

Council

Monday, 13th May, 2019
5.20 - 5.30 pm

Attendees	
Councillors:	Roger Whyborn (Chair), Sandra Holliday (Vice-Chair), Victoria Atherstone, Matt Babbage, Paul Baker, Garth Barnes, Dilys Barrell, Angie Boyes, Nigel Britter, Jonny Brownstein, Flo Clucas, Stephen Cooke, Iain Dobie, Bernard Fisher, Wendy Flynn, Tim Harman, Steve Harvey, Rowena Hay, Alex Hegenbarth, Martin Horwood, Peter Jeffries, Steve Jordan, Chris Mason, Paul McCloskey, Andrew McKinlay, Tony Oliver, Dennis Parsons, John Payne, Louis Savage, Diggory Seacome, Jo Stafford, Klara Sudbury, Simon Wheeler, Max Wilkinson, Suzanne Williams and David Willingham

Minutes

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Coleman, Collins, Stennett and Hobley.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were none.

4. GRANTING THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

The Leader of the Council introduced the item and gave the background to GCHQ prior to it moving to Cheltenham in 1951 where it was initially based on two sites, in Oakley and Behall. Nationally, GCHQ played a key role in security, terrorism, serious crime and cyber security. Locally, GCHQ represented the largest employer with many employees living in and around the town.

CBC had an ongoing relationship with GCHQ and was currently working with them particularly closely on developing the cyber innovation centre and the cyber park. It was particularly appropriate to award them the Freedom of the Borough in their 100th year, a rare honour to award and there had been an overwhelmingly positive response that this honour should be bestowed.

The leader of the Conservative Group took the opportunity to thank the retiring Mayor and welcome the newly appointed Mayor and Deputy. He then said it was a great honour to second the motion to grant GCHQ the Freedom of the Borough. He recognised its massive contribution nationally and locally and deemed it appropriate to grant the award when cyber represented a new frontier and GCHQ had expressed its commitment to the town. He looked forward to the exciting plans for the cyber park going forward.

Councillor Parsons raised a point of clarification and in response Sarah Farooqi, One Legal, confirmed that the Freedom of the Borough was nowadays a ceremonial award and a grant of recognition, albeit historically the award had granted certain rights.

RESOLVED (unanimously) THAT

“That under, and in pursuance of the powers conferred upon the council by virtue of Section 249 Local Government Act, 1972, GCHQ be admitted Honorary Freedom of the Borough in recognition and appreciation of the eminent services rendered by it with great distinction to national security for a century.”

5. ANY OTHER ITEM THE MAYOR DETERMINES AS URGENT AND WHICH REQUIRES A DECISION

There was none.

Roger Whyborn
Chairman