MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH HELD AT SWANSPOOL HOUSE, WELLINGBOROUGH ON FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER 2017

Present: The Mayor (Councillor P Bell) and Councillors Allebone, Aslam, Bailey, Bone, Gough, Graves, Griffiths, Harrington, Maguire, Morrall, Partridge-Underwood, Patel, Scarborough, Simmons, Skittrall, Walia, Ward, M Waters and V Waters.

Officers present: Mrs E Elliott, (Managing Director), Miss J Thomas, Director/Monitoring Officer), Mrs S Knowles (Assistant Director), Mrs V Jessop (Assistant Director), Mrs C Mundy, Mrs F Hubbard and Mrs E Robinson (Democratic Services Officers) and Mr G Betts (Mayor’s Sergeant).

The meeting was preceded by prayers, led by the Mayor’s Chaplain, Duncan Wright.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Councillors Abram, Anslow, Beirne, Carr, Ekins, Emerson, Francis, Hallam, Henley, G Lawman, L Lawman, Lloyd, Scanlon, Stevenson, Watts and York.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations.

3. ADMISSION OF MRS EILEEN HIGGINS AS AN HONORARY FREEMAN

It was proposed by Councillor Partridge-Underwood, seconded by Councillor Scarborough and unanimously RESOLVED that:

(i) In pursuance of section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the council do admit EILEEN HIGGINS to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Wellingborough, the most honourable distinction which it is the privilege of the council to bestow, in appreciation and acknowledgement of the eminent services rendered by her to the borough, to local government generally and to other organisations as a councillor and in other capacities in the community.

(ii) the Common Seal of the council be affixed to the scroll to be presented to the Honorary Freeman

Mrs Higgins was born in Wellingborough in 1932 and educated at Victoria Infant School and at Wellingborough High School. On leaving school she joined Lloyds Bank. She married and had three sons Toby, Nigel and Rupert. She joined Wollaston Parish Council in 1983 and was elected as a borough councillor in August 1985 to represent the Wollaston, Grendon and Strixton ward; a position she held for over thirty years.

She has twice been elected as Mayor of the borough, first in 1992 and again in 2008. She has also served on the majority of the council committees and became leader of the council in 2003.
Over the years she has given outstanding service to a number of external organisations. She has sat on the board of directors for The Castle and as chairman of Wellingborough Homes Board. She was the council’s lead adviser for older people and a keen member of Wellingborough Twinning Association, being a frequent visitor to the twin towns of Niort and Wittlich.

Having being admitted as an Honorary Freeman, Mrs Higgins signed the Roll of Honorary Freeman, which was also signed by the Mayor and the Managing Director.

The Mayor then offered congratulations on behalf of the council and the people of the borough and presented Mrs Higgins with a framed scroll containing a sealed copy of the resolution inscribed on vellum.

Mayor

(The meeting concluded at 12.15pm).