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MINUTES

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF WITHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Date: **Monday, 30th September 2024**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE**

Present: Councillors:

L.	Barlow	(Town Mayor)
P.	Heath	(Deputy Town Mayor)
E.	Adelaja	
P.	Barlow	
J.C.	Coleman	(arrived 7.18 p.m.)
J.M.	Coleman	(arrived 7.17 p.m.)
B.	Fleet	
L.	Headley	(arrived 7.17 p.m.)
J.	Martin	
R.	Playle	
J.	Robertson	
B.	Taylor	
E.	Williams	(arrived 7.24 p.m.)
N.	Smith	(Town Clerk)
H.	Andrews	(Deputy Town Clerk)
G.	Kennedy	(Committee Clerk)

93. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ramage and Soma; Councillor Hewitt was absent.

Councillors J.C. Coleman, J.M. Coleman and L. Headley arrived at the Meeting.

94. INTERESTS

Councillor P. Barlow declared a non-pecuniary interest as he had known John Boon for over thirty years and his grandchildren are part of BB.

Councillor Playle declared a non-pecuniary interest as he used to be a member of BB.

Councillor Heath declared a non-pecuniary interest as he had been involved with BB as a student.

Councillor Fleet declared a non-pecuniary interest as he had known John Boon for a number of years, both as a volunteer and a parent whose son was in BB; and was proposing that he be given the Freedom of the Witham.

Councillor Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest as she had connections with John Boon as part of a previous charity.

Councillor L. Barlow had known John Boon for a number of years and her children attend BB.

95. FREEDOM OF THE TOWN

Councillor Fleet proposed that the Freedom of Witham of Witham be granted to John Boon of the Witham BB in recognition of his work.

He explained that John Boon's life's work had been with the BB since its inception 52 years ago and its success was due to his dedication and ambition. The BB supports children and young people from 5 to 18 years of age teaching them skills and responsibility. John's influence had made a positive impact on so many lives over the years. He therefore proposed that this award would be a fitting way for the community to say thank you for his dedication.

Members then spoke about how John Boon had influenced their lives either as a member of BB or as a staff member. John had given the children and young people experiences that they would not have had otherwise. He had taught them leadership skills and how to be a team player. One had been at John's first summer camp 52 years ago with over 100 children and it was remembered that during school holidays BB reaches out to non-members. It was agreed that he had inspired and influenced so many young people.

Whilst the discussion took place, Councillor Williams arrived at the Meeting but declared no interests.

RESOLVED That the Freedom of Witham be granted to John Boon in recognition of his work with Witham BB which has influenced so many young people over the past 52 years.

Members agreed that Councillor Fleet would speak to John Boon about the Council's decision.

There being no further business the Town Mayor closed the Meeting at 7.28 p.m.

Councillor L. Barlow
Town Mayor

NS/GK/1.10.2024