

## YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a special meeting of **YEOVIL TOWN COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Town House, 19 Union Street, Yeovil on **Tuesday 9 September 2014**

(6.30pm to 6.40pm)

**Present:**

Mike Lock – Mayor  
Martin Bailey  
John Clark  
David Dollard  
Tony Fife

Jon Gleeson  
Tony Lock  
Sarah Lowery  
Darren Shutler

**Also present:**

Alan Tawse            Town Clerk

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**MAYOR'S WELCOME**

The Mayor extended a welcome to John Clark who had recently been elected to represent Yeovil West Ward and was attending his first meeting of the Town Council.

8/491 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 September 2014, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

8/492 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Tristan Cobb, Bridget Dollard, David Greene, Peter Gubbins, Andrew Kendall, Wes Read and David Recardo.

8/493 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

8/494 **MARLIE PACKER**

Members were advised that under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), town councils were empowered to confer the title of "honorary freeman" or "honorary freewoman" on persons of distinction and persons who had, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the local area.

In accordance with the Act, the Town Council needed to convene a meeting specially for the purpose with notice of the object, and a resolution needed to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon conferring the title on such persons.

Members were informed that Yeovil-born Marlie Packer had represented her country at international level for a number of years and had played a key role in England's victory in last month's final of the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup Tournament, which had been held in Paris.

Marlie had begun her rugby career at the age of 5 with local club, the Ivel Barbarians where she had spent the following 13 years. She had then moved to Bath before joining Bristol in 2009. She had been voted the England Players' Player in the 2012 Six Nations Championship and had been Bristol's Personality of the Year in 2011.

Schooled at Birchfield, Buckler's Mead and Yeovil College, Marlie was a trained plumber and had worked in that skilled profession for a number of years - both in Yeovil and in London - where she now played in the position of Flanker for Wasps RUFC.

As well as undertaking her plumbing work, she had represented England U19, U20 and England A before winning a full cap when England had beaten Sweden 80-3 in the European Championships in Limoges in May 2008. At the age of 24, she had been capped 28 times for England, and her achievement in winning a World Cup medal in last month's final represented many years' dedication and hard work.

It was noted that, during the previous week, the Town Council had unanimously recommended that Marlie be made an Honorary Freewoman of the Town of Yeovil as a person of distinction and in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of rugby union.

During the ensuing discussion, the Town Council considered this proposal, and it was

**UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED:**

- (1) that, in accordance with S.249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), Marlie Packer be made an Honorary Freewoman of the Town of Yeovil as a person of distinction and in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of rugby union; and
- (2) that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, and the Chairmen of the Policy, Resources and Finance Committee and the Promotions and Activities Committee, be requested to make the necessary arrangements for the presentation of the award.

8/495 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from members of the public.

Mayor