

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

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