

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH WORKING GROUP

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th January, 2017 at 9:30am at the Council Headquarters, Clydach Vale.

County Borough Councillors in attendance

R Lewis (Chair) M Webber

P Jarman P Wasley

Other County Borough Councillors in attendance

J James R Smith

Officers in attendance

C Hanagan – Director, Cabinet & Public Relations

H Williams, Cabinet Business Officer

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of interest pertaining to the agenda.

2. POTENTIAL NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations presented the report to the Committee, to allow them to consider the nominations received for the Freedom of the Borough and subsequently make a recommendation to Full Council.

The officer reminded Members that the Freedom of the Borough is the highest accolade that the County Borough can bestow and is usually granted for outstanding service to, or achievement associated with, the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Members of the Working Group were pleased with the four nominations put forward to them and spoke positively of the different successes each had achieved.

When discussing the Cory Band, one Member commented that it was pleasing to see a group of passionate, talented individuals, ranging from different ages and from an array of backgrounds working collaboratively.

Members of the Working Group agreed that the global success of the band was an outstanding achievement for Rhondda Cynon Taf, honouring generations and showcasing local talents to the rest of the world.

Discussions formulated around Councillor Joel James and Gareth Bennett AM's nomination of David Roberts CBE. Members of the Group praised the Paralympic Swimmer from Llantwit Fadre for his tremendous achievements of eleven gold, four silver and one bronze medal. It was explained that Mr Roberts CBE was of an era where Paralympians didn't achieve the recognition they deserved and that he moved on to provide future support to other disabled athletes of Rhondda Cynon Taf. Members agreed that this legacy drew a distinction between him and the other athletes nominated.

Discussions continued around the huge success stories of all the Paralympians throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf, with Members unanimously agreeing that they still deserved to be honoured and recognised as a group, at the same ceremony for their commendable achievements.

The Chair referred Members of the Group to section 6 of the report where the Good Citizen Awards process was outlined. One Member suggested that in order to retain the uniqueness of the award, a filtering system of nominees would be beneficial. The Director, Cabinet & Public Relations advised that there would be no more than six categories for nominees to be placed into, which would make for a more organised and timely ceremony.

Members were advised that the ceremony would take place in March 2017 and were pleased to move the recommendations.

The Working Group **RESOLVED:**

- a) To note and consider the four nominations received
- b) To recommend to Council, that the accolade of Freedom of the County Borough be awarded to Mr David Roberts CBE and the Cory Band, with a separate award to honour the commitment of all Paralympians.
- c) That the selection of recipients for the Mayor's Good Citizen Award be undertaken as a function of the Working Group.
- d) To authorise the Director, Cabinet & Public Relations to take forward promotion of the Good Citizen awards and the development of future selection categories and criteria
- e) To consider the timing of this year's Freedom of the Borough and that the ceremony would take place in March 2017.

The meeting closed at 10am

**Mayor R Lewis
(Chair)**