

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 24 March 2021**



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
CIVIC CENTRE, OLDHAM

Tuesday, 16 March 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 Attendance and apologies for absence
- 2 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 3 Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freemen (Pages 1 - 12)

**NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 3 hours and 30 minutes after the commencement of the meeting.**



**Carolyn Wilkins**  
**Chief Executive**

**PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



MOTION – Secunder of the Motion to SECOND – May reserve right to speak



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



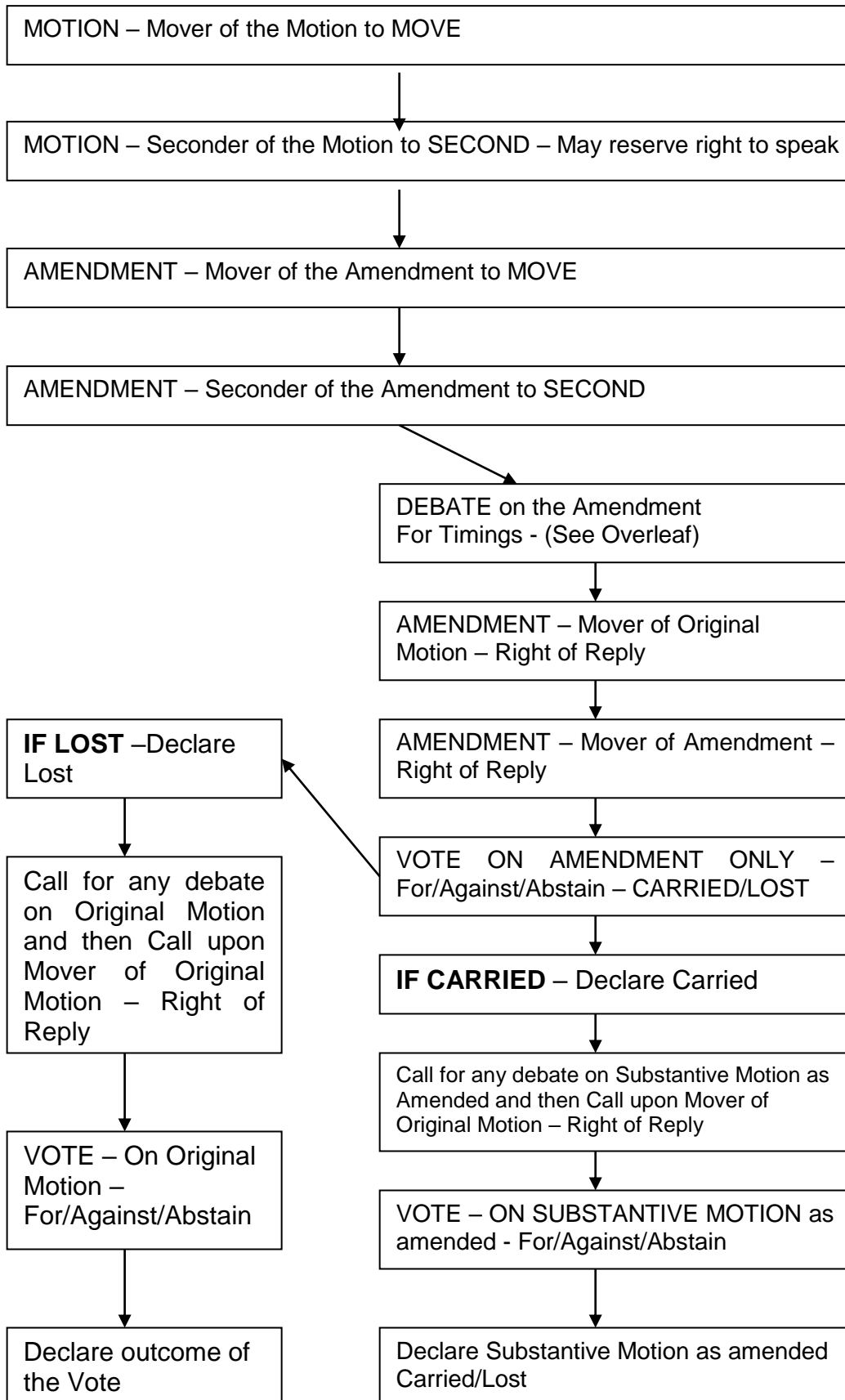
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**RULE ON TIMINGS**

(a) No Member shall speak longer than four minutes on any **Motion or Amendment**, or by way of question, observation or reply, unless by consent of the Members of the Council present, he/she is allowed an extension, in which case only one extension of 30 seconds shall be allowed.

(b) A Member replying to more than one question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

## WITH AMENDMENT



This page is intentionally left blank



## Report to Council

# Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman

**Officer Contact:** Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Democratic Services

**24<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

---

## Reason for Decision

To consider appointing Honorary Aldermen and Freemen of the Borough of Oldham in recognition of eminent service to the Council or Borough.

## Executive Summary

Nominations have been received and considered by the Council's Political Group Leaders for Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman.

Full Council may, at special Council meeting by formal resolution, bestow the honours of Honorary Freeman and Alderman and the resolution should be passed by no less than two-thirds of the Members at a special meeting of the Council. A formal presentation will take place at a special ceremony at a later date, restrictions permitting.

## Recommendations

1. That Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Alan John Dillon as in the opinion of the Council he has rendered eminent service to the Council as a past Member.
2. That Council admit Kevin Sinfield MBE to be Honorary Freeman of Oldham as in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the Borough of Oldham.
3. That Council admit Frank Rothwell to be Honorary Freeman of Oldham as in the opinion of the Council he has rendered eminent services to the Borough of Oldham.

---

## Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a Borough Council to appoint both Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman on those persons who have in the opinion of the Council, given eminent services to the council or Borough.

### 2 Honorary Alderman

- 2.1 The title of Honorary Alderman is given to those who in the opinion of the Council have given “eminent service” to the Council. The title cannot be conferred on a serving councillor; it can only be given to a past member who has no intention of standing for election in the future.
- 2.2 The office of Honorary Alderman does not carry the right to participate in any meetings as a member of the Council or to claim any allowances. They can, however, attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide.
- 2.4 “Eminent service” is not defined in the legislation. It is usual practice among Councils who bestow this honour to adopt a general policy for the award of the honour of Honorary Alderman.  
The criteria for that the award of the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former members who have served as a Member of the Borough Council for at least 25 years and have rendered eminent services to the Council, or whose contribution a shorter period of service is considered to be particularly distinguished or outstanding. Former Councillor, Alan John Dillon has been nominated for the award of the title Honorary Alderman and is one of the longest serving members in the Chamber with 29 years of service. His nomination form is attached at appendix 1 to this report.

### 3 Honorary Freeman

- 3.1 Full Council is also able to admit Freeman of the Borough. This honour can be given to persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council have rendered eminent services to the Borough. The Council can decide what privileges an Honorary Freeman may enjoy. These are usually similar to those accorded to the Aldermen. They are not entitled to claim any expenses.
- 3.2 Nominations have been received for Kevin Sinfield MBE and Frank Rothwell and are detailed at appendix 2 and appendix 3 respectively.
- 3.3 The Local Government Act 1972 provides that the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Freeman must be appointed at a special meeting of the Council convened for that purposes. The resolution must be passed by a two thirds majority of the members in attendance at the meeting.

### 4 Options

- 4.1 Option 1 – To agree the nominations by resolution of two thirds of the Council.  
Option 2 – Not to agree the nominations.



---

5      **Consultation**

5.1      The Council's political Group Leaders.

6      **Legal Services Comments**

6.1

7      **Appendices**

7.1      Appendix 1 – John Dillon Nomination Honorary Alderman  
Appendix 2 – Kevin Sinfield Nomination – Honorary Freeman  
Appendix 3 – Frank Rothwell Nomination – Honorary Freeman

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix 1

# Nomination for Honorary Alderman/ Honorary Freeman

NOMINEE	
Please clearly print the following details about the person you are nominating. You must ensure that all sections of this form are completed.	

### I nominate the following person for Honorary Alderman

Title	Mr *Delete as appropriate
Name	Alan John Dillon AKA John Dillon
Please state which award, Honorary Alderman or Honorary Freeman	Honorary Alderman

DETAILS OF PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION	
Name	Councillor Dave Murphy
Email Address	dave.murphy@oldham.gov.uk
Date of Nomination	08 March 2021

### The Recommendation

Please tell us how your nominee has made a significant contribution to the people and community of Oldham for which you consider that the nominee should receive the honour.

Please describe the benefits resulting from the nominee's service to a particular field, area, group or community. It is important that you give as much detail as possible about what your nominee has achieved;

- Have changed things, with an emphasis on practical achievement
- Have demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship
- Examples of voluntary service
- What has their impact been and how wide is their influence
- Have delivered in a way that has brought distinction to the borough

- What makes the nominee and their contribution stand out from others

John was one of the longest serving members in the Chamber with 29 years of service to his credit.

He contested Crompton Ward unsuccessfully for three years – in 1982, 1983 and 1984 – before being elected on his fourth attempt in 1986 with a majority of 134, becoming Oldham's first SDP Councillor.

John served as the Mayor of the Borough in 2000.

Members will be aware of John's abiding passion for transport issues so I am sure he found it gratifying to find himself opening Cheapside Bus Station and being invited to the opening ceremony of the M60 motorway through the Borough from Denton to Heaton Park.

I know given half a chance he would have also relished opening Metrolink, but regrettably that came 12 years later.

As Mayor, John also had the honour of welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Anne to the Borough, but unfortunately Her Highness had to take a long detour from the airport as the planned route did not take into account the newly opened motorway.

In opposition, John has also served as Shadow Cabinet member for the Environment between 2003 and 2005, and also 15 years' service on the Planning Committee.

I know that John is very proud of his eight years' service representing Oldham Borough on first the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority and then Transport for Greater Manchester.

He joined this Body in 2000, became the Oldham Council spokesperson in 2008, and also served as Vice Chair of the Rail and Metrolink sub-committee. One of his great achievements was in helping to bring Metrolink to the Borough of Oldham.

John is also passionate about the place and the people of Shaw and Crompton.

John became a member of the inaugural Shaw and Crompton Parish Council in 1987 and became its Chairman in 1990, hosting a series of events to mark 125 years of local

government in Shaw and Crompton. He served on the Parish Council until 2003.

He has previously served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Royton, Shaw and Crompton District Partnership and became Chair of Shaw and Crompton District Partnership in 2012.

This page is intentionally left blank

## Appendix 2

# Nomination for Honorary Alderman/ Honorary Freeman

NOMINEE	
Please clearly print the following details about the person you are nominating. You must ensure that all sections of this form are completed.	

### I nominate the following person for Honorary Alderman/Honorary Freeman

Title	Mr *Delete as appropriate
Name	Kevin Sinfield
Name of Organisation	
Please state which award, Honorary Alderman or Honorary Freeman	Honorary Freeman

DETAILS OF PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION	
Name	Mr Jack Butterworth
Date of Nomination	26 January 2021

<p><b>The Recommendation</b></p> <p>Please tell us how your nominee has made a significant contribution to the people and community of Oldham for which you consider that the nominee should receive the honour.</p> <p>Please describe the benefits resulting from the nominee's service to a particular field, area, group or community. It is important that you give as much detail as possible about what your nominee has achieved;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have changed things, with an emphasis on practical achievement</li><li>• Have demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship</li><li>• Examples of voluntary service</li><li>• What has their impact been and how wide is their influence</li><li>• Have delivered in a way that has brought distinction to the borough</li></ul>
---

- What makes the nominee and their contribution stand out from others

I would like to suggest that Kevin Sinfield should be considered for the "Freedom of Oldham" award on behalf of the people of his home town

Kevin has been an outstanding Rugby League player from a traditionally Rugby League town, he has represented Great Britain on several occasions and captained England. His awards include the prestigious Golden Boot and Lance Todd trophies and can honestly be described as one of the world's leading players, respected wherever the game is played.

In addition and perhaps over and above his rugby achievements his 7 in 7 marathons to raise two million pounds on behalf of his team mate Rob Burrow and the MND charity show that his character reflects the strengths of our town to a wide audience

Generosity

Courage

Tenacity

Determination

A willingness to help others

Community spirit

And the sheer mindedness which made our town a great town.

I have never met Kevin but he also comes across as a modest person who does not seek reward for his efforts.

His marathons showed our town in a good light not only nationally but across the world as far as Australia.

Kevin has been recognised by his country with the award of his MBE, and also by his rugby team city of Leeds.

Surely it is appropriate that the town of his birth which he has represented so superbly and become a great ambassador for should now recognise his contribution.



# Nomination for Honorary Alderman/ Honorary Freeman

## NOMINEE

Please clearly print the following details about the person you are nominating. You must ensure that all sections of this form are completed.

### I nominate the following person for Honorary Alderman/Honorary Freeman

Title	Mr <span style="float: right;">*Delete as appropriate</span>
Name	Frank Rothwell
Name of Organisation	
Other Awards or Honours eg BEM/OBE/MBE/CBE	Mayors Appreciation Award
Please state which award, Honorary Alderman or Honorary Freeman	Honorary Freeman

## DETAILS OF PERSON MAKING THE NOMINATION

Name	Ginny Alexander
Email Address	<a href="mailto:Ginny.alexander@oldham.gov.uk">Ginny.alexander@oldham.gov.uk</a>
Date of Nomination	15/02/2021

### The Recommendation

Please tell us how your nominee has made a significant contribution to the people and community of Oldham for which you consider that the nominee should receive the honour.

Please describe the benefits resulting from the nominee's service to a particular field, area, group or community. It is important that you give as much detail as possible about what your nominee has achieved;

- Have changed things, with an emphasis on practical achievement
- Have demonstrated innovation and entrepreneurship

- Examples of voluntary service
- What has their impact been and how wide is their influence
- Have delivered in a way that has brought distinction to the borough
- What makes the nominee and their contribution stand out from others

I would like to put forward Mr Frank Rothwell for the Freedom of Oldham Award on behalf of the people of his home town.

Frank has been amazing every year supporting The Mayors Appeal Fund with monetary donations and prize donations. He has also supported many other charity organisations. Frank is well known and respected in Oldham.

Also Frank has gone above and beyond in his achievement in rowing across the Atlantic Ocean single handed at the age of 70 the oldest person to row solo over 3,000 miles in 56 days, 2 hours and 41 minutes all in aid of Alzheimer's Research UK in which he raised just over £1.1 million, this reflects Frank's determination and courage and true grit that represents our town.

Frank and his wife, Judith are Premier Patrons of Mahdlo Youth Zone and support all the dancing troupes in Oldham and Oldham Coliseum.

They donated £200,000 to help Kingfisher school build a new hydrotherapy pool, and before, his business Manchester Cabins donated £30,000 of their furlough receipts to Action Together in Oldham. His generosity and community spirit knows no bounds. Frank has not only put Oldham on the map in the UK but throughout the world.

The Oldham people and I feel that Frank needs to be honoured for all his achievements and generosity he has given to the town and the people of Oldham