

REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 5 September 2024

Present: Councillor S Bennett (Chair)

Councillors L Luxon-Kewley G Jenkinson
P Basnett E Tomeny
B Hall K Murphy
M Booth A Brame
C McDonald

11 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Committee and read the webcast notice.

12 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from:
Councillor Andrew Hodson
Councillor Graham Davies (Councillor Mary Jordan deputised)
Councillor James Laing (Councillor Richie Pitt deputised)

13 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Gail Jenkinson declared a personal interest in item 9 (Honorary Freedom of the Borough Patricia Routledge) as she was a member of the Royal Voluntary Service.

14 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2024 be approved.

15 PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that there had been no public questions, statements, petitions or questions by members.

16 **MINUTES OF THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Resolved: That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Charitable Trusts Sub-Committee held on 14 February 2024 be approved.

17 **MINUTES OF LICENSING PANEL**

Resolved: That the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Panel held on 3 May 2024 and 14 June 2024 be approved.

18 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH YMCA WIRRAL**

The Civic Services and Electoral Services Manager introduced the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services which requested the granting of the title of Honorary Freedom of the Borough to YMCA Wirral. The Council had the power to grant this honour to persons, and on this occasion an organisation, of distinction that has rendered eminent Service to the Borough. It was raised as part of the officer's presentation that there was an error with reference to the background paper referred to in preparing the report which should have stated Section 10 of Part 5 of the Council's Constitution rather than Section 19. This was duly noted.

The YMCA supported some of most marginalised and vulnerable sections of society such as street homeless, people impacted by domestic abuse and the long term unemployed. They provided tailored support in reconnecting individuals with mainstream society and empower them to lead independent lives through accommodation and training. YMCA Wirral also provided approximately 86 bed spaces and 20 sit up places for extreme weather and in 2023 supported 689 people. It is highly regarded by authorities for what they do.

Resolved – that Council be recommended to agree that

(1) In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of the organisations dedicated service to the Borough, that YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) Wirral be awarded the Honorary Freedom of the Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 7 October 2024.

(2) The Head of Democratic and Member Services be requested to take all the necessary actions associated with recommendation (1) above and arrange for a small civic reception for representatives of YMCA Wirral and invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council.

HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE

The Civic Services and Electoral Services Manager introduced the report of the Director of Law and Corporate Services which requested the granting of the title of Honorary Freewoman of the Borough to Katherine Patricia Routledge DBE, (Patricia Routledge) of Tranmere, Birkenhead. The Council had the power to grant this honour to persons of distinction that had rendered eminent Service to the Borough. It was raised as part of the officer's presentation that there was an error with reference to the background paper referred to in preparing the report which should have stated Section 10 of Part 5 of the Council's Constitution rather than Section 19. This was duly noted.

Patricia's best-known role was playing Hyacinth Bucket in the comedy series "Keeping Up Appearances" that aired from 1990 – 1995 and in respect of which she won a British Comedy Award. Patricia had also been awarded a Tony Award and an Olivier Award, and also an OBE, a CBE and a DBE for services to theatre and charity. The Patricia Routledge Charitable Trust provided charity to help health care, schools, historical heritage, the English language, theatre world and young talents. Patricia was also associated with the Royal Voluntary Service that is best known for its meals on wheels service. Patricia had been a longstanding supporter of Age UK Wirral and is the Patron of their Meadowcroft Appeal.

Resolved – that Council be recommended to agree that

- (1) In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her dedicated service to the Borough, that Patricia Routledge be admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of the Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 7 October 2024.**
 - (2) The Head of Democratic and Members Services be requested to take all the necessary actions associated with recommendation (1) above and arrange for a small civic reception for Patricia Routledge and invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council.**
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