

LEEDS CITY COUNCIL

**EXTRAORDINARY
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Held on

Wednesday, 13th January 2016

At

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
CIVIC HALL,
LEEDS

In the Chair:

THE LORD MAYOR
(COUNCILLOR J CHAPMAN)

VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

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VERBATIM REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF LEEDS CITY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13th JANUARY 2016

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you all. I would like to welcome all of you this afternoon to the first part of the meeting. This is the Extraordinary Meeting. The meeting is to appoint Honorary Aldermen and I would like, before we do that, to remind people please switch off your mobile phones and please be aware that this is being webcast.

May I call on Councillor Blake, please.

COUNCILLOR BLAKE: Thank you, Lord Mayor. It gives me enormous pleasure to open the meeting this afternoon to convey the office of Honorary Alderman on the five esteemed former Members who are sitting in the Chamber with us today.

We do not have enough time to give each of you the fulsome tribute that you deserve and tradition has it that each of the Group Leaders pays particular reference to the Members from their own Group and mentions the Members from the other Groups.

I have to say in front of us we have five people who collectively have 114 years' Council experience between them. I think that is cause for celebration in itself.
(Applause)

If I may start with Les Carter, who is looking slightly different – is that what retirement does to you, Les! Just reflecting on Les, I remember as a new Councillor coming on and I have to confess to Council that I was ever so slightly scared of you, Les, and I think I regarded you as one of the big beasts on the Front Bench of the Group opposite. Over the years I really came to appreciate our relationship and working together and personally I think our work on the Police Authority together was something that will stay very close to me and I know your enormous commitment to the people of Leeds in the various roles that I know others will mention.

Also, if I could pay tribute to Mark Harris as well, who served for a long time as the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and as Leader of the Council. I know you really went through a huge battle personally with your health and I want to pay tribute to the way that you dealt with that battle, but also I have been very struck, Mark, over the years that I have known you, when you get the opportunity you often pay tribute to your family and I know that your family is very important to you and particularly the contribution that your family has made to Leeds. Enormous congratulation on your time in office in Leeds but how fitting that your sister is actually sitting as the Chair of Council today as Lord Mayor and I think that brings together very well the enormous contribution that you personally have made representing your family, your community, to the people of Leeds.

Moving on, then, to Cedric Clarke, I have not had the privilege of meeting Cedric but for those of you who are aware, and there are people who have come especially today to celebrate this great honour with you, Cedric. First elected in May 1980, re-elected in 1983 and 1987 and stood down in 1991. Born in Nevis, you have

the great privilege of being the first ever black Caribbean Councillor in Leeds (*applause*) first elected in Chapel Allerton in 1980. I know that you served with distinction as the Chair of the Council's Race Equality Committee and also as a member of the West Yorkshire Police Authority.

I have it on very good information that you are also a lay preacher and anyone who dared to question your message on the doorstep very quickly found that you were probably one of the people who knows huge tracts of the Bible off by heart and you often gave them the benefit of that deep wisdom in response to their questions. This is a great honour, Cedric, and I am very pleased to be able to speak on your behalf on behalf of the whole Council.

Phil Jones - it is really good to see Phil back in the Chamber again. He was on the Council when I was first elected, he had a bit of a resting phase just before, I understand, but came back on to the Council in 1995 representing the seat of Morley North which I think, when you first took over that seat, Phil, Labour was not known, I have to say, to be regularly elected in that part of the city. You did a great job building up the support and really working so hard on behalf of the people of Morley North.

I think it is probably your role and your interest in the environment that I will remember most about you. I was the Chair of the Leeds Environment City Initiative and your in-depth knowledge from your professional life, helping us shape the Green Strategy in Leeds and all of those issues that are so relevant still today. We might be coming back and knocking on your door asking for your input as we go forward. I am very pleased to lead the tribute to you today, Phil.

Of course, then, Ted Hanley. My friendship with Ted goes back way before Ted was actually elected on to the City Council in Leeds. In the role that I first met Ted I want to pay real tribute to the work you did with the whole of the business community in Leeds, making the business community accessible to many of us and also helping to really foster good relationships and better understanding between ourselves and the public sector and those in the private sector. We now are working towards keeping and developing a strong economy within a compassionate city and I think, Ted, you have made a major contribution over your time with us on the Council to help us understand some of the challenges that face us as we move forward. Of course, you have a very strong family connection in the Party as well and it has been a great pleasure for me to work with you and Members of your family over the years, and we will continue to do so for many years ahead.

You were first elected in 2003, twelve years ago (it is hard to believe that) for taking the seat for Labour in Bramley. Obviously you had a role as the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee for Adult Social Care but, again, personally my work with you in real depth was around your role as my Lead Member in Children's Services. Ted went out relentlessly going round all of our children's homes bringing his expert personal knowledge to the benefit of some of the most vulnerable children in Leeds and I will be forever grateful to you, Ted, for the great contribution that you made on that behalf.

With that, Lord Mayor, I am very pleased to recommend that we accept all five of these very worthy people to become Honorary Aldermen of our city. Thank you. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Can I call upon Councillor Andrew Carter to second.

COUNCILLOR ANDREW CARTER: Thank you, Lord Mayor. I have great pleasure in supporting and endorsing the resolution moved by Councillor Blake and can I begin by associating myself and my Group and supporting the nominations for Cedric, Phil and Ted Hanley. I suppose I probably know Ted the best of the three, except I know they all performed sterling service on Leeds City Council. I recall on one occasion when I was Council Leader we went to the LGA Conference and Ted and I found ourselves sharing a Chinese in Bournemouth and I came away thinking well, he is not such a bad fellow after all, after four or five glasses of wine, and I hope that he feels the same about me! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, I remember it well. Congratulations to all the three Labour nominees.

You would expect me, I think, to comment a little further about the nomination of Councillor Harris. Councillor Harris and I, I think, had the great privilege of being Joint Leaders of the Council for four years and over that time we became good friends. I cannot remember us having very many arguments, despite the fact we are Members of different political parties; indeed, we worked extremely well together and I look back with great pride on that time and thank him for his friendship and support during that and I am delighted to be able to endorse his nomination as an Honorary Alderman today.

Now then, Les. Les and I came on to Leeds City Council and got to know each other in 1973, the year when we were, if you like, in between taking over as the new Leeds Metropolitan Council following on from local reorganisation. We became firm friends straightaway. It would be hard, I think, for people to even imagine the fact that Les and I regularly played badminton together; we now struggle to play dominoes! (*laughter*) One of my colleagues very unkindly said, as I sat down, this must be the first time Les has been on time for a Council meeting, which I thought was a little bit unfair!

Les fulfilled a number of senior roles in Opposition and when the Conservatives were in administration. Indeed, in 1975 he and I were christened the Bellow Babes and that again is very hard to imagine for many of you, I should think, when we were both, as fairly young men, put on to the Front Bench of the Conservative administration of the then Irwin Bellow, later Lord Bellwin.

Throughout our time in Opposition Les played a major role in not only the Council but in the Conservative Group and the Conservative Party. He and I remained firm friends throughout and it is true to say, and this is no slight on my colleagues, I greatly miss him sitting here on the Front Bench with me and sharing our asides about various people in the Council, not necessarily on the opposite benches (*laughter*) that the microphones never picked up, thank goodness, or he and I would have been long since sharing a place in court.

I do miss Les greatly and I want to just comment on a couple of things further. One, the fact that he was Deputy Chairman of the Police Authority, a job which he thoroughly enjoyed and put a great deal of work into for the benefit of the people of Leeds for a number of years and, indeed, as an Executive Board Member on Leeds City Council he introduced the policy which funnily enough will be getting mentioned later today of making sure that every ward in the city had an allocation of PCSOs.

Les and his late wife Carole were a distinguished Lord and Lady Mayoress of the City. Many people remember the exemplary way in which they carried out those duties in their Lord Mayoral year and it is a great credit to him and his family for the support and the way in which that was carried out. Once again, I am delighted to be able to support the nomination of Councillor J L Carter as an Honorary Alderman of this city. I second, my Lord Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. Councillor Golton.

COUNCILLOR GOLTON: Thanks, Lord Mayor. In supporting these Aldermanships I am going to, of course, naturally, concentrate on my Party colleague but I do want to mention all five. When you become a Councillor you commit to your city and if you are really good at it you leave a legacy at the end of it. I think everybody here as done that.

I never met Cedric Clarke, but you set the standard and you broke the mould and enabled me to make friends with your follower-uppers (is that the right word?), Eileen Taylor, and that Council is a much more diverse place because of breakthroughs for people like you who actually put themselves forward and stood.

It might be an all male line-up for Aldermanship but it is also a very diverse line-up because it represents immigration, and I am just talking about Ted Hanley there coming over from Liverpool and, of course, Phil is a southerner and, of course, the family of Mark Harris originally was from the other side of Europe. Les Carter only got as far as from Headingley to Adel but we know that socially that is a long way! (*laughter*) They are a very diverse bunch.

One thing that quite a few of them have in common, and I think this is something that we are in danger of lacking in this city, is three of them at least came from a background of business. They were business people who thought, "I need to make sure that this city has good leadership and perhaps with the skills that I have learned in the commercial world I can actually lend those to ensure that public works are done in the same business-like fashion." We have lost that public spiritedness, I think, in terms of that formal fashion in terms of our business community. I will say today, please make up for what we are losing as Councillors by putting yourself forward as candidates for whichever party it is, because these people represent a very varied background whether it be Labour, Conservative or Liberal.

We need talent like you to come forward into the Council and hopefully as Aldermen you will take that message forward to your business colleagues and ask them to carry on.

Right, back to the individuals themselves. Les Carter, I will start with you because to a lot of people he is to the right of Genghis Khan (*laughter*) and that is how they approach his character, but actually he is a very warm person and very personable. When I first got elected to the Council I was one of nine Lib Dems, and we are back to it again (*laughter*) but he was very, very supportive. I remember he just kept calling me "kid" – "Hey, kid, I have got some advice for you. You did well there" and if I did a good speech he would tell me and I really appreciated that, and that is the camaraderie that we get on the Council.

Then when we went into joint administration, of course, he might be to the right of Genghis Khan in some things and he does not like to leave his car at home and take public transport, but actually during his time he had a big legacy and he tried to get things moving in housing and he certainly sorted out the police. He made sure that public services were democratic and that is a great legacy that Les can leave behind for us. As a legacy as well, please take that beard! *(laughter)*

Mark Harris, of course, is the biggest influence on me as a politician because, of course, he was one of my predecessors – there was a short gap between me and you – and Mark had a very great influence as well, primarily because Mark is a very human person. He understands how you get things achieved through having human relationships and building that. I have to say a lot of it was built on very politically incorrect humour which tended to build bridges across the different parties, but when we did take joint administration I think it was that ability to look at people as individuals that enabled the partnership of the joint administration to work for the time that it did. Everybody who came to any meetings with Mark as Joint Leader with Andrew Carter, they were not met in terms of what their past affiliation was, it was what they could offer to the city.

One of the things I also learned from Mark was when you are in a hole stop digging. There were several times during that administration where it was Mark who said, “OK, we have got it wrong. We have got it wrong and we are going to do something different instead.” I think that is a great lesson to learn for any politician because pride comes before a fall.

I thank Mark for all the encouragement that he gave me as a young Councillor alongside Les and thank you for your commitment to the city, even though you had lots of other things going on, and thank you for your input on the non-political side as well because we are not just who we are in this Council Chamber, we are what we do outside so as well as bringing the business into the Council and making sure that we worked in a certain way, you also were very committed to charity fundraising. When you fell ill you did not think “Oh, poor me, what will I do now?” you actually took the set-back that you had personally with your illness and you turned it into a fundraising opportunity and then you became the great ambassador for people with disabilities on the Council and you actually went on to lead it in a very particular way.

Thank you Mark, and thank you, the rest of the gentlemen, and let us hope that we get a new generation to follow in the same kind of legacy building record that these men have. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor Leadley.

COUNCILLOR LEADLEY: My Lord Mayor, as you may know Mark Harris was the first elected SDP Member of Leeds City Council. Younger Members would be amazed at how vastly different politics was in those days. The Parliamentary Liberal Party had been reduced to scarcely more than a handful; the Tories were dominated by right-wing London and counties types who were out to grind the faces of the poor and to destroy manufacturing and coalmining; the Labour Party was overrun by a rabble of swivel-eyed polytechnic lecturers and middle class 30- and 40-somethings who had never grown out of being sneering students, led by a scruffy and dithering old left-winger who provoked Shadow Cabinet Members into resigning in despair. On second thoughts, perhaps we have come full circle. *(laughter)* The only

difference is that the Tories have stopped attacking the coal industry because there is nothing left to destroy! *(laughter)* We need Mark to go round and do it all again. In 30 years' time someone might think of making him an Honorary Alderman!

Although the SDP failed in itself, it gave indirect benefits. The Parliamentary Liberal Democrats featured about 60 Members and Labour and the Tories became so frightened that they moderated their behaviour for about 25 years. Unfortunately the dreary political landscape of the 1970s and 80s has begun to re-emerge since the 2015 General Election. Other indirect benefits were that Mark Harris became Leader of Leeds City Council and his sister became Lord Mayor of Leeds.

Ted Hanley was a man of forthright views and sometimes you had to agree with him. When he tried to find out how much each of the political Group offices cost to run, he got the figures after refusing a load of flannel from officers who claimed that they were confidential. When officers boasted of a contract to make a huge investment in laptop computers for Members, Ted pointed out that they could have got them for less than the half the price at PC World. *(laughter)*

However, I could not agree with his apparent view that the countryside was wasted space where people grazed sheep because they could not think of anything else to do with it. *(laughter)*

My Lord Mayor, if anyone tells you that City Centre Plans Panel voted unanimously for the Leeds Arena they would not be quite correct. By the end of a long and tedious debate Ted had fallen asleep *(laughter)* which was counted as an abstention as sorts!

Phil Jones was my predecessor in Morley North. He retired undefeated and I still see him occasionally on the bus. As a rare survivor or an almost extinct species, a Labour Councillor who once represented Morley North, he seems to be confined largely to a protective enclosure in Drighlington rather than ranging at liberty across the whole ward, but at least he is still with us.

Cedric Clarke served well before my time on the City Council so I will have to leave others to comment on him, although it sometimes strikes me that there must be more people from St Kitts and Nevis in Leeds than there are in the West Indies. Others that you could mention are Mel B's dad and Ashley Rawlins, who is one of my neighbours in West Ardsley, who is a Deputy Lieutenant of West Yorkshire.

Finally, Les Carter. I could go on for 42 years about his work for Leeds but perhaps I had better not. Just as we thought he was about to become the Bernard Atha of the blue benches he was gone. He must need something to do in his retirement. When he has finished fracking for shale gas in his back garden *(laughter)* perhaps he would like to become a co-opted member of an inquiry into the effects of global warming, such as increased flooding in Leeds. *(laughter)*

Seriously, Les's commitment as a Councillor and former Lord Mayor was outstanding. He was a member of the Interim Council elected in 1973 when Ziggy Stardust was more or less a lad and you could get a pair of drinks in a pub for less than 50 pence, and that Council oversaw the changeover from the old Local Government to the new. Only two other Members of that are surviving. In those days

you did not get much more than a cup of tea and a biscuit for your efforts, but at least you did get a biscuit!

All five of this afternoon's nominees have served their city well so on behalf of the Morley Borough Independents I take pleasure in welcoming them to the ranks of Honorary Alderman. Thank you, Lord Mayor. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Councillor David Blackburn.

COUNCILLOR D BLACKBURN: Thank you, Lord Mayor. First of all can I share the views of previous speakers on behalf of my Group that we support this motion appointing these five people to Honorary Alderman. I am going to concentrate on the three that I know.

Ted Hanley, who I first met as an independent Chair of West Homes. I did not know he had anything to do with the Labour Party when I first met him. The thing is, I always found him a good Chair. I did not always agree with him, as Tom says he has some strange ideas on certain things, but he can be socially a very agreeable person and I enjoyed working with him and I think he did a damn good job as Chair of West Homes while he was on the Council and previous to being on the Council.

Les I will go on to next. Les has one unique thing that nobody else in this Chamber has and nobody else will do – he seconded the first Green motion in this Council because there was only me and so I was looking round for a seconder and Les says, "Oh, I will second it", and he gets up and says, "I have great pleasure in seconding this motion in the name of my friend David back here, Leader of Flat Earth Party." *(laughter)* When somebody seconds your motion like that you have no chance, and then he voted against it! *(laughter)*

On a personal level, Les, when we had the joint administration, he was great to work with. We did not always agree, as you would expect, but Les is a great guy and he did a great job both then and prior to that. I think he deserves the honour that he is getting today very much indeed.

I will move on to Mark. During the period while I was in the joint administration I spent many an hour with Mark and Andrew as well. He has got a wicked sense of humour that you do not actually appreciate until you actually get to know him, very dry, and he is a very warm person – sometimes you might not think that but he is and I enjoyed working with him, I think he did a great job and for somebody to come back from his illness and become Leader of his Party and then Joint Leader of Council says something about that person's commitment. I think that goes across the board with all the other people we have in front of us today.

As I say, the Green Group support this motion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

THE LORD MAYOR: Thank you. I would like to now call for the vote. *(A vote was taken)* The vote is CARRIED. We will now move on to the next bit of the ceremony.

*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 meeting was closed)
