

Division(s): N/A

COUNCIL – 8 July 2025

PRESENTATION OF SCROLL TO HONORARY ALDERMAN

Report by the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Council is RECOMMENDED to note

- a) the conferral of the title of Honorary Alderman, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, on Mr Bob Johnston at the Extraordinary Meeting on 20 May 2025 in recognition of his significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general;
- b) that Alderman Johnston was unable to attend the conferral meeting due to holidays; and
- c) that Council agreed to defer the presentation of the scroll until its next meeting on 8 July 2025 so that Members would have the opportunity to pay tribute.

Background

- 1. Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past members of that Council.
- 2. The appointment of Honorary Alderman is to confer recognition on Members who, over a period of time, made a significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general. This is a lifetime award.

Criteria for Appointment

- 3. The criteria for nomination have been agreed as set out below. The person nominated:
 - (a) Has made a significant contribution in public life;
 - (b) Has given notable service on behalf of the Council, which has enhanced the reputation of Councillors and the Council itself;

- (c) Has rendered a minimum of 12 years service as a Member; and,
- (d) Is no longer politically active.

The nominee

- 4. **Bob Johnston** was first elected in 1993 and returned successfully three times but was unsuccessful in 2009. He was re-elected in 2013 and held the seat until this year – a total of 28 years as councillor.
- 5. His service included periods on the following committees since 2017:
 - Planning and Regulation Committee: May 2017 - May 2021
 - Minerals and Waste Cabinet Advisory Group : May 2017
 - Transport Advisory Panel: May 2017
 - Pension Fund Committee (Chair): June 2021 – June 2024.
 - Performance & Corporate Services & Scrutiny Committee: June 2022 - present.
- 6. Alderman Johnston was unable to attend the Extraordinary Council meeting on 20 May 2025 due to holidays. Council agreed to defer the presentation of the scroll to the meeting on 8 July 2025 so that Members would have an opportunity to pay tribute.

Certificate

- 7. The certificate of appointment will have the County Council's Coat of Arms at the top, and will be sealed with the Common Seal of the Council of Oxfordshire, witnessed by the Chair and Chief Executive.
- 8. The certificate of appointment is normally presented to each Honorary Alderman on the day, rolled as is the fashion for conferring degrees, and the Council will, of course, arrange for the certificates to be framed in due course.

ANITA BRADLEY

Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers: Nil

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June 2025