

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of STIRLING COUNCIL held in THE PEAK, STIRLING on FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2009 at 11.10am.

Present:

Provost Fergus WOOD (in the Chair)

Councillor Neil BENNY	Councillor Graham LAMBIE
Councillor Margaret BRISLEY	Councillor Corrie McCHORD
Councillor Ian BROWN	Councillor Colin O'BRIEN
Councillor Callum CAMPBELL	Councillor Paul OWENS
Councillor Scott FARMER	Councillor Steven PATERSON
Councillor Tony FFINCH	Councillor Graham REED
Councillor David GOSS	Councillor Andrew SIMPSON
Councillor John HENDRY	Depute Convenor Jim THOMSON
Councillor Graham HOUSTON	

In Attendance:

Fiona Macleod, Clerk to the Council & Head of Governance, Corporate Services
Keith Yates, Chief Executive

Also Present:

Lieutenant Colonel Francis W. Saunders, MBE, ERD
Lieutenant Colonel McLennan, Royal Air-force 43rd Squadron

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Alistair Berrill, Scott Farmer, Colin Finlay, and Alasdair MacPherson.

SC371 MOTION TO CONVEY THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY

The institution of burgesses or freemen dated from the early beginnings of municipal corporations in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Over time, the conferring of the Freedom of the City had evolved and, although carrying no privileges or rights on the recipients, was the greatest civic honour that the Council could confer.

Under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to admit a person as a freeman the Council had to approve a resolution to that effect by a vote in which not less than two thirds of those present and voting voted in favour. Nominees had to be 'persons of distinction or persons who (*had*) rendered eminent service to the City' and the Council had to keep a roll of those admitted as honorary freemen.

The Freedom of the City had only been granted twice since Stirling was granted City status in 2002 - to the 43 (Fighter) Squadron on 4 June 2005 and to Lieutenant Colonel Francis William Saunders, MBE, ERD

All Freemen and Free women were entitled to march through the City with 'drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed'. This was a most prized honour, for it recognised over time the honourable record of those on which Freedom of the City had been conferred, and demonstrated the affection and esteem with which they were held by the community.

The Council had convened to consider conferring Freedom of the City on Mr Irvin Iffla.

Mr Iffla, who was originally from Jamaica, came to Stirling in 1951 to take up the post of professional cricketer for Stirling County Cricket Club. Cricket was a low profile sport in Scotland at that time and the Club which was one of the oldest in Scotland, had been performing in the Scottish Counties Championship without much success. Within 12 months of joining the Club, Mr Irvin had transformed it into a title-winning team and it took the county championship in 1952.

Between 1951 and 1993 Mr Iffla played at Stenhousemuir, Ayr, St Modan's and Gargunnock as well as Stirling County, scoring more than 13,000 runs, including 16 centuries, and taking more than 1600 wickets.

He won league medals in all 3 Scottish major leagues, with his career stretching from 1951 until 1993. He had continued to play into his 70's and had been an inspiration to generations of cricketers over the course of his long and distinguished career.

Motion

"That, in recognition of his long standing commitment and contribution to the public life of the City of Stirling as Sportsman and Citizen, the Council resolves to convey the Freedom of the City of Stirling on Mr Irwin Iffla."

Moved by Councillor Graham Houston, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Corrie McChord, Leader of the Main Opposition Group

On the roll being called, the Members present voted as follows:-

For the Motion (16)

Councillor Neil Benny
Councillor Margaret Brisley
Councillor Ian Brown
Councillor Callum Campbell
Councillor Tony Ffinch
Councillor David Goss

Councillor John Hendry
Councillor Graham Houston
Councillor Graham Lambie
Councillor Corrie McChord
Councillor Colin O'Brien
Councillor Paul Owens
Councillor Steven Paterson
Councillor Graham Reed
Councillor Andrew Simpson
Depute Convenor Jim Thomson
Provost Fergus Wood

The Motion was carried unanimously and accordingly the Council agreed to confer the Freedom of the City on Mr Irwin Iffla.

The Provost addressed the meeting and invited Mr Iffla to accept the Scroll. Upon receiving the Scroll, Mr Iffla thanked the Council for the honour which it had bestowed on him.

The Provost declared the Meeting closed at 11.30 pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Stirling County Cricket Club presented Mr Iffla with a cricket bat signed by many cricketers who had played with, or against him, over the years.

Members, Mr Iffla, Lieutenant Colonel Saunders and Lieutenant Colonel McLennan then joined the Civic Reception to celebrate the official opening of Stirling's new sports village – The Peak. The indoor sports complex was the biggest single development for sport and leisure in Stirling for more than 30 years, with an investment of £27.3 million by Stirling Council and Sportscotland.

