

## Sunderland City Council

At a meeting of SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 8 MARCH 2023 at 6.30pm

**Present:** The Mayor (Councillor A. Smith) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor D. Trueman)

Councillors	Ali	Guy	Mullen	Snowdon, D
	Blackburn	Haswell	Nicholson	Snowdon, D E
	Burnicle	Heron	Peacock	Speding
	Burrell	Herron	Potts	Stewart
	Chisnall	Johnston, K	Price	Thornton
	Dixon	Johnston, S	Reed	Trueman, H
	Dodds	Laws	Rowntree	Usher
	Doyle	McDonough	Samuels	Walker, P
	Fagan	Miller, F	Scanlan	Warne
	Farthing	Miller, G	Scott	Williams
	Gibson, P W L	Mordey	Smith, G	Wood, P

### Also Present:-

Honorary Alderman Greenfield and Tate

The notice convening the meeting was read.

### Declarations of Interest

The following open declaration of interest was made: -

Councillor Speding	Item 4 – Honorary Freedom of the City – Gary Bennett MBE, Stephanie Darby MBE, Jill Scott MBE	President/Chairman of Durham Football Association
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### Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ayre, Bewick, Butler, Chequer, Curtis, Crosby, Dunn, Edgeworth, Fletcher, Foster, Greener, Hartnack, Lauchlan, Mann, Mason-Gage, Morrissey, P. Smith, M. Walker, D. Wilson and A. Wood. Honorary Alderman Mrs M. Forbes

## **Freedom of the City – Honorary Freedom of the City – Gary Bennett MBE, Stephanie Darby MBE, Jill Scott MBE – Report of the Chief Executive**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which invited the Council to confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Gary Bennett MBE, Stephanie Darby MBE and Jill Scott MBE.

The Mayor extended a warm welcome to all present at the meeting.

It was then moved by the Leader of the Council, Councillor G. Miller, and duly seconded by the Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor C. Rowntree, that the Council formally confer the Honorary Freedom of the City upon Gary Bennett MBE, Stephanie Darby MBE and Jill Scott MBE.

The Leader and Deputy Leader spoke to the motion and on being put to the meeting the motion was unanimously agreed and it was:-

42. RESOLVED that in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council do confer the Honorary Freedom of the City on the individuals s set out below;
- Gary Bennett MBE in recognition of the example of commitment and achievement he set in combatting racism in football and as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people
  - Stephanie Darby MBE in recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she set in women's sport and as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people, and
  - Jill Scott MBE in recognition of the example of commitment and achievement she set in women's sport and as an ambassador for Sunderland and role model for young people

As Ms Scott was unable to attend, Mr Bennett and Mrs Darby were invited, in turn, to be presented with a presentational copy of the Council's resolution by the Mayor, to sign the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City and they responded with acceptance speeches.

Councillors Dixon, McDonough, Nicholson, Williams and Speding also spoke to the motion before the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

**(Signed) A. SMITH**  
**Mayor**