

# Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

6<sup>th</sup> January, 2004 at 6.30 pm  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor Prestidge);  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Sidhu);

Councillors Archer, Badham, Bawa, Betteridge, Bissell, Mrs Boucher, Bridges, Burkitt, Cooper, Crompton, Dhallu, Mrs Edis, Edwards, Eling, Evans, Fowler, Grainger, Mrs Griffin, Haque, Harris, D Hinton, Mrs P Hinton, Mrs L R Horton, R L Horton, Hussain, Mrs M James, Jones, Mrs Khatun, Lord King, Lewis, R S Melia, Mrs Newell, Parish, R. Price, Rowley, Salvage, Silvester, M G Smith, S L Smith, Sullivan, Tagger, Taylor, Thomas, G Turton, Mrs L Turton, Ward, Mrs Webb, Mrs Whitehouse, Wilson and Young.

**Apologies:** Councillors Blyth, Costigan, Davies, Gill, Mrs Hughes, Dr Jaron, Josan, Meacham, W T Melia, Mrs B Price, Rouf, Mrs Underhill and Walker.

## 1/04 **Honorary Freemen of the Borough**

Under the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council had the authority to confer the office of Honorary Freeman of the Borough on persons of distinction and persons who, in its opinion, had rendered eminent services to the Borough.

At a special meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2003, the General Purposes Committee considered the nomination by the Leader of the Council of the actress, Julie Walters; the former West Bromwich Albion footballer, Cyrille Regis; and the comedian and entertainer, Frank Skinner for the office of Honorary Freeman.

Each person had strong connections with the Borough and either provided service to the Borough or significantly assisted in its promotion.

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**Resolved:-**

- (1) that in recognition of her achievements during a long and successful acting career in the cinema and television industry, and her association with and services rendered to the Borough of Sandwell, this Council hereby confers on Julia Mary Walters OBE, also known as Julie Walters, the title of Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell; that her name be inserted on the Roll of Honorary Freeman; and that there be accorded to her such rights and privileges as the Council may from time to time bestow upon Honorary Freeman;
- (2) that in recognition of his contribution to football, particularly in the involvement of the ethnic community in sport, and his services to communities in the Borough, this Council hereby confers on Cyrille Regis the title of Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell; that his name be inserted on the Roll of Honorary Freeman; and that there be accorded to him such rights and privileges as the Council may from time to time bestow upon Honorary Freeman;
- (3) that in recognition of his personal achievements, his career in television and entertainment, and his support to organisations in the Borough, this Council hereby confers on Christopher Graham Collins, also known as Frank Skinner, the title of Honorary Freeman of the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell; that his name be inserted on the Roll of Honorary Freeman; and that there be accorded to him such rights and privileges as the Council may from time to time bestow upon Honorary Freeman;
- (4) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Leader, be authorised to make appropriate arrangements to implement the decisions.

(The meeting ended at 6.40 pm.)

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