alec gave me a very hard time at meetings over some of the Government policies. However, I always respected him because I knew that he was in politics in order to improve people's lives rather than for personal glory.

I first met Don Wilson in 2000 when he was a new Councillor for Rothwell and I was a reconstituted Councillor for Roundhay. We both became members of the Plans East Panel and the Licensing Committee and Don went on to chair the latter for a number of years. It soon became clear to me that Don is a very honest sort of guy, the sort of person you can trust absolutely. There must be something in the air at Rothwell! Like Alec he worked hard for his constituents. I came across him a number of times last year when I was Lord Mayor. Every time I went to Rothwell he would be there, working hard, and I am pleased to see that he is still heavily involved in doing good in his community.

Lord Mayor, I am happy to second the nominations on behalf of the Conservative Group. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I hope Council will indulge me, since Don is a valued friend as well as a colleague within the Party, to give him a few plaudits, because he is very shy, he is not a great grandstander, he did not come into politics to make speeches. Don Wilson came into politics because he utterly believed in duty and public service and I think that was exemplified by some of the things he did on the Council. He took on board Planning committees and Licensing, which can take for ever and need a real forensic eye for detail and Don took great pleasure in taking those issues on and then going back to the people of Rothwell and explaining why decisions were made. I thank him for that because it meant I did not have to go on those committees.

Don himself in Rothwell, as was alluded to by Councillor Wakefield, was involved in everything. In fact he was so embedded in the community we ended up calling him The Don, because it was like Cosa Nostra, and it was not helped that sometimes Don used to walk around with a leather jacket as well! Every time I stopped on the street someone would say "Hi Don" and I realised this was due in a great deal to the fact that Don had lived and worked within the community for years, had worked at the Copper Works and was involved in community groups like the Carnival Committee and, most importantly, the Lions. It is because of the involvement in those groups and his continued involvement in those groups, that hinterland, that Don has quite happily acclimatised to live outside of this Chamber and I know that he is very well supported by family and friends in the community.

Alec Hudson. The biggest achievement Don ever made was, of course, making that breakthrough to be the first non-Labour representative in Rothwell for generations, but the battle that was had was one that was decent and that was down to the values of those people who were involved, whether it be Don or whether it be Alec. That is one thing I always think about Alec, he is a very decent man, he always has manners and, even though you disagree, he will tell you it in a very civilised manner and we have even done a duet at Christmas. On my birthday there is a concert, Christmas Eve, at the One Stop Shop (used to be the Town Hall) in Rothwell and me and Alec have stood there together sharing a hymn sheet, like a cats' chorus!

I am really, really proud that today is a bit of a gala day for Rothwell in that we are able to celebrate two great, committed people who made their community a much better place. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Judith Elliott.

COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I am pleased to speak on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents for both of our nominations today.

Firstly, to support the resolution to grant Alderman status to Alec Hudson. Alec was Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council during the 1990s and played an active role in promoting employment and training opportunities for Leeds residents during those years. He was well respected as a Rothwell Councillor and was a supportive school governor in schools in and around Rothwell. He was at all times a colleague who took the time to listen and to support fellow Councillors to resolve any problems which they faced. Alec Hudson is worthy of this honour, which we wholeheartedly support.

I would also like to offer support on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents for the nomination of former Councillor Don Wilson to the office of Honorary Alderman of Leeds City Council. Don represented his constituency of Rothwell with enthusiasm, expertise and energy. He gave wholehearted concern to his Ward. Nothing was too much to ask of Don. He seemed to us to eat and breathe

his work on behalf of his constituents. His was of sound reasoning, with careful thought, actions and a drive to deliver whatever he attempted to do.

Don, as we have heard, was also involved in other community groups outside the Council which also benefited from his fine qualities. We, without reservation, support Don Wilson being granted Aldermanic status. There is none more worthy. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: I rise to support the motion that Alec Hudson and Don Wilson be appointed Honorary Aldermen.

In the case of Alec, when I first got elected he was one of the super stars, Deputy Leader of Council, so a mere Green who had just got elected, that odd thing, did not have a lot of dealings with him, but quite clearly Alec had a long history of doing service in his community and while our paths only crossed for four years, I think he thoroughly deserves the appointment of Honorary Alderman.

Don – this is not because I think any more of Don but I worked with Don on Roseville for eight years, I think it was, and Don was Chair and I was Vice-Chair. A really good team we made and Don did a really, really good job. The thing with Don, politics went out of the window. It was about doing the job and doing it properly and he was really, really good. In fact, I owe the fact that I am now Chair of Roseville to Don saying to me one day, “It is your turn now, I will become Vice-Chair, you are Chair”, so I more or less got volunteered by him.

He is a great guy, he did a great job as both of them did during their times of office and they thoroughly deserve this honour. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you, proposers, thank you, Council. I would now like to call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* Clearly CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Well done!

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