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Council - 19/11/25

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 19th November, 2025
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present:	Mayor - Councillor Robert Bettley-Smith (Chair)		
Councillors:	Adcock	Gorton	Stubbs
			Allport
			Grocott
			Sweeney
			Barker MBE
			Heesom
			J Tagg
			Beeston
			Holland
			Hutchison
			Turnock
			Brown
			Johnson
			J Waring
			Bryan
			D Jones
			P Waring
			Casey-Hulme
			Northcott
			Whieldon
			Crisp
			Parker
			Whitmore
			Dymond
			Reece
			G Williams
			Edgington-Plunkett
			Richards
			J Williams
			Fear
			Skelding
			Wright
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Berrisford, Dean, Fox-Hewitt, S Jones, Lewis and Wilkes		
Officers:	Gordon Mole	Chief Executive	
			Deputy Chief Executive
			Service Director - Legal & Governance / Monitoring Officer
			Service Director - Regulatory Services
			Service Director - Strategy, People and Performance
			Civic & Member Support Officer
			Service Director - Finance / S151 Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. FORMER MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR - COLIN BROOKS

A minute's silence was held for former Councillor and Mayor, Colin Brooks who had recently passed away.

The Leader of the Council led the tributes stating that Colin had been a member of the Council from 1995 to 1999 and 2002 to 2006, serving as Mayor between 2005 and 2006. He had served on several committees during his terms. Heartfelt condolences were sent to Sheila and the family.

Council - 19/11/25

Councillor Gill Williams stated that Colin had been very proud to have been elected as Mayor. He represented the Borough with dignity and understanding. Colin worked with Councillors and officers to create the Lyme Valley Park.

[Watch the tributes here](#)

3. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH - SIR IAN DUDSON KCVO CBE

This Extraordinary Meeting had been called in respect of conferring honorary Freedom of the Borough upon Sir Ian Dudson KCVO CBE.

The Leader, Councillor Simon Tagg moved the recommendation, stating that he was pleased to propose this. Sir Ian had recently retired after nearly a decade of distinguished service. He had deep roots in local heritage with his family business and his leadership in industry and civic life was a great credit to him. As Lord Lieutenant he represented the Crown in Staffordshire with dignity and dedication. His contribution spanned education, the voluntary sector and cultural heritage. Sir Ian had showed unwavering commitment to the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme, making him an outstanding ambassador.

Councillor Dave Jones stated that it was an honour to second the recommendation and stated that throughout his long connection to the Borough, Sir Ian had served for a significant period of time as pro-Chancellor and Chair of Keele University Council and the University owed him a great debt.

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 continuing service given by Sir Ian Dudson KCVO CBE to the Borough and his outstanding contribution to civic life of the Borough of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the County of Staffordshire and as a mark of esteem does confer upon him the honorary Freedom of the Borough.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**Mayor - Councillor Robert Bettley-Smith
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.14 pm