

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF  
MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL  
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE ON  
29 FEBRUARY 2024**

**Present:** Councillor Newton (Mayor) and  
Councillors Burton, Cannon, Clark, Cleator, Coates,  
Cooper, Cox, English, Forecast, Garten, Harwood,  
Hastie, Hinder, Jeffery, Jones, Joy, Khadka, Naghi,  
Parfitt-Reid, Perry, Riordan, Rose, Round, Russell,  
J Sams, T Sams, Spooner, M Thompson, S Thompson,  
Webb, D Wilkinson and J Wilkinson

121. PRAYERS

Prayers were said by Councillor Mrs Denise Joy, Church Warden of the Parish of All Saints with St Philip, Maidstone and St Stephen, Tovil.

122. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Bryant, Conyard, Cooke, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Grigg, Harper, Knatchbull, McKenna, Mortimer, Munford, Reid, Mrs Robertson, Springett, Trzebinski and Wilby.

123. DISPENSATIONS

There were no applications for dispensations.

124. DISCLOSURES BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

There were no disclosures by Members or Officers.

125. DISCLOSURES OF LOBBYING

There were no disclosures of lobbying.

126. EXEMPT ITEMS

**RESOLVED:** That the items on the agenda be taken in public as proposed.

127. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor took the opportunity to acknowledge the valiant efforts of Maidstone United against Ipswich Town and Coventry City in the FA Cup fourth and fifth rounds.

128. PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

129. HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH - ALESSIA RUSSO

It was moved by Councillor Forecast, seconded by Councillor Hastie, supported by Councillors Russell, English, Cox, S Thompson, Cleator, Coates, Webb, Harwood, Riordan, J Sams, Rose, Cannon and J Wilkinson and:

**RESOLVED:** That pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Alessia Russo, as a person of distinction, be hereby admitted to be an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Maidstone.

Alessia Russo then signed the Roll of Honorary Freemen, witnessed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive, and was presented with a Certificate of Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

Ms Russo addressed the Council expressing her appreciation of the award and her hope to continue inspiring the next generation of women's football.

130. DURATION OF MEETING

6.30 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.