

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Special Meeting of the Council**

held on Thursday, 14th October, 2010 at Congleton Town Hall, High Street,
Congleton

PRESENT

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)

Councillor R West (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors E Alcock, C Andrew, A Arnold, M Asquith, Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, A Barratt, G Barton, C Beard, W T Beard, D Beckford, S Bentley, D Brickhill, D Brown, D J Cannon, R Cartlidge, S Conquest, J Crockatt, H Davenport, M Davies, W S Davies, R Domleo, B H Dykes, P Edwards, W Fitzgerald, R Fletcher, D Flude, S Furlong, H Gaddum, L Gilbert, J Goddard, J Hammond, M Hardy, D Hough, J Jones, S Jones, A Knowles, M Lloyd, A Martin, M A Martin, P Mason, S McGrory, R Menlove, G Merry, A Moran, B Moran, J Narraway, D Neilson, R Parker, A Ranfield, B Silvester, M J Simon, L Smetham, D Stockton, D Thompson, C G Thorley, A Thwaite, C Tomlinson, D Topping, R Walker, G M Walton, M J Weatherill, R Westwood, P Whiteley, S Wilkinson and J Wray

Apologies

Councillors Bebbington, S Broadhurst, J P Findlow, M Hollins, B Howell, O Hunter, T Jackson, A Kolker, W Livesley, J Macrae and H Murray

65 PRAYERS

Councillor S Wilkinson said prayers, at the request of the Mayor.

66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

67 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH - THE MERCIAN REGIMENT

Following the submission of a Notice of Motion to Council by the Mayor, on 27 May 2010, the Civic Sub-Committee had considered proposed arrangements for the granting of the Freedom of the Borough to the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment (Cheshire).

The Sub-Committee had recommended to the Constitution Committee that the Freedom of the Borough be granted to the 1st Battalion Mercian Regiment (Cheshire) and a special meeting of Council be convened for that purpose and that arrangements be made for at least two, possibly three, homecoming parades to be held in Macclesfield, Crewe and possibly Congleton, during the second week of November 2010 and that the Mayors of Town Councils in Cheshire East be invited to attend the relevant homecoming parade for their area.

The Assistant Regimental Secretary had requested that the Freedom be granted to "The Mercian Regiment", rather than the 1st Battalion as they wished to be recognised as a whole Regiment rather than a federation of Battalions. In addition, the Regiment's 4th Battalion was a TA Company stationed in Crewe, which also sent soldiers to serve in Afghanistan. The Mayor had been consulted and had supported the request.

Since the Sub-Committee meeting, the Assistant Regimental Secretary and Officers had agreed the final, detailed arrangements for three, homecoming parades, to be held on Monday 8 November, at midday in Macclesfield and 3.15pm in Crewe and Wed 10 November in Congleton, at 3pm.

The Constitution Committee had resolved that the recommendations of the Civic Sub-Committee be approved, subject to the above and that Council be recommended to grant Freedom of the Borough to "the Mercian Regiment".

RESOLVED

That pursuant to the powers contained in the Local Government Act 1972, Freedom of Entry to the Borough be granted to the Mercian Regiment and the Regiment be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the Borough, in recognition of the long and close association between the Cheshire East area and the Regiment and the right, privilege and honour of marching through the streets of Cheshire East on ceremonial occasions, with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and colours flying, be conferred upon the Regiment."

(The motion was carried unanimously, in accordance with section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended by Section 180 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980), which requires that the resolution is passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting).

The meeting commenced at 7.35 pm and concluded at 7.50 pm

Councillor G Baxendale (Chairman)
CHAIRMAN