

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 19th May, 2021
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor John Cooper (Chair)

Councillors:	Kenneth Owen	Stephen Sweeney	Barry Panter
	Simon White	Simon Tagg	Ruth Wright
	June Walklate	Silvia Burgess	Gary White
	Ian Wilkes	Mike Stubbs	Jill Waring
	Gillian Williams	Amelia Rout	Andrew Fox-Hewitt
	John Williams	John Tagg	Brian Johnson
	Andrew Fear	Paul Northcott	Annabel Lawley
	Tony Kearon	Bert Proctor	Sue Moffat
	Paul Waring	Sylvia Dymond	Jennifer Cooper
	Mark Holland	Trevor Johnson	Gillian Burnett
	Julie Cooper	Andrew Parker	Helena Maxfield
	Marion Reddish	Sarah Pickup	Graham Hutton
	Kyle Robinson	Mark Olszewski	David Grocott
	Elizabeth Shenton	Dave Jones	
	Gill Heesom	Allison Gardner	

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Martin Hamilton	Chief Executive
	Simon McEneny	Executive Director - Commercial Development & Economic Growth
	Daniel Dickinson	Head of Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer
	Sarah Wilkes	Head of Finance / S151 Officer

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

3. **HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND THE MAYORESS, MRS ANGELA COOPER**

Members stood in silent tribute to His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh and to the Mayoress, Mrs Angela Cooper who had both recently passed away.

4. **FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

This Special Meeting had been called in respect of conferring honorary Freedom of the Borough upon Jim Worgan and the Royal Stoke University Hospital.

Jim Worgan

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg stated that he was pleased to propose this and said that Jim had made an immense contribution to the Borough through his work with the Newcastle Civic Society, the Museum, the Philip Astley Project and more, as well as his time as Macebearer to the Mayor. The Leader stated that he was a worthy recipient.

Councillor Simon White seconded the proposal stating that Jim had carried out endless research to ensure that the Borough's history was well documented. Mention was made of Jim's work within the mining communities and the numerous talks that he had given over the years. Jim was awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Service in 2007. Councillor White added that Jim was truly dedicated.

Councillor Stubbs stated that the proposal had the full support of the Labour Group. Jim had carried out some fantastic work in the community.

Members all agreed that this was a fully deserved honour, with particular reference being made to his work on the Minnie Pit and Diglake memorials.

Resolved: That the Council in exercise of their powers under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and being desirous of expressing its admiration and appreciation of the long and eminent service given by Jim Worgan to local groups and societies within the Borough and his outstanding contribution to the promotion of the heritage of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and as a mark of esteem does confer upon him the honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Royal Stoke University Hospital

The Mayor, Councillor John Cooper was pleased to propose this, stating that it was an organisation very close to his heart as they had provided assistance to himself and his family over the years and had served the people of North Staffordshire since 1948. The Mayor stated that he was both honoured and proud to propose this.

The Leader was pleased to second the proposal. Nationally and locally, a lot had been endured in the past year. As a result of the pandemic, people had stood on their doorsteps and clapped health workers and carers. It was only right that, as the pandemic eases, to award this to an organisation that was there for everyone. The Leader was proud for the Borough to award Freedom.

Councillor Stubbs stated that his Group fully supported this proposal. The hospital was a valuable asset and, for those working there it was a 'calling' not just a job. This Freedom was the least that the Council could do to honour the work – especially front line workers, over the last fourteen months.

Resolved: That the Council in exercise of their powers under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and being desirous of expressing its admiration and appreciation of the long and eminent service given by The Royal Stoke University Hospital to

the residents of the Borough and especially their selfless work, dedication and care given to Borough residents and beyond, during the Coronavirus pandemic and as a mark of esteem does confer upon them the honorary Freedom of the Borough.

MAYOR – COUNCILLOR JOHN COOPER
Chair

Meeting concluded at 7.25 pm