

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council held at the Cynon Valley Bowls Centre, Mountain Ash on Wednesday, 1 October 2014 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor M.J.Watts – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

S.Carter	(Mrs) S.J.Jones	B.Stephens
A.Crimmings	S.Lloyd	(Mrs) M.Tegg
A.L.Davies,MBE	R.B.McDonald	(Mrs) J.S.Ward
S.M.Evans	A.Morgan	M.J.Watts
M.Forey	S.Pickering	M.Webber
A.S.Fox	S.Rees	T.Williams
P.Jarman	G.Smith	

Officers in Attendance

Mr.C.Lee – Group Director, Corporate Services
Mr.G.Isingrini – Group Director, Community & Children’s Services
Mr.C.Bradshaw – Director, Education & Lifelong Learning
Mr.P.J.Lucas – Director, Legal & Democratic Services
Mr.T.Wilkins – Director, Human Resources
Mr.N.Wheeler – Service Director, Streetcare
Mr.C.Hanagan - Head of Strategy and Public Relations

70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors D.R.Bevan, S.A.Bradwick, P.Cannon,QPM, G.R.Davies, (Mrs) L.De Vet, J.Elliott, S.M.Evans-Fear, (Mrs) E.Hanagan, G.E.Hopkins, J.S.James, R.Lewis, B.Morgan, I.Pearce, S.Rees-Owen, (Mrs) A.Roberts, G.Thomas, L.Walker, M.Weaver, D.H.Williams, C.J.Willis and R.Yeo.

71 AWARD OF THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF RHONDDA CYNON TAF TO BERNARD BALDWIN MBE

Pursuant to Minute No.4(1) of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2014, the Council met to award the Freedom of the County Borough to Bernard Baldwin MBE.

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming Members and distinguished guests, including the High Sherriff and Deputy Lord Lieutenant, to the extraordinary meeting of the Council to confer the Freedom of the Borough to Bernard Baldwin MBE but before doing so, the Mayor called upon his Chaplain for an opening prayer which was followed by songs performed by the Mountain Ash Singers.

The Mayor then called upon Mr.Roy Noble OBE to make a speech commemorating the lifetime achievements of Bernard Baldwin. In doing so, Mr.Noble spoke about Bernard Baldwin's early life, his career and his involvement and influence in the world of athletics - he was awarded an MBE in 1971 for his services to British Athletics. Mr.Noble paid particular reference to Bernard Baldwin being the founder of the Nos Galan Road Races back in 1958 and a year later, the Taff Street Dash in Pontypridd. Mr.Noble stated that Bernard Baldwin, who lives in Caegarw, had gifted the town of Mountain Ash and indeed the whole area of Wales with the remarkable "Nos Galan" event which will become his lasting legacy. The Nos Galan Road Races were now officially recognised as one of the 'Top 500' races in the world alongside the likes of the iconic New York Marathon, London Marathon, the Great North Run and the Bost Maraton. In April, the Nos Galan Road Races was voted 'Britain's Best Fun Run' at the 2014 UK Running Awards. Mr.Noble stated it was a great time to confer the Freedom of the County Borough to Bernard Baldwin.

The Mayor stated that awarding the Freedom of the County Borough was not something that occurred often and was never given lightly as it was the highest accolade a local authority could bestow and was granted to outstanding service to, or achievement associated with Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Mayor stated that Bernard Baldwin has been an outstanding ambassador for Rhondda Cynon Taf and is respected far and wide for his work with athletics and the man behind the Nos Galan Road Races.

The Mayor then called upon the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor A.Morgan, to formally move on behalf of the Council that Bernard Baldwin MBE be honoured with the Freedom of the County Borough and this was formally seconded.

The Mayor then followed by officiating that in recognition of the tremendous contribution and achievements of Bernard Baldwin MBE, the County Borough resolves that, pursuant to its powers under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confers upon Bernard Baldwin MBE the Freedom of the County Borough. The Mayor then presented Mr.Baldwin with the signed resolution.

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Leader of the Council, County Borough Councillor Andrew Morgan, congratulated Mr.Baldwin and thanked him for

all his efforts and support for the `Nos Galan' event over many years. He stated that Bernard Baldwin well deserved the honour of being awarded the Freedom of the County Borough.

The Mayor then called upon County Borough Councillor A.Crimmings , as Chair of the Nos Galan Committee, to pay tribute to Mr.Baldwin and she congratulated him on his award.

David Bedford OBE then spoke about his experiences with Bernard Baldwin since first meeting him in 1986 and congratulated him on all his success and achievements throughout his life. He stated that Bernard Baldwin being awarded the Freedom of the County Borough was well deserved.

Bernie Plain also paid tribute to Mr.Baldwin on behalf of Welsh Athletics and he highlighted the many road races aside from `Nos Galan' which Mr.Baldwin had operated and supported over the years. He stated that Bernard Baldwin was an inspiration for others and he congratulated him on his award.

The Mayor then called upon County Borough Councillor P.Jarman to speak on behalf of Mr.Baldwin's family.

County Borough Councillor Jarman paid tribute to Bernard Baldwin and his family. She recalled her experiences of working with Mr. Baldwin over the years on the `Nos Galan' event and congratulated him on his achievements and successes not only in his community but throughout the World. Councillor Jarman stated that she too was very pleased to see Mr.Baldwin awarded the Freedom of the County Borough.

The Mayor congratulated Bernard Baldwin on behalf of the Council and then formally closed the meeting.

**M.J.WATTS
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 3.35 p.m.