

Report to Council

Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman

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24th 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