

MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the
SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
held at Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote
on 11th November 2010
at 5.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Atkin (Chairman), Councillor Stanton (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bale, Bladen, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Farrington, Ford, Harrison, Hewlett, Mrs. Hood, Jones, Lemmon, Murray, Mrs. Patten, Mrs. Plenderleith, Roberts, Timms, Watson, Mrs. Wheeler M.P., and Wheeler.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Dunn, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Lane, Mrs. Mead, Rhind, Shepherd, Southerd, Taylor, Tilley and Wilkins.

Independent / Non-Grouped Member

Councillor Pabla.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Coyle and Grant (Conservative Group) and Councillor Richards (Labour Group).

CL/60. **FREEDOM OF ENTRY TO THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DERBYSHIRE – THE MERCIAN REGIMENT**

A report was presented with the purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Freeman to members of the Mercian Regiment. Legislation provided councils with the power to bestow the honour of Honorary Freeman and to grant freedom of the entry to the District to persons of distinction and persons who had, in the opinion of the Authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area. This practice provided a dignified and satisfactory means of enabling the District to honour a distinguished unit of Her Majesty's Forces, the Mercian Regiment, which was a military unit closely associated with the community of South Derbyshire.

To this end, an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council had to be convened specifically to consider this matter, with two thirds of those present voting in favour of granting the Mercian Regiment freedom of entry into the District "to march through the streets of the District with colours flying, band playing and bayonets fixed".

The Mercian Regiment would approach the Council about a freedom march, which would take place in the future, with a parade through Swadlincote, followed by a reception for local soldiers and their families at the Civic Offices. All borough and district councils in the County, along with Derby City Council had granted, or were in the process of granting the freedom of entry to the Mercian Regiment.

A number of tributes were paid to the Regiment, led by the Leader of the Council. The Freedom Scroll and a copy of the District's Guide were presented to Colonel Dominic Wilford, who responded and presented to the Council the Mercian Regiment's flag and books on the Regiment's history.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, Members of the Mercian Regiment be admitted as Honorary Freemen of the District of South Derbyshire, in recognition of their distinguished service to Her Majesty's Forces.***
- (2) That the Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the certificate to be presented to the Regiment on its admission as Honorary Freemen of the District of South Derbyshire.***

N. ATKIN

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 5.45 p.m.