

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - SCHEME FOR THE ENROLMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

Officer Contact: Ian Hunt Ext: 3208
Email: ian.hunt@wycombe.gov.uk

Wards Affected: None directly

PROPOSED DECISION

- (i) That the Council indicates whether or not it wishes to offer election to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen to the proposed two recipients; and
- (ii) In the event that such offer(s) are made, a special meeting of the Council takes place at 6.00pm on Monday 12 May 2014 (prior to the commencement of the Annual Council meeting on this date which commences at 6.30pm) for the purpose of such enrolment.

Corporate Implications

- 1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to draw up a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen. The procedure proposed is in accordance with the Council's scheme as revised on 2 July 2007.
- 2 The Council's scheme provides for a certificate and badge to be given to each new Honorary Alderman. The cost of this can be met from within the existing Members' Services budget.
- 3 It is not considered that these proposals present any risk to the Council.

Background

- 4 The Council's Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen provides that no person may be deemed eligible to become an Honorary Alderman unless he or she:
 - is no longer serving as a Member of Wycombe District Council
 - has served as a Member of the District Council, and/or its former constituent authorities for at least 15 years in total
 - has given exceptional service during that period
 - is not a serving member on another authority
- 5 Even if fulfilling the above criteria, enrolment is not automatic, but requires a specific resolution of Council, passed at a meeting convened specially for the purpose with not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting thereon.
- 6 The Council's Scheme was drawn up in 1986 and amended in July 2007. The first Honorary Alderman (Miss Joan Couper) was enrolled in January 1987. It was the Council's intention at that time that this would be an honour awarded only rarely and only to those who had given exceptional service to Wycombe or one of its predecessor authorities.
- 7 There have been only 15 Honorary Aldermen created since that time.

Current Nominations

8 It has been proposed by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Lesley Clarke OBE, and seconded by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Ian McEnnis, that Mr Peter Cartwright be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman.

9. The reasons for the nomination submitted by the proposer and seconder are as follows:

“Peter Cartwright served as a District Councillor from 1976 to 2007. Peter was an exceptional Councillor who, being born in High Wycombe, had a great interest in the town and the residents, and always strived to do his very best within his ward and in the District. Peter was Vice-Chairman of the Council from 1991-92 and Chairman of the Council from 1992-93. He also served as Mayor of the Town from 1999-2000, stepping in at short notice for the Millennium year when the Mayor-elect lost their seat. During his time on the Council Peter served in the following positions:

Vice-Chairman Housing Services Committee 1978-1980

Chairman Housing Services Committee 1983-1989

Chairman Housing Committee 1989-92

Chairman Housing & Economic Development Committee 1999-2001

Cabinet Member for Housing 2001-2003

Cabinet Member for Transport & Employment 2003-2007

Peter was a keen and dedicated Councillor who gave exceptional service during his term of office and was made an Honorary Burgess of the town of High Wycombe in March 2007.”

10. It has also been proposed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Ian McEnnis, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Mrs Lesley Clarke OBE, that Mr Richard Pushman be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman.

11. The reasons for the nomination submitted by the proposer and seconder are as follows:

“Richard Pushman served as a District Councillor from 1987 until May 2011. As well as being Chairman of Council from 1999-2000 he was on the following committees:

Member of Planning Committee (in its many guises: Development Control Committee, Planning Applications Panel, Planning & Development Committee) for the entirety of his service) 1987- 2011

Chairman of the Standards Committee 2004-2008

Richard was also Chairman of Bucks County Council on two occasions.

Richard was a dedicated Councillor who gave exceptional service during that period.”

- 12 All proposals comply with the Council's criteria as set out in the Council's Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Alderman (Part I of the Constitution).

Consultation

- 13 In accordance with the Council's scheme, the proposed recipients have indicated informally, that they would wish to accept the offer of enrolment as an Honorary Alderman if this was made.

Next steps

- 14 Once the Council has indicated its wishes the necessary procedures will be put in place. The enrolment(s) would be made at a special meeting of the Council held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting on Monday 12 May 2014.

Background Papers

Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen is set out in the Council's Constitution.