



Minutes

Name of meeting	EXTRA-ORDINARY FULL COUNCIL
	Convened To Consider Bestowing On Mary Ellis The Honorary Freedom Of The Isle Of Wight
Date and time	WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018 AT 5.00PM
Venue	COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT
Present	Cllrs Lora Peacey-Wilcox (Chairman), Barry Abraham, Debbie Andre, Adrian Axford, Julia Baker-Smith, Reg Barry, Michael Beston, Paul Brading, Geoff Brodie, George Cameron, Vanessa Churchman, Rodney Downer, Paul Fuller, Andrew Garratt, John Hobart, John Howe, Stuart Hutchinson, Julie Jones-Evans, John Kilpatrick, Michael Lilley, Karl Love, John Medland, Clare Mosdell, Michael Murwill, John Nicholson, Tig Outlaw, Gary Peace, Matthew Price, Chris Quirk, Shirley Smart, Ian Stephens, Dave Stewart, Brian Tyndall, Ian Ward, Chris Whitehouse and Wayne Whittle
Apologies	Cllrs Paul Bertie, Charles Chapman and Graham Perks,

1. **[Declarations of Interest](#)**

Cllr Lilley declared a personal interest in minute 2 as was a founding trustee of the Wight Aviation Museum at Sandown Airport.

Cllr Mosdell declared a personal interest in minute 2 as she was the god daughter of Mary Ellis.

2. **[Freedom of The Isle of Wight](#)**

A report was presented to all members of the Council, proposing that Mary Ellis be bestowed with the Honorary Freedom of the Isle of Wight in recognition of her role in the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) as a Pilot during the Second World War as well as her her role at Sandown Airport.

The Freedom of the Isle of Wight is recognised as being the highest honour that the council could grant, being used sparingly and awarded on merit to exceptional persons.

Mary who celebrated her 100th birthday earlier in 2017, was the last surviving pilot of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) which transported aircraft and pilots all over the country throughout the Second World War until the service was disbanded in 1945.

It was noted that following the war, Mary became Europe's first female air commandant where she managed Sandown Airport on the Isle of Wight for 20 years, during which time she inspired women to learn to fly at the Isle of Wight Aero Club, which she also founded.

The Leader of the Council remarked that Mary should be regarded as a national, international and Island heroine and was most deserving of the Honorary Freedom of the Isle of Wight.

After the debate, the following was therefore:

RESOLVED

THAT the bestowing of the Freedom of the Isle of Wight on Mary Ellis in recognition that she is a person of distinction who, during WWII as a pilot with the ATA flew more than 1,000 planes including Spitfires and Wellington bombers and who after the war, became Commandant of Sandown Airport, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN