
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

5 AUGUST 2020

Present -

MEMBERS:

Douris (Mayor), Anderson, Banks, Barratt, Barry, Bassadone, Beauchamp, Bhinder, Birnie, Chapman, Claughton, Elliot, England, Freedman, Griffiths, Guest, Hearn, Hobson, Imarni, Johnson, Link, Maddern, Su Mahmood, McDowell, Peter, Pringle, Ransley, Riddick (Deputy Mayor), Rogers, Silwal, Symington, G Sutton, R Sutton, Taylor, Tindall, Timmis, Uttley, Williams, Woolner, Wyatt-Lowe (40)

OFFICERS:

The Chief Executive, Corporate Director (Housing and Regeneration), Group Manager (Legal & Corporate Services), K Mogan (Corporate and Democratic Support Lead Officer) and T Angel (Minutes).

The meeting began at 6.30 pm.

The Mayor announced the sad passing of Julian Taunton, former Councillor, Leader of the Council and Honorary Freeman of the Borough. He invited members to share their memories of him.

Councillor Williams said he was first elected in 1987 and Julian was already a well-established member of the senior team at Dacorum. It was with his support that he moved on through the ranks and became Chair of Development Control in the early 90's. Julian continued as Leader of the group until 1997 when he decided to step down, and Councillor Williams took over as Leader in 1999. Julian continued as a senior member of the group and a Cabinet member serving the Leisure Portfolio. He stood down and took on a role as back office support and advice and continued until he retired in 2007. He considered Julian to be the consummate professional, a gentlemen, an extremely good and supportive Leader of the Council and a good role model for him to follow. He said this was a huge loss for us and very distressing that after a short period of illness he has passed away.

Councillor Symington explained that she was a parish councillor and chair of Great Gaddesden parish council for a number of years just after Julian had stepped down from Dacorum. She worked with him through Watling neighbourhood action group which was a collaboration between Great Gaddesden, Flamstead and Markyate parish councils and Julian was very committed to the collaboration. He was incredibly knowledgeable, a very experienced councillor and worked really hard. He had a keen sense of humour and was a great person to work with. He will be greatly missed.

Councillor Chapman said Julian was a councillor for around 29 years and Leader of the Council when he was elected in 1995. He said Julian was an excellent person to work with and was his guiding light. He worked so hard in all his positions for the community which

included being a County Councillor, Borough Councillor, Parish Councillor and also Mayor in the 80's. He was also made Freeman of the Borough and Councillor Chapman felt that was one of our finest moments. He will be sadly missed.

Councillor Timmis said Julian was a mentor and friend, and he was the reason she was persuaded to stand as a Borough Councillor for Watling Ward. She had great respect for him and his dry sense of humour, there was always a twinkle in his eye. He served the village of Flamstead in so many ways. He served as a Parish Councillor right to the end, he never resigned from his position but just, in his words, 'stepped down for the time being'. He knew all the procedures, rules, and regulations of being a Councillor, these were imbedded in him. He was principled and fair. He was the person to ask if you wanted to know something. He leaves behind his wife of a lifetime and his four children and will be very much missed by them and all of us.

Councillor Bassadone said she first knew Julian when he was elected and she looked after him for a while and they remained good friends. In 1986 they found themselves at a group meeting and both had been put forward for Mayor; he won and became Mayor. She said she was elected two years later. Julian always worked extremely hard and she had remained friends with him and his wife Janet. She hoped next year we could all come together and give thanks to him for all the work he has done for the Borough of Dacorum.

The Mayor said he had received a note to read out from David Lloyd, Police and Crime Commissioner, previously a Dacorum Councillor, and a close friend of Julian's. He was immensely proud of his children, he said "*we have four, electricity came late to old Watling Street*" but the bond he had with his wife Janet was very much plain for everyone to see. David met Julian in April 1995 and thus started a long and enduring friendship. He was one of the politicians David admired the most in the country. He was generous with his time and advice over many years. He served on the Police Authority as the lead for Dacorum and particularly enjoyed reading the complaints to the Police even if on one occasion he was a little cynical about their purpose. He was however rather taken aback to find that a familiar and regular complainant had written to the Chief Constable claiming that Julian was a CIA spy, and of course we will never know if that was based on fact. It always seemed as though the highlight of his year was the Flamstead gardens association village show, of which he was president. David looked forward to a Sunday morning gossip at St Leonards, often with some documents handed to him before the start of the service from Julian 'in case he got bored'. He achieved so much with humility and grace, a great example to those around him of how to live a principled life. RIP Julian."

One minutes silence was then held in reflection and recognition of Julian Taunton's life.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Williams confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillors Adeleke, Durrant and Sinha.

Councillor Tindall confirmed that apologies had been received from Councillors Allen, Hollinghurst and Stevens.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved:-

That, under s.100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded during the item in part II of the Agenda for this meeting, because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during this item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to an individual (Item 4).

4. APPOINTMENT TO THE ROLE OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Full details can be found in the Part II minutes.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm.