

Tributes to councillor



Colleagues paid tribute to a Chorley councillor who was described as 'the perfect gentleman' as a minute's silence was held at full council on Tuesday night.

Speaking at the Chorley Council's annual meeting a number of members stood up to pay their respects to Eccleston and Mawdesley councillor, Henry Caunce, who passed away on the eve of the local elections.

The 71-year-old was first elected to Chorley Council in 2004 and served on the Development Control Committee, the neighbourhood area meeting committee for the Western Parishes.

Leading the tributes his friend, Councillor John Walker said it was an extremely sad time: "I've known Henry as long as he has been a councillor and he was the perfect gentleman, just a lovely guy.

"He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and while he wouldn't necessarily say much in the council chamber he was very active in getting things resolved for residents in the area he served.

"He used his knowledge as a builder to serve on the development control committee and he will be sadly missed by us all as get got on with everyone regardless of what political party you represented."

In his 15 years of service Councillor Caunce, who has four children and was also a parish councillor, had been on the Governance Committee, Chorley West Community Forum, Prison Liaison Panel.

He had recently been granted a period of leave in which he didn't need to attend council meetings due to illness and still had one year left to serve as a borough councillor.

Councillor Alistair Bradley, Leader of Chorley Council, said: "On behalf of the council I'd like to offer my condolences to Councillor Caunce's family at what is a very difficult time.

"Although we may have had differences of opinion in the council chamber something that Cllr Caunce was well known for is that he worked tirelessly to represent the residents of Eccleston and Mawdesley and I know he will be very much missed both in the local community and here as part of Chorley Council."

Councillor Caunce's funeral took place on Tuesday 14 May and a by-election will be held in July.