
Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council

14 March 2017

Name of Cabinet Member: N/A

Director Approving Submission of the report: Chief Executive

Ward(s) affected: All

Title: Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

The Council approved a revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman on former Councillors at their meeting on 18 September 2012. This Report sets out the details of five nominations for Honorary Aldermen and are presented for approval in this report.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on each of the following nominations:
 - i) David Chater
 - ii) Sheila Collins
 - iii) Helen Fitzpatrick
 - iv) Hazel Noonan
 - v) Arthur Waugh

List of Appendices included:

1. Revised Protocol for conferring of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen (as presented to Council for approval on 18 September 2012)

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Report title: Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman

1. Context

- 1.1 The Council approved a revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman on former Councillors at its meeting on 18 September 2012, attached as Appendix 1. The title of Honorary Alderman can be conferred at Extraordinary Council meetings throughout the year. Members will vote on each nomination. Nominations need to be agreed by at least two thirds of the Members present.

2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposals

- 2.1 Five nominations have been received which meet the criteria as set out in the Protocol within Part 5 of the Council's Constitution (a copy of this is attached in Appendix 1). A summary of each nomination is set out below. During the Council meeting, there will be a Proposer and a Secunder for each nomination. The Proposer and Secunder will each make short speeches and the Council will then vote on the nomination. A nomination needs to be agreed by at least two thirds of members present and voting. For all nominations that are agreed, this will be followed by a short acceptance speech by the Honorary Alderman.

2.2 Nominated Honorary Alderman: David Chater

Dave Chater served as a Member of the Council for 30 years between 1986 and 2016 representing citizens Binley & Willenhall Ward. During that time he was Chair of Transportation and Highways Committee, Chair of the Social Affairs Policy Co-ordinating Committee, Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committee and served on a number of Committees. He was Lord Mayor in 2002-2003.

2.3 Nominated Honorary Alderman: Sheila Collins

Sheila Collins JP was a Member of the Council serving Longford Ward for 18 years between 1986 and 2004. During that time she was a Chair of Leisure Services, Chair of Arts Policy Team, Chair of Planning Committee and Chair of Economic Regeneration Committee. She was Lord Mayor during the year 2000-2001.

2.4 Nominated Honorary Alderman: Helen Fitzpatrick

Helen Fitzpatrick was a Member of the Council for 16 years representing Whoberley and Earlsdon Wards between 1978-1986 and 1987-1995. During that time she served on a number of Committees, including Leisure and Recreation Committee, Social Services Committee, Housing Committee and Finance Committee.

2.5 Nominated Honorary Alderman: Hazel Noonan

Hazel Noonan was a Member of the City Council for 16 years serving Cheylesmore Ward from 2000 to 2016. During that time she held a number of positions including Cabinet Member (Community Services), Cabinet Member (City Services) and Chair of Scrutiny Board (Health and Social Services). She was Lord Mayor in 2013-2014.

2.6 Nominated Honorary Alderman: Arthur Waugh

Arthur Waugh was a Member of the Council representing the citizens of Westwood Ward for a total of 39 years from 1965 to 2004. During that time he became Coventry's Lord Mayor in 1988-1989 and held a number of positions including chair of Finance Committee, Social Services Committee and Recreation Committee. He also served as Deputy Leader of the Council.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 In preparing this report, consultation has taken place with the proposers and proposed Honorary Aldermen, as well as with the relevant Cabinet Member, the Lord Mayor and Council Leader.
- 3.2 Following consultation with the nominees, they have all elected to take the title of Honorary Alderman.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

The conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman will take effect immediately upon approval by Council.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Corporate Services

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The Lord Mayor's Office already hold Honorary Aldermen Badges in stock.

5.2 Legal implications

This report implements the Council's Protocol for appointing Honorary Aldermen. The Protocol is in accordance with the provisions for such appointments, as set out in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

Not applicable

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Not applicable.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

To confer the esteemed title of Honorary Alderman on any former Councillor is a prestigious honour that will have a positive impact on the City Council and the City of Coventry. The details of the nominations will refer to the nature of the eminent services provided by that former Member and to recognise the contributions they have made.

6.3 Equalities / EIA

Each nomination for the position of Honorary Alderman is considered on its individual merits. Nominations are received in accordance with the protocol, which is applicable to any former Member.

6.4 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.5 Implications for partner organisations

None

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Appendix 1

Revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman

1. Procedure

- a) The title of Honorary Alderman/woman will only be conferred and entered into the Roll of Aldermen/women in accordance with the Council's agreed Protocol.
- b) Any name put forward must be proposed in writing by a serving Member of the Council and seconded in writing by at least one other serving Member of the Council. Nominations must be submitted to both the Chief Executive and the Lord Mayor.
- c) Nominations will be considered and the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman will be conferred at a specially convened meeting of the Council. The title will be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of members present and voting.
- d) Nominations may, in addition to this, be considered at a prior ordinary Council meeting, and the nomination approved in principle by a resolution comprising a majority vote. If nominations are considered at an ordinary meeting, it is proposed that the specially convened meeting may be held immediately after this ordinary meeting or at a future meeting, subject to the appropriate notice of the special meeting having been given

2. Qualifications Required for Enrolment

- a) The Council may, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, and the provisions of this Protocol, confer the title of "Honorary Alderman" or "Honorary Alderwoman".
- b) An Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman shall enjoy only those rights or privileges conferred by Section 249 of the Act and this Protocol.
- c) The Executive Director of Place shall keep a roll to be called "The Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen" of those who have had this title conferred on them.
- d) A person shall be deemed eligible to be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman provided that the person meets the following requirements:
 - is not a serving Member of the Council
 - has served as a Member of the Council for at least 15 years in total (continuously or non-continuously)
 - has given eminent service to the Council during that period.

3. Method of Enrolment

- a) No person who has the above qualifications shall be enrolled automatically as an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman but only in accordance with the procedure set out above.
- b) Formal conferring of the title of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen shall be by a resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object.

4. Withdrawal of Title

- a) The Council may withdraw the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman and the attached rights and privileges. Such withdrawal of the title shall be by way of formal motion to a meeting of the full Council, (the summons to which contains special notice that such withdrawal is proposed and the reason therefore) and subsequent resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting thereon at the meeting of the Council.

5. Privileges

An Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman shall be entitled to the following rights and privileges:

- To enjoy the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman and to be so addressed.
- To provide a badge or emblem to Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen, and to wear such badge or emblem on civic occasions.
- To receive a copy of each Council summons.
- To receive a framed certificate to commemorate their appointment.
- To enter their name into "The Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen".
- To receive invitations to civic and social events to which Members of the Council are invited as determined by the Lord Mayor.
- To walk in civic procession in a position immediately behind serving Members.
- To enjoy such other privileges as the Council may confer upon them from time to time.