

## Appendix A to the Council Minutes – 28 October 2015

### **Item 6 – Questions from Members of the Public.**

1 question was submitted from a member of the public.

#### **1. From Mr Perrin to Councillor J. Kent**

##### **Mayor**

Mr Perrin, would you please read out your question to Councillor John Kent, as set out on page 35 of the Agenda.

##### **Mr Perrin**

Thank you Madam Mayor, before I do so may I with your permission take a minute to reply to the rebuke made by Councillor J. Kent in response to my question at the September meeting?

##### **Mayor**

Go ahead.

##### **Mr Perrin**

Councillor Kent, I assure you that whenever you rise to speak I am all ears and you always command my undivided attention. I am sorry if you find my habit of reading a prepared supplementary question irritating; sadly when it comes to speaking in public I do not possess your skills. In comparison I am a mere novice. I ask that you be patient in my apparent shortcomings. When you say that you are used to my coming to Council month in month out, do I sense a sense of wearisome on your part?

*My question is: At the September meeting Motion 3, submitted by Cllr Ray, was passed unanimously. The motion calls for this Council to commemorate Councillors who pass away during their time in office, in recognition for their work and contributions to the community of Thurrock. Has any decision been made as to how such Councillors will be commemorated?*

##### **Mayor**

Councillor Kent?

##### **Councillor J. Kent**

Thank you Madam Mayor. Mayor, can I firstly assure Mr Perrin that I never find him a source of irritation and I apologise if I have not been patient with him enough.

With regards to the question, research has been undertaken to identify those members who have passed away whilst in office since we became a unitary authority on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1998. Officers are now looking into the various options for the design and placement of a suitable memorial in this Chamber, probably across the back wall there with the other rolls.

**Mayor**

Mr Perrin, do you wish to pose a supplementary question?

**Mr Perrin**

Thank you Madam Mayor. I am perplexed as to why the proposer of the motion restricts commemoration recognition to Councillors who died whilst in office. Some Councillors die years after leaving office do they not also merit recognition and commemoration?

There are many members of the public who devote their entire lives to working for and contributing to the betterment of the community, and do so without seeking recognition for commemoration. Their motivation being that it is the right thing to do. It is an example I believe that Councillors would do well to follow.

Would you accept that recognition and commemoration of former Councillors is purely a matter for Councillors and any costs should be borne by themselves and not the taxpayer?

**Councillor J. Kent**

Madam Mayor, probably for the last 10 years we have celebrated the contributions made by residents across the Borough, the huge contributions that are made, through things such as the Civic Awards. There are other honours such as Freedom of the Borough. There are pictures there of Freemen and Freewomen of the Borough, some of them ex-Councillors and some of them not. We celebrate the good work that happens in schools through the Education Awards, the Education Awards being in November.

I think that it is rather churlish to suggest that should we wish to have the Mayoral roll, there as we have, that the Mayor or Members should pay to have their name carved on to the wall under others. I also think it is churlish to suggest that if a member has died in office that we shouldn't do something as an authority just to mark that event and to mark our respect.

**Mayor**

Thank you Councillor Kent.