

Cheltenham Borough Council Council

Meeting date: 20 May 2024

Meeting time: 3.00 pm

Meeting venue: Council Chamber - Municipal Offices

Membership:

Councillors Paul Baker (Vice-Chair), Frank Allen, Glenn Andrews, Victoria Atherstone, Adrian Bamford, Garth Barnes, Dilys Barrell, Graham Beale, Angie Boyes, Jackie Chelin, Barbara Clark, Julia Chandler, Flo Clucas, Mike Collins, Ashleigh Davies, Chris Day, Iain Dobie, Jan Foster, Juan Carlos Garcia Clamp, Steve Harvey, Rowena Hay, Sandra Holliday, Martin Horwood, Peter Jeffries, Tabi Joy, Alisha Lewis, Cathal Lynch, Andy Mutton, Tony Oliver, Ben Orme, Helen Pemberton, Richard Pineger, Julie Sankey, Stan Smith, Dr Steve Steinhardt, Izaak Tailford, Julian Tooke, Simon Wheeler, Suzanne Williams and Dr David Willingham

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Contact: democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk

Phone: 01242 264 246

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of interest

3 Appointment of Honorary Aldermen (Pages 3 - 6)

Report of the Chief Executive

4 Appointment of Honorary Freemen of the Borough (Pages 7 - 10)

Report of the Chief Executive

Gareth Edmundson
Chief Executive

Cheltenham Borough Council

Council – 20 May, 2024

Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Accountable member:

Not applicable

Accountable officer:

Chief Executive – Gareth Edmundson

Ward(s) affected:

None directly

Key Decision: No

Executive summary:

Council may confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who it considers have rendered eminent services to the Authority in their past roles as councillors.

Historically, Council has conferred the title of Honorary Alderman upon its past members in recognition of both long service and significant contribution to the Authority's affairs.

The longstanding local criteria which has been applied when conferring the title of Honorary Alderman is that the person has at least 16 years' service or is a past Mayor and Chair of the Council.

A number of former Councillors fall within the criteria and have been nominated by Group Leaders.

Once agreed by Council, their appointments will be recognised as part of the Inauguration of the Mayor ceremony at the Town Hall on Monday 20 May 2024.

Recommendations:

1. Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Matt Babbage, Nigel Britter, Bernard Fisher, Wendy Flynn and Diggory Seacome.

1. Implications

1.1 Financial, Property and Asset implications

None.

1.2 Legal implications

Full Council may confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of Council, rendered eminent services to the Authority as past members of the Authority but who are not then members of the Authority.

In accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the decision to confer the title must be passed at a meeting specially convened for the purpose and by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon.

An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Authority may from time to time decide but, as such, has no right to: attend meetings of Council, Cabinet or Committee other than as a member of the public, receive any of the allowances or other payments to which councillors are entitled.

Signed off by: Claire Hughes, Director of Governance and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)

2 Background

2.1 The following former Councillors have been nominated for the position:

Former Councillors	Previous Mayor of Cheltenham	Service Record
Matt Babbage	2023-24	Represented Battledown Ward 2014-24
Nigel Britter		Represented Benhall & The Reddings 2002-24
Bernard Fisher	2018-19	Represented Swindon Village 2008-24
Wendy Flynn	2013-14	Represented Hester's Way 2002-24
Diggory Seacome		Represented Lansdown 2000-24

3 Reasons for recommendations

3.1 Historically, Council has conferred the title of Honorary Alderman upon its past members in recognition of both long service and significant contribution to the Authority's affairs.

4 Alternative options considered

4.1 Not applicable.

5 Consultation and feedback

5.1 The nominations have been discussed by Group Leaders.

6 Key risks

6.1 None identified.

Report author:

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Cheltenham Borough Council

Council – 20 May, 2024

Appointment of Honorary Freeman

Accountable member:

Not applicable

Accountable officer:

Chief Executive – Gareth Edmundson

Ward(s) affected:

None directly

Key Decision: No

Executive summary:

Council may confer the title of Honorary Freeman on persons who it considers have rendered eminent and distinguished service to the borough of Cheltenham.

Once agreed by Council, their appointments will be recognised as part of the Inauguration of the Mayor ceremony at the Town Hall on Monday 20 May.

Recommendations:

- 1. Council confers the title of Honorary Freeman on Lesley Bonney, Chun Kong and Michael Ratcliffe MBE.**
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1. Implications

1.1 Financial, Property and Asset implications

None.

1.2 Legal implications

Full Council may confer the title of Honorary Freeman on persons who have, in the opinion of

Council, rendered eminent service to the Borough.

In accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the decision to confer the title must be passed at a meeting specially convened for the purpose and by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon.

An Honorary Freeman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Authority may from time to time decide but, as such, has no right to: attend meetings of Council, Cabinet or Committee other than as a member of the public, receive any of the allowances or other payments to which councillors are entitled.

Signed off by: Claire Hughes, Director of Governance and Customer Services (Monitoring Officer)

2 Background

2.1 The following persons have been nominated for the position of Honorary Freeman:

- Lesley Bonney
- Chun Kong
- Michael Ratcliffe MBE

2.2 Under the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, central government gives local councils the power to appoint Honorary Freeman.

2.3 An Honorary Freeman is someone who has shown outstanding commitment to the local community and through their service, dedication and expertise have been able to enhance the standing of Cheltenham and its citizens.

“Eminent service” in this context could include any of the following but is not limited to:

- public service (including past distinguished service as a Councillor or officer of the Council)
- artistic and/or cultural endeavours
- business, economic growth and prosperity
- charitable work
- improvement to the built and natural environment
- political activities
- religious and spiritual life
- sporting activities

2.4 Although nominations can be put forward by anyone, the Head of Paid Service or any other council officer has no influence over the decision. At least two thirds of councillors present and voting must support the formal resolution at a Council meeting specially convened for that purpose and usually held immediately following the Annual Council meeting in May.

3 Consultation and feedback

3.1 The nominations have been discussed by Group Leaders.

4 Key risks

4.1 None identified.

Report author:

Bev Thomas, Democratic Services Team Leader

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