

Report to Council

Ward(s) affected: n/a

Report of Director of Strategic Services

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Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Recommendation to Council:

To consider five nominations for appointment of Honorary Aldermen and, if so minded, to agree to convene a special meeting of the Council for the purpose of conferring upon them the title of Honorary Alderman on Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7pm at the Guildhall.

Reason for recommendation:

To recognise formally the eminent service to the Council of former councillors.

Is the report (or part of it) exempt from publication? No

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the councillors voting thereon at a meeting specially convened for the purpose confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past councillors.
- 1.2 The Council, at its meeting on 10 April 2014, adopted a "Protocol on the appointment, role, status, rights and obligations of Honorary Freemen and Honorary Aldermen". The procedures set out in this report comply fully with this Protocol.

2. Honorary Aldermen of the Borough

- 2.1 At present, there are ten Honorary Aldermen of the Borough as follows:

| Name | Date of Appointment as Honorary Alderman | Period of Service as a Councillor |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Catherine Cobley | 22 March 2000 | 1979 - 1999 |
| Malcolm Williamson | 22 March 2000 | 1979 - 1995 |
| Tamsy Baker MBE | 27 November 2007 | 1991 - 2007 |
| Keith Childs | 27 November 2007 | 1991 - 2007 |
| Jayne Marks | 27 November 2007 | 1986 - 2007 |
| Lynda Strudwick | 27 November 2007 | 1983 - 2007 |
| Vivienne Johnson | 22 November 2011 | 1991 - 2007 |

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Sarah Creedy | 3 November 2015 | 2003 - 2015 |
| Terence Patrick | 3 November 2015 | 2003 - 2015 |
| Nick Sutcliffe | 3 November 2015 | 1999 - 2015 |

- 2.2 Under the adopted Protocol, a person shall be deemed eligible for appointment as an honorary alderman provided that they meet all of the following requirements:

“The person shall:

- not be a serving councillor
- have served as a Guildford Borough councillor for an aggregate total period of at least 12 years
- have given eminent service to the Council during that period. “Eminent service” in this context includes but is not limited to holding during their period of service as a councillor any of the following offices:
 - Mayor
 - Leader of the Council
 - Executive member/Lead Councillor
 - committee chairman”

3. Nominations received for appointment of Honorary Aldermen

- 3.1 The Mayor, Councillor Marsha Moseley has proposed, with Councillor Nigel Manning seconding, the nomination of the following former councillors for appointment as Honorary Aldermen, in the light of their eminent service to the Council:

- Vas Kapsalis
- Keith Taylor
- Jenny Wicks
- David Wright

- 3.2 Councillor Julia McShane has proposed, with Councillor George Potter seconding, the nomination of former councillor Tony Phillips for appointment as an Honorary Aldermen, in the light of his eminent service to the Council.

- 3.3 Details of the eminent service to the Council by the five nominees are set out in the table below:

| Nominee | Period of time as a GBC councillor | Details of eminent service to the Council |
|---------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Vas Kapsalis | 12 years (1999-2011) | Lead Councillor for Communications and Human Resources (8 years) |
| Tony Phillips | 36 years (1983-2019) | Mayor (2002-03) Chairman of the Planning Committee (4 years) Chairman of Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee (2 years) Chairman of Community & Health Scrutiny Committee (2 years) Chairman of Building & Works Committee (1 year) |
| Keith Taylor | 32 years (1983-2015) | Mayor (2004-05) Chairman of the Planning Committee (6 years) Lead Councillor for Community Safety (1 year) |

| Nominee | Period of time as a GBC councillor | Details of eminent service to the Council |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Jenny Wicks | 24 years (1995-2019) | Lead Councillor for Environment and Planning Policy (9 years) Chairman of Policy Panel (Environment and Transport) (1 year) Chairman of the Borough, Economy & Infrastructure EAB (3 years) |
| David Wright | 16 years (2003-2019) | Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Finance and Resources (1 year) Lead Councillor for Community Safety (3 years) Chairman of the Licensing Committee (2 years) |

- 3.4 Subject to the Council agreeing to convene a special meeting for this purpose, it is suggested that this be held at the Guildhall on **Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7pm.**

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Officers have checked the existing Honorary Aldermen's robes and hats and it is not anticipated that any new robes will be required.
- 4.2 It is customary for the Mayor to host an informal function in honour of any newly appointed Honorary Aldermen, immediately following the meeting. The estimated cost of this is likely to be in the region of £3,000. The cost can be met from the Civic Support budget.
- 4.3 The incidental costs of staging a special meeting of the Council at the Guildhall can be met from within existing budgets.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 As stated above, in order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on anyone, the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the councillors voting thereon at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 5.2 Under the Protocol, any nomination received for appointment as Honorary Aldermen shall provide evidence that the person nominated:
- (i) meets the eligibility requirements referred to in paragraph 2.2 above, as appropriate, and
 - (ii) will accept the appointment

All nominees have agreed, in writing, to have their names put forward and would be delighted to accept their appointment as Honorary Alderman.

6. Human Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no human resource implications

7. Background papers

Protocol on the appointment, role, status, rights and obligations of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen (approved by Council on 10 April 2014)

8. Appendices

None