

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF MINSHULL VERNON & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN ST PETER'S COMMUNITY HALL, MINSHULL VERNON
ON 28 FEBRUARY 2013**

PRESENT:	Councillor Les Horne	Chairman
	Councillor K Halford	Councillor Linda Horne
	Councillor B Palin	Councillor M Wilson
	Councillor P Wright	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Hon. Freeman W Barnes Hon. Freeman J Whittingham Major (Rtd) Douglas C Forrest, MBE	
APOLOGIES:	Councillor I Chenery	
ABSENT:	Councillors W T Beard, D N Bebbington, M Bromhead and M McGlone	

808 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Major (Rtd) Douglas C Forrest, MBE and his guests to the Special Meeting of the Parish Council to confer upon him the Freedom of the Parish.

809 FREEDOM OF THE PARISH

The tradition of granting the Freedom was a way of giving public recognition to those who were held in high esteem by both the Parish Council and the residents of the area.

After Local Government re-organisation in 1974, a number of local authorities were given the power to admit honorary aldermen and freemen, pursuant to Section 249 of the 1972 Act. That power was not extended to town and parish councils in England.

On 12 January 2010, amended provisions were made to the 1972 Act to enable all local councils to confer honorary titles. This was the third occasion on which the Parish Council proposed to confer this honour.

It was proposed by Councillor Les Horne, seconded by Councillor K Halford and supported by Councillor B Palin that –

“In accordance with S.249 of the Local Government Act 1972, former parish councillor Major (Rtd) Douglas Colin Forrest, MBE be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Freemen as a person of distinction who had, in the opinion of the Parish Council, rendered eminent services to the parish.”

The Chairman paid tribute to the work of Major Forrest both as a parish councillor and in his role over many years as Chairman of the Parish Council commenting on his stewardship of the Council. Councillor Halford, who had been Vice-Chairman during Major Forrest's chairmanship of the Parish Council also paid tribute to his work as Chairman. Other parish councillors spoke favourably about his contribution to the work of the Parish Council and generally to the area.

There were also tributes from the floor.

In accordance with S.249(8) of the 1972 Act (as amended), the Parish Council was required to pass a vote of no less than two-thirds of the Members of the Council present and voting.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously –

That former parish councillor Major (Rtd) Douglas Colin Forrest, MBE be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Parish.

The Chairman presented the new Honorary Freeman with a framed copy of the Parish Council's resolution. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Mercedes Forrest.

810 RESPONSE BY HONORARY FREEMEN MAJOR (Rtd) DOUGLAS COLIN FORREST, MBE

Following his admission, Honorary Freeman Forrest responded to his admission and thanked Members and the Parish Council for the honour bestowed upon him.

811 ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

At this point in the proceedings, the formal meeting was concluded and Honorary Freeman Forrest and his family were able to mix informally with parish councillors and other guests for refreshments.

.....Chairman

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 7.25 pm