

NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF NEW MILTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 2024 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL,
ASHLEY ROAD, NEW MILTON

p D E Hawkins (Chairman)	p K E Craze (Vice-Chairman)
p J Adams	p P Moores
p J Baker	p R Murrow
p G R Blunden	p A D O’Sullivan
p S J Clarke	R A Reid
M Craze	p D Rice-Mundy
p S P Davies	V E Schooling
p W Davies	p M Scott-Johns
p D N Tungate	p K Trehorn

In Attendance:

G Flexman - Town Clerk

H Ormerod – Administrative Assistant

J Hayward – Communications Officer

124. MAYOR’S OPENING REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed members and guests to the meeting and said that it was an honour and privilege to present Goff Beck with Honorary Freedom of New Milton.

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs M Craze, A Reid and V Schooling.

126. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – None.

127. CONFERMENT OF HONORARY FREEMAN OF NEW MILTON ON GODFREY CHARLES BECK

Councillor D Rice-Mundy introduced this item: ‘I am delighted to have been asked to speak on this auspicious occasion.

This evening’s meeting is one of those rare and unusual events in the life of a Council, and I am honoured and privileged to contribute to these proceedings.

The conferment of Honorary Freedom was first bestowed by this Town Council some 10 years ago, on my uncle Alan William Rice. I know it meant a lot to Alan and the award of Honorary Freeman is the highest award a Town can bestow.

I count Goff Beck as a friend and valued colleague who I enjoyed working with here over many years. I asked him why he liked to be called “Goff” rather than Godfrey and his reply was quick and to the point: *“I’m not God and I’m not free!”*

But Goff is someone who gave freely of his time in various voluntary capacities. Overwhelming messages of support have been received from various bodies, individuals and organisations across New Milton, Goff Beck having rendered eminent and distinguished service over many years to the people of this town as:

- Governor of Arnewood School for many years, championing local youth
- Support for the foundation of Eaglewood School
- Fundraising for Ashley based First Opportunities Pre-School and the NFDIS
- Support for local churches including the Annual Civic Service
- Engagement with local schools regarding the annual Remembrance Service
- Establishment of new memorial events including Barton's Indian Obelisk
- Served on New Milton Residents Association acting as link to the Council
- Served on the Memorial Centre Management Committee
- Vice-Chairman of the local RBL branch and was Parade Marshall for 12 years'

Cllr Rice-Mundy proposed that the Honorary Freedom of New Milton be conferred on Godfrey Charles Beck, as follows:

“Whereas it has appeared to the Town Council of New Milton in the County of Hampshire that Godfrey Charles Beck of Vectis Road in New Milton, a long and loyal member of the local Royal British Legion branch, and a former Chairman and founding Mayor of New Milton Town Council, and Chairman of New Forest District Council, has rendered distinguished and eminent service over many years to the people of the town.”

This was seconded by the Mayor who spoke in support of the proposal, as follows:

“Now therefore in recognition of that valuable and unselfish service, primarily his dedication to the Royal British Legion and especially as the Parade Marshal on Remembrance Sundays for 12 Years, it was unanimously agreed and recently recommended that the Town Council does hereby confer upon the said Godfrey Charles Beck the rights, privileges and advantages attaching to the style, rank and title of Honorary Freeman of New Milton.”

The Town Clerk then read out the Recommendation for Members, as follows:

“That the Town Council of New Milton does hereby confer upon the said Godfrey Charles Beck the rights, privileges and advantages attaching to the style, rank and title of HONORARY FREEMAN OF NEW MILTON”

It was then, under and by virtue of the provisions of section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 unanimously:

RESOLVED: That the title of Honorary Freeman of New Milton be conferred by the Town Council on Godfrey Charles Beck in recognition of the eminent and distinguished service rendered by him to the people of the town.

128. REPLY BY GODFREY CHARLES BECK

Godfrey Beck thanked everyone for attending and delivered an acceptance speech (as attached).

129. SIGNING OF THE REGISTER OF HONORARY FREEMEN

Godfrey Charles Beck duly signed the Register of Honorary Freemen of the town.

130. CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.00pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Distribution:

Town Councillors
District Councillor Mrs J L Cleary
County Councillors M Kendal, F Carpenter, K Mans
New Milton Police
Press
Sue Larking – NMRA
Mark Jeffries – Estates & Facilities Manager