
Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council

18 September 2012

Name of Cabinet Member:

Community Safety and Equalities: Councillor Philip Townshend

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Customer and Workforce Services

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

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

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman on each of the following nominations:
 - i) Trevor Webb OBE
 - ii) Joan Wright
 - iii) David Batten
 - iv) John Gazey

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 or Honorary Alderwoman

1. Context

- 1.1 The Council approved a revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman on former Councillors at its meeting on 18 September 2012, attached at Appendix 1. The title of Honorary Alderman/woman 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 Four 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/woman.

2.2 Nominated Honorary Alderman: Trevor Webb OBE

Mr Webb served as a Member of the Council for 17 years in total between 1973 and 1990. During that time he was Chair of Finance Committee and a long serving member on Planning Committee. He received his honour from HM The Queen in 1988 in recognition of his duty to the public and political services.

2.3 Nominated Honorary Alderwoman: Joan Wright

Mrs Wright was a Member of the Council for 16 years in total between 1986 and 2002. During which time Mrs Wright was a leading Councillor on issues relating to social services and the environment. She was Lord Mayor during the Millennium year of 1999-2000.

2.4 Nominated Honorary Alderman: David Batten

Mr Batten was a Member of the City Council for 18 years serving Westwood Ward from 1990 until 2008. During that time he chaired numerous Committees and Panels and in particular Cabinet Member for City Development, as well as undertaking the role of Lord Mayor in 2007-2008.

2.5 Nominated Honorary Alderman: John Gazey

John Gazey was a Member of the Council representing the citizens of Bablake Ward for a total of 23 years from 1987 to 1996 and 1998 to 2012. During this lengthy service he became Coventry's Lord Mayor in 2004-2005 and served on a wide range of Committees.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 In preparing this report, consultation has taken place with the proposers and proposed Aldermen/women, as well as with the relevant Cabinet Member, the Lord Mayor and Council Leader.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

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

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Legal implications

This report implements the Council's Protocol for appointing Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen. 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 or Honorary Alderwoman 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.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

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

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 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 Director of Customer and Workforce Services 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 and a copy of the Members' Handbook and to be included within the Members' Handbook.
- 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.