

REPORT FOR: **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting:	7 July 2011
Subject:	Proposed Conferment of Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Harrow (Section 249: Local Government Act 1972)
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and Governance Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 - Draft Resolution Appendix 2 - Biography of proposed recipient

Section 1 – Purpose and Recommendations

1. Summary

- 1.1 The conferment of Honorary Freedom of the Borough is to recognise persons of distinction who have rendered eminent services and are connected to the London Borough of Harrow. The power to award the honour of Freedom of the Borough is contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. To invoke the provisions of Section 249 it is required that a Special Meeting of the full Council be convened for the purpose.
- 1.2 During 2011 Harrow High School (formerly Harrow County School for Boys and Gayton High School) will celebrate its Centenary and is recognised as an important part of Harrow's history. The School benefits from the memory of many significant "old boys", in particular Sir Paul Nurse, Nobel Prize Winner and it is proposed to celebrate the centenary of the school by the recognition of and conferment of an Honorary Freedom to its most outstanding "old boy", in line with the criteria of being a person who has rendered eminent services and is connected to the London Borough of Harrow.

2. **RECOMMENDATION:** That in accordance with the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the London Borough of Harrow:
- (i) That the Council be requested to invoke the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the honour of Freedom of the Borough of Harrow on Sir Paul Nurse to recognise his contribution to the field of science and his relationship with the London Borough of Harrow;
 - (ii) subject to (i) above, the granting of the Freedom be recorded in an illuminated Scroll and presented to the recipient in an appropriate Casket, and the commissioning and associated costs be as now approved at this meeting, further to the provisions of Section 249(6) of the Local Government Act 1972.
 - (ii) the Presentation of the Scroll and Casket to be made at Harrow High School Centenary Dinner on Saturday 15th October

Section 3 - Background

- 3.1 The singular honour of Freedom of the Borough has been invoked over the intervening years to celebrate milestones achieved by local organisations. This year will mark the 100th Anniversary of Harrow High School (formerly Harrow County School for Boys and Gayton High School).
- 3.2 Previously the Council has conferred upon the late Sir Winston Churchill the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Harrow. The Honorary Freedom was also conferred on the following individuals (William Allen, A. E. Amor, Charles Jordan and Francis Telfer in 1968) (George Gange and Horace Cutler in 1977). Most recently the Honour was conferred upon Sir Roger Bannister 2004 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Incorporation of the Borough.
- 3.3 In 1983 a number of locally based Territorial Army units were honoured. The honour was awarded to RAF Stations Stanmore Park and Bentley Priory in October 1988 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Stanmore Park Station and in recognition of the imminent fiftieth anniversary of the roles played by both Stations in the Battle of Britain in 1940. The Christ Church, Roxeth & Harrow Company of the Church Lads' and Church Girls' Brigade was honoured in October 1994 with Freedom of the Borough to mark the Company's one hundredth anniversary of continuous service in Harrow. In October 1996 The Royal British Legion Harrow Branch was awarded the honour in recognition of its seventy fifth anniversary.
- 3.4 Accordingly, it is proposed that to mark the 100th anniversary of Harrow High School, a significant part of the history of the Borough, by the conferring of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough upon Sir Paul Nurse.

Section 249: Local Government Act 1972

3.5 Section 249 (5) of the Act states:-

“The Council of a London Borough..... may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object admit to be honorary freemen of the city borough persons of distinction who have in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the city borough.....”

3.6 Section 249 (6) of the Act states:-

“The Council of a London Borough..... may spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person upon whom they have conferred the title to be an honorary freeman of the city borough.”

Proposed Recipient of the Honorary Freedom

3.7 In anticipation that the Council would consider the proposal to confer honorary Freedom of the Borough appropriate to the centenary anniversary of Harrow High School, the matter has been the subject of prior consultation with the leaderships of the political groups represented on the Authority.

3.8 Further to that consultation approaches have been made informally to Sir Paul Nurse to confirm that he would be a willing recipient of the proposed conferment, which he has indicated he would be both proud and privileged to accept. A full biography relating to Sir Paul Nurse is attached for Members consideration.

Arrangements for a Freedom Scroll

3.9 Arrangements are currently in process.

Procedure

3.10 It will be noted as a requirement of Section 249 (5) that if the Authority is to proceed with the conferment of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough a special meeting of the Council must be convened for the purpose. A formal vote on the object of conferring the honour must be recorded. The resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the Members of Council present and voting.

3.11 The costs for the Honorary Freedom Award will be met from existing budgets.

3.12 This report is submitted, following consultation with the Mayor, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Conservative Group.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers: Historical records relating to Freedoms and Old Gaytonians News

London Borough Of Harrow

Borough
Arms

At a special meeting of the London Borough of Harrow held at the Civic Centre, Harrow on Thursday of the seventh day of July 2011, it was

RESOLVED:- *THAT in accordance with the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council of the London Borough of Harrow*

DO CONFER THE

'Freedom of Entry to the Borough'

upon

Sir Paul Maxime Nurse

In Recognition *of his outstanding continuous service to science
and*

that this honour of Freedom the Borough be now so conferred on Sir Paul Nurse appropriately in the current year of 2011 in further joint commemoration and celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Harrow High School (formerly Harrow County School for Boys and Gayton High School).

The Common Seal *of the Mayor and
Burgesses of the London Borough of
Harrow was affixed hereunto on the
seventh day of July 2011*

Mayor

Leader

Chief Executive

SIR PAUL MAXIME NURSE



**President of the Royal Society.
(Took up the post to start his five year term on 1
December 2010).**

**Former Professor of Microbiology at the University
of Oxford and CEO of the Imperial Cancer Research
Fund and Cancer Research UK.**

**Director and Chief Executive of the UK Centre for
Medical Research and Innovation (UKCMRI).**

**Former President of Rockefeller University New
York**

Knighthood by the Queen in 1999

**Awarded (jointly) Nobel Prize for Physiology or
Medicine in 2001**

Awarded the Royal Society Copley Medal in 2005.

Sir Paul Maxime Nurse (25 January 1949 – present). Sir Paul Nurse is a geneticist whose research focuses on the molecular machinery that drives cell division and controls cell shape. His research led to the identification of cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) as the key regulator molecule controlling the process by which cells make copies of themselves, a discovery that is important for understanding growth, development and cancer.

In addition to the distinctions above, Sir Paul Nurse has also been a recipient of the following honours in recognition of his significant and continuing contribution to medicine:

1989 Fellow of the Royal Society

1995 Royal Medal (of the Royal Society)

1995 Foreign associate of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

1998 Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research

1999 Knighted by the Queen for services to Medicine

2002 Awarded the French Legion d'Honneur

2006 Elected a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Born in Norwich, he was brought up in Neasden and Wembley. At age 11 (1960) he attended Harrow's leading state secondary school, Harrow County School for Boys. He recalls an excellent Biology teacher, Keith Neal, who encouraged pupils to study natural history and to do real experiments "I had a great time investigating the pigments of different mutant fruit flies by following experimental protocols published in Scientific American".

Whilst at Harrow County (1960 - 1966) he also acted as Secretary to the 'Gaytonian' magazine, contributing to many articles during his time at the school. Sir Paul also served as a member of the stage staff for the school play "A Man for All Seasons" in 1966.

Upon leaving Harrow County School he worked for a short period as a technician in the microbiological laboratory associated with the Guinness brewery at Park Royal (NW10) where, completing his routine work in two days a week he was encouraged to carry out research experiments for the remainder of the week.

1967 – attended Birmingham University studying Biology. Following his primary degree, Sir Paul entered into further study and attained a PhD at the University of East Anglia, Norfolk, for work on the study of molecular changes during the cell cycle. This included working with Tony Simms (UEA) by looking at the enzymes of amino acid metabolism during the cell cycle of the fungus *Candida utilis*. He undertook post-doctoral work on the study of the cell cycle responsible for the reproduction of cells - in particular the control of these processes.

In 1972 Sir Paul read two papers which demonstrated how genetics could be used to study the budding yeast cell cycle, which led to a brief spell in Switzerland studying with Urs Leupold, the father of fission yeast genetics. Following this he moved to Edinburgh University and established genetics research within the existing cell cycle laboratory. The six years spent in Edinburgh are viewed by Sir Paul as pivotal to his research career.

1980 – gained a position with University of Sussex, Brighton – due to the study of the next stage in cell cycle analysis requiring molecular genetics, and the University having an established reputation in this field. Sir Paul undertook work relating to fission yeast molecular genetic manipulation.

1984 – Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) offered Sir Paul a permanent head position at the main laboratories at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

1988 – offered the Chair of Microbiology at the University of Oxford and made President of the UK Genetical Society.

1993 – became Scientific Director to ICRF. This return to ICRF made Sir Paul a colleague of Tim Hunt with whom he was to later attain the Nobel Prize. He remained to become its Director General and Head of Cell Cycle Laboratory.

Sir Paul then headed up the world's largest volunteer-supported cancer research organisation, Cancer Research UK, when ICRF and the Cancer Research Fund joined forces.

In 2003 he moved to the United States to become President of The Rockefeller University, where he became its ninth President. His vision during his time with the university was the goal of enabling the world's best scientists to pursue high-quality research into biological and biomedical science to improve our understanding of life for the benefit of humanity. Under his strategic plan, Rockefeller recruited at least a dozen new laboratory heads, employing an open recruitment approach designed to identify the very best scientific talent regardless of their field.

Sir Paul's main driver in his field of research is to try to understand some of the basic principles that underlie life. He worked with cell division as the cell is the simplest unit of life, and the process of cell division is the basic form of reproduction. How this is controlled is viewed by him as an important biological question.

Sir Paul's work continues to be recognised and contribute as part of the key successes in

- seminal discoveries at the molecular level of cell cycles
- enabling the development of new treatments and medicines for cancer through his studies and management of research teams
- discovering the gene that controls cell division

Sir Paul continues to work yeast fission to address basic questions about the behaviour of the cell relating to cell cycle and cell shape, and has raised challenges including:

- How does a cell have a sense of its own internal dimensions?
- How does a cell know where its middle is?
- How do organelles determine their shape and size?

Sir Paul is now President of The Royal Society and his vision for his five year tenure is for the Royal Society to be effective rather than just symbolic, to have a significant role in communicating science and making it exciting and interesting to the public.

Ultimately Sir Paul sees the Royal Society as being the primary advocate for science in the UK combined with a having an important role in protecting the high standards needed for science.

(Note: The Royal Society is a fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and remains the oldest scientific society in continuous existence. Its aim is to expand the frontiers of knowledge by championing the development and use of science, mathematics, engineering and medicine for the benefit of humanity and the good of the planet. Previous Fellows and Foreign Members, have included Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Ernest Rutherford, Albert Einstein, Dorothy Hodgkin, Francis Crick, James Watson and Stephen Hawking. Today there are approximately 1,500 Fellows and Foreign Members, including more than 70 Nobel Laureates.

The Society has three roles: it is the UK academy of science promoting the natural and applied sciences, a learned society, and a funding agency).