

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM 3
11 JULY 2012	PUBLIC REPORT

HONORARY ALDERMAN AWARD

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : Solicitor to the Council
<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the principle of honouring former long-serving members of the Council by awarding them Honorary Alderman status; 2. Awards badges of office to any former councillor awarded the status of Honorary Alderman, at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed; 3. Awards the status of Honorary Alderman to the following former members of council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Bartlett John Bleakney Robert Burke Audrey Chalmers Mark Collins Yvonne Lowndes Ray Palmer David Raines Geoff Ridgway Neville Sanders David Thorpe

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

To recommend to Council that the status of Honorary Alderman be awarded to the former councillors listed in the recommendation above.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, empowers the Council, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a person who has, in the Council's opinion, rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member.
- 2.2 This recommendation is made by the Solicitor to the Council based on recommendations determined by the Honours Panel. The Honours Panel is chaired by the Deputy Leader, Cllr Matthew Lee, and made up of representatives from each party except for the Liberal Democrats, who declined the invitation. The Honours Panel is an informal group, and although its decisions have no formal status, it has agreed that these recommendations should be put forward taking into account the following criteria:

- 2.2.1 A former councillor who has been re-elected for at least 3 terms and has served a minimum of 11 years continuous service;
- 2.2.2 Who has rendered eminent services to the council as a past member, taking into account membership of committees and external organisations, whether or not the former councillor served as Mayor, and whether he or she achieved anything worthy of particular note.
- 2.3 The Council has not awarded the status of Alderman for many years, and the Honours Panel therefore considered it appropriate, in formulating these recommendations, to consider the services of all former councillors from when it first became a unitary authority in 1998.
- 2.4 The Honours Panel considered that the twelve former councillors listed in the recommendation met these criteria, and asked the Solicitor to the Council to recommend to Council that they should be awarded the status of Honorary Alderman. The recommendations are made on the following basis:
- 2.4.1 **John Bartlett** served as a councillor for 22 years, until 2008, and was also a member of Cambridgeshire County Council for 9 years. He served as Deputy Mayor and Mayor, he was Chair of the Planning & Housing Services, and also served on committees related to health, Education, Planning & Licensing Standards;
- 2.4.2 **John Bleakney** served as a councillor for 11 years, until 2008 and during his time as a councillor he was Labour group leader and Vice Chair of the Planning committee. John also served on the Licensing and Standards Committees;
- 2.4.3 **Bob Burke** served as a councillor for 36 years until 2007, and during his time as a councillor he was Deputy Leader of the Conservative group, and also Leader of the Independent group. He served as Mayor and on most of the council's committees during his time as a councillor, and in addition was heavily involved in charity work. His involvement in handing over Thorpe Hall to the Sue Ryder charity, and his work with Peterborough's twinned cities, and in particular the Vinnitsa Trust, are especially worthy of mention;
- 2.4.4 **Audrey Chalmers** served as a councillor for 33 years, until 1999, and was also a member of Cambridgeshire County Council for 15 years. She served as Deputy Mayor and Mayor, and on many of the council's committees during her time as a councillor, having been Chair of committees relating to Planning, Housing, and Chair of the Fire Authority;
- 2.4.5 **Mark Collins** served as a councillor for 11 years until 2011. He served as a Cabinet member for strategic and community partnerships, Cabinet Member for Communications and Customer Service and was also Chair of Audit Committee and Strong and Supportive Communities during his time as a councillor;
- 2.4.6 **Yvonne Lowndes** served as a councillor for 23 years until 2011, and never missed a meeting of full Council. She served on most committees during her time as a councillor, including as Chair of the Planning Committee, and was Cabinet member for Children's Services and Play. Yvonne was the founder member of Friends of Central Park;
- 2.4.7 **Ray Palmer** served as a councillor for 30 years until 2007, and served on most of the council's committees during that time. He was Labour group leader from 1992 to 1997 and served as Leader of the council from 1992 to 1993. Ray was Chairman of Policy and Resources as well as Chairman of Environmental Services and Leisure;
- 2.4.8 **David Raines** served as a councillor for 11 years until 2008, and served on many of the council's committees during that time and was Chair of the Licensing committee, Planning Committee, Environment Committee, in addition to Chairing the Appeals Committee. David was also Leader of the Independent Group for a number of years.

- 2.4.9 **Geoff Ridgway** served as a councillor for 41 years until 2008. He was a cabinet member for approximately 10 years, and served on many of the council's committees and outside bodies during his time as a councillor, with a particular interest in education matters. Geoff was Chairman of the Education Committee and Chairman of the Policy Committee during his service to the Council.
- 2.4.10 **Neville Sanders** served as a councillor for 19 years until 2006, and was Leader of the Council for 4 Years and served on many of the council's committees and outside bodies during his time as a councillor. Neville also carried out his role as Chairman of Policy.
- 2.4.11 **David Thorpe** served as a councillor for 12 years until 2008 and served on many of the council's committees during this time including the role of Chairman of the Best Value and Corporate Services Policy Overview Committee. He was elected Deputy Mayor in May, 2005 but was subsequently elected Mayor in January 2006 following the passing of Mayor John Horrell.
- 2.5 Honorary Aldermen may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. They have no other formal role. Honorary Aldermen are not entitled to receive any members' allowances or other payments of allowances, expenses, etc.
- 2.6 Whilst a person who is a serving councillor cannot be made an Honorary Alderman, a person awarded this status may subsequently be re-elected as a councillor, but shall not then be addressed as Alderman or entitled to take part in any civic ceremonies as an Alderman.

3. IMPLICATIONS

The legal implications are set out in the body of the report. There will be modest financial implications, which will be met from within the existing civic budget, for the provision of a suitable badge of office, and the cost of a ceremony. The ceremony will be a joint ceremony, anticipated to take place in around September 2012, at which the award of the Freedoms of the City awarded by Council at its extraordinary meeting on 18th April 2012 will also be made.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None.

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