

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 14 May 2013 commencing at 12.50 pm and finishing at 1.15 pm

### **Present:**

Councillor Tim Hallchurch MBE – in the Chair

### Councillors:

Anne Purse	Patrick Greene	Neil Owen
Lynda Atkins	Pete Handley	Zoé Patrick
Jamila Azad	Jenny Hannaby	Glynis Phillips
David Bartholomew	Nick Hards	Susanna Pressel
Mike Beal	Neville F. Harris	Laura Price
Maurice Billington	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	G.A. Reynolds
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Alison Rooke
Nick Carter	Hoare	Rodney Rose
Louise Chapman	John Howson	Gillian Sanders
Mark Cherry	Ian Hudspeth	John Sanders
John Christie	Bob Johnston	Les Sibley
Yvonne Constance	Richard Langridge	Roz Smith
Surinder Dhesi	Stewart Lilly	Val Smith
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Lawrie Stratford
Neil Fawcett	Sandy Lovatt	John Tanner
Jean Fooks	Mark Lygo	Melinda Tilley
Mrs C. Fulljames	Kieron Mallon	Michael Waine
Mark Gray	Charles Mathew	Richard Webber
Anthony Gearing	Caroline Newton	David Williams
Janet Godden	David Nimmo Smith	David Wilmshurst

*The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.*

### **34/13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bulmer and Coates.

### **35/13 FREEDOM OF THE COUNTY**

(Agenda Item 6)

The Council had before them a report (CC6) detailing Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 which allowed Councils to bestow the Freedom of its area on persons.

On the recommendation of Group Leaders, Council was invited to confer the status of Freedom of the County on 4624 Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air force, RAF Brize Norton. This was in recognition of over thirty years of distinguished service, demonstrating sacrifice and commitment to the defence of the realm, and for dedicated support to local charities and communities.

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The Squadron was formed at RAF Brize Norton on 8 August 1982 and achieved Full Operational Capability in 1987. The Squadron had now celebrated its 30th Anniversary and in its fourth decade, the Squadron continued to evolve and grow. It now found itself as the largest Royal Auxiliary Air Force Unit with a Part Time Volunteer Reserves Establishment of 256 personnel. 4624 Squadron personnel account for 23% of the trained output of the Royal Air Force Logistic Movements Trade and continue to play a vital part in meeting the requirements of Defence.

The Squadron endeavoured to maintain a representation at many important ceremonial events and had supported a number of local charities along with several service-focused charities. An annex to this report contains an outline of the history, role and engagements of 4624 Squadron by Wing Commander Williams and Warrant Officer Searles.

Members of the Council paid tribute to the work carried out by the Squadron.

**RESOLVED:** (on a motion by Councillor Hudspeth, seconded by Councillor Brighthouse and carried unanimously) to grant the honour of Freedom of the County to 4624 Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, RAF Brize Norton in recognition of over thirty years of distinguished service, demonstrating sacrifice and commitment to the defence of the realm, and for dedicated support to local charities and communities.

The Chairman presented the Squadron with a certificate of appointment containing the Council's Coat of Arms and sealed with the Common Seal of the Oxfordshire County Council will be presented and witnessed by the Chairman and Chief Executive.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing