



County Council

14 May 2013

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or Rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

**Tuesday, 14 May 2013 at 2.00 pm (or on the rising of the Council
Meeting at 10.00 am)**

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

May 2013

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note**

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

3. Official Communications

4. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

5. Petitions and Public Address

6. Appointment of Honorary Alderman (Pages 1 - 4)

A report from the Monitoring Officer is attached (**CC6**), setting out in more detail the criteria for appointment, along with the rights and responsibilities of an Honorary Alderman.

On the recommendation of the Group Leaders, Council is RECOMMENDED to confer the title of Honorary Alderman, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in recognition of their significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general to: Mr Charles Shouler, Mr David Turner and Mr David Buckle.

Division(s): N/A

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL – 14 MAY 2013

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

Report by the Monitoring Officer

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. This requires a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting on it at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose.
2. An Honorary Alderman does not carry any right to attend meetings of the Council or its Committees or to claim any allowances payable to Members. Aldermen will, however, have the right to use Council facilities and to be reimbursed for costs incurred in the execution of their duties.
3. 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

4. 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 Role of Alderman

5. There will be certain privileges and duties which attach to the position of Honorary Alderman.

Privileges

- To use the title of 'Honorary Alderman of the County of Oxfordshire'.

- To wear the badge of 'Honorary Alderman' at civic events.
- To attend the Aldermanic Council Meeting every four years.
- To use council facilities including the Members' Resource Centre, lounge, headed notepaper, parking, etc.

Duties

- To attend functions for which the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and past Chairmen still serving as councillors are unavailable, where they are representing the County Council.
- To assist in promoting Oxfordshire by undertaking appropriate visits within the County on behalf of the Chairman if requested to do so.

Badge of Office

6. A badge of office will be prepared for each duly appointed Honorary Alderman and this will feature an inscribed bar affixed to a decorative ribbon.

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 Chairman and Chief Executive.
8. The certificate of appointment will be 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.

Precedence

9. The order of precedence for attending civic events will be Chairman, Vice Chairman, past Chairmen (if any still serving as councillors) then Aldermen then Cabinet Member/Local Councillor.

RECOMMENDATION

On the recommendation of the Group Leaders, Council is RECOMMENDED to confer the title of Honorary Alderman, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in recognition of their significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service in general to Mr Charles Shouler, Mr David Turner and Mr David Buckle.

PETER CLARK
Monitoring Officer

Background Papers: Nil

Contact Officer: Glenn Watson Principal Governance Officer 01865 815270

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