

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 18 September 2017**

**PRESENT** Councillors Sam Barnes, Mike Boyd (**Deputy Mayor**), John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds (**Mayor**), Cheryl Creaser, Justin Erswell, Rebekah Gilbert, Charlie Harkness, Pat Hughes, Jo Kirkham, Andi Rivett, Andy Stuart

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Jessica Neame – Acting Town Sergeant; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice Chairman; John Minter – *Rye News*; Lois Benton, 4 members of the public

*The meeting commenced at 6.31pm.*

**64 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Bernardine Fiddimore, Ian Potter, Ray Prewer and Shaun Rogers.

**65 CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were no disclosures of interest nor dispensation requests.

**66 LOIS HARRISON BENTON**

Cllr Gilbert introduced her proposal (*see APPENDIX*).

**RESOLVED** (unanimous) **That, in pursuance of sections 249(5) and 249(6) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the Antient Town of Rye, assembled especially for this purpose, hereby resolves to admit LOIS HARRISON BENTON as an Honorary Freewoman of the Town, this being the highest distinction within the Council’s power to bestow in recognition of four decades of contributing to the development of Girlguiding locally, as well as encouraging younger parishioners during thirty-four years of music teaching.**

The Mayor presented Miss Benton with a commemorative scroll.

Miss Benton thanked Cllr Gilbert and Town Councillors for the award and summarised her involvement in the community since she moved to the parish in 1963.

*The meeting ended at 6.38pm*

Date ..... Chairman .....

## HONORARY FREEMAN AWARD TO MISS LOIS BENTON

18<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Firstly thank you to fellow town councillors for supporting the proposal to nominate Miss Benton as an Honorary Freeman of the Antient Town of Rye.

For 34 years you taught at Thomas Peacocke School as a true vocation. It seemed that every single lunchtime, after school, numerous weekends & holidays you gave up every moment of your spare time to nurture us in so many musical ventures- choir, madrigal group, barbershop, orchestra, wind band, musical theatre, house competitions to name but a few!

You taught us youngsters that through the medium of music, with discipline, dedication, & hard work we could achieve so much more from life. For our efforts (& that hand over on the shoulder!) we were rewarded with frequent trips to perform at the De La Warr Pavilion & the Royal Albert Hall as well as countless local opportunities.

The generations of young people that you gave so much to had a true role model in you & our lives were made so much better for it.

But it was not all about self, it was about giving too, & you also nurtured many girls through your role in Guiding. We learnt about playing a role in our community, helping others, & giving back- it clearly rubbed off on some of the boys as well & that a quarter of the current town council were your students is testament that such teaching about civic duty had an effect!

Personally, I am so very grateful for all that you gave to us & how you turned my, & I'm sure so many other lives around. In essence, your life's work made a massive difference and has had a great impact on so many.

I've waited many years to say thank you in public for that, and so on behalf of the Town Council, & the generations of young, & now older people of Rye, thank you for being the most truly wonderful teacher a child could have had, a youth leader & an inspiring musician in our community. You are a truly deserving recipient of this distinction - Miss Benton - Honorary Freeman of Rye.