



## Extraordinary Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at **5.00 p.m. on Monday, 10 July 2023** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Birkenhead, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

**Contact Officer:** Dan Sharples  
**Tel:** 0151 666 3791  
**e-mail:** danielsharples@wirral.gov.uk  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

**PLEASE NOTE: public seating is extremely limited, therefore members of the public wishing to attend are asked to register their attendance by emailing [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk).**

Wirral Council is fully committed to equalities and our obligations under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. If you have any adjustments that would help you attend or participate at this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we would be happy to facilitate where possible. Please contact [committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk)

This meeting will be webcast at  
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

## AGENDA

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest, in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

### 2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive the Civic Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

### 3. CIVIC HONOURS

#### A. CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY

## **ALDERMAN**

Council is requested to consider the following recommendation from the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 7 June 2023 (minute 9 refers):

That the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell be recommended to Council in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Minute and report attached.

## **B. HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) – PAUL O’GRADY MBE DL**

Council is requested to consider the following recommendation from the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 7 June 2023 (minute 9 refers):

That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough, that Paul O’Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 July 2023.

Minute and report attached.



Paul Satoor, Chief Executive

### ***Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings***

*Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using non-disruptive methods. For particular meetings we may identify a ‘designated area’ for you to record from. If you have any questions about this please contact Committee and Civic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.*

*Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.*



## REGULATORY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE

### REPORT SUMMARY

This report requests the Committee to consider whether to recommend to Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell.

The Wirral Plan 2021 - 2026 sets out the Council's vision to secure the best possible future for the Council's residents and covers the following five themes:

- A thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all.
- A clean-energy, sustainable borough, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis.
- Brighter futures for all regardless of their background.
- Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of; and
- Healthy and active lives for all, with the right care, at the right time.

By recommending the recognition of eminent service to the community, the proposals within this report align with the theme of safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is requested to recommend to Council the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 Former Councillor Tony Smith was a Member of the Council from May 1995, representing Bebington Ward as Labour Party Member and has served as the Member for Upton Ward since 2004 until May 2023. Tony Smith served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2019-2020 which continued into 2020-2021 during Covid lockdown and is a retired teacher and Educational Psychologist. Tony Smith was also a Cabinet member for Social Inclusion and Children's Services during his service to Wirral Council.
- 1.2 Former Councillor Dave Mitchell was a Member of the Council from May 1983, representing Eastham Ward as a Liberal Democrat Member until May 2023. Dave Mitchell served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2013-2014. Dave Mitchell was Chair of the Planning Committee when the Wirral Waters development was approved and was also a Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation. He was also a member of the Mersey Port Health Authority and has also served on the Merseytravel Committee.
- 1.3 The Council has previously determined that former Members who have served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council are eligible for nomination to this award.
- 1.4 Former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell are therefore eligible to have the title of Honorary Alderman conferred upon them. The recommendation provides the committee with the opportunity to consider this and put forward a subsequent proposal to the Council.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The alternative option is not to recommend former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell for the position of Honorary Alderman.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) provides that the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman may be conferred by the Council on persons who are:

(a) persons of distinction; and/or

(b) who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the place or area.

A full Council resolution to this effect must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a specially convened meeting.

- 3.2 Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen are invited to attend Council Meetings in a non-participating capacity. They do not receive any allowances or payments under section 173 – 176 of the Local Government Act 1972. Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen are also invited to attend and take part in civic ceremonies such as Civic Sundays and Remembrance Sundays and other appropriate Civic events. The names of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen are inscribed on a Roll of Honour Board on the first-floor landing of Wallasey Town Hall.
- 3.3 Successful nominees for the office of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen of this Council have previously been awarded a suitable badge at a special ceremony. Currently, former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell are eligible to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman, based on the Council's criteria.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 It would be the intention to present Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £1600. There will also be the small cost of inscribing their names on the Roll of Honour Board which can be met from existing budgets.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The formal decision to confer the status of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman must be ratified by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. It is proposed that the Extraordinary Meeting will be scheduled at an appropriate date in the future. A full Council resolution to this effect must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a specially convened meeting.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 It is also customary for the Council to cover the cost of hospitality provided for the newly appointed Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen and a select number of guests. Arrangements for such an event, that could be held on the rise of an Extraordinary Council meeting. (Convened to confer the status of Honorary Alderman), would be made in consultation with the mayor. There is no specific budget head for this, but the funding required can be allocated from the Civic Services catering budget.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 There are no known risks associated with this report.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 Political Group Leaders have been consulted and support the proposals.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure

equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. Measuring the impact of equality implications and mitigating any negative impact where possible is embedded into the core principles of good governance. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct environment and climate implications.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct Community Wealth Implications.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Anne Beauchamp  
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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Section 249 Local Government Act 1972

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee in accordance with Section 8.2 of its Terms of Reference

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Not applicable</b>	

## REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

7 JUNE 2023

### MINUTE EXTRACT

#### 9 CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee give consideration as to whether to recommend to Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that former Councillor Tony Smith had been a Member of the Council from May 1995 representing Bebington Ward as a Labour Party Member and served as the Member for Upton Ward since 2004 until May 2023 and had served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Years 2019-20 and 2020-21. Former Councillor Tony Smith had also been a Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion and Children's Services during his service to Wirral Council.

It was reported that former Councillor Dave Mitchell had been a Member of the Council from May 1983, representing Eastham Ward as Liberal Democrat Member until May 2023. Former Councillor Dave Mitchell had served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2013-14, had been the Chair of Planning Committee when the Wirral Waters development had been approved and was also a Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation. He was also a member of the Mersey Port Health Authority, the North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and had also served on the Merseytravel Committee.

The Council had previously determined that former Members who had served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council were eligible for nomination to this award and therefore former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell were eligible to have the title of Honorary Alderman conferred upon them.

**On a motion by Councillor Mike Sullivan and seconded by Councillor Andrew Gardner it was –**

**Resolved – That the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Tony Smith and Dave Mitchell be recommended to Council in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.**

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## REGULATORY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 June 2023

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) – PAUL O’GRADY MBE DL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW &amp; GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent Service to the Borough.

This is a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people have been awarded this status and, it should only be awarded to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Paul O’Grady MBE DL, Comedian, Broadcaster, Actor and Writer who was born and raised in Birkenhead and who sadly passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 aged 67 is considered to be within this category.

Past recipients of this award are:

- 1993 Lt. Commander Ian Fraser, VC
- 1996 Mr. Joseph Lynch, GC, BEM (GAL)
- 2005 Mr. Ray Holmes
- 2006 The Right Reverend David Urquhart
- 2006 Lord Chan of Oxton
- 2010 Mr. Stephen Maddox, OBE
- 2016 PC David Phillips
- The Hillsborough 96
- 2019 Doctor Nunzia Bertali
- 2019 2nd Lt. Jay Frederick Simpson USAF
- 2022 Baron Frank Field of Birkenhead
- 2022 Andrew Devine

The Wirral Plan 2021 - 2026 sets out the Council’s vision to secure the best possible future for the Council’s residents and covers the following five themes:

- A thriving and inclusive economy, creating jobs and opportunities for all;
- A clean-energy, sustainable borough, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis;

- Brighter futures for all regardless of their background;
- Safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of; and
- Healthy and active lives for all, with the right care, at the right time.

By recommending the recognition of eminent service to the community, the proposals within this report align with the theme of safe and pleasant communities that our residents are proud of.

If recommended to Council and subsequently approved a scroll will be presented to a family representative by the Mayor.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is requested to recommend to Council that:

(1) in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough, that Paul O'Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 July 2023; and

(2) officers be requested to take all the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange for a small civic reception for family representatives of Paul O'Grady MBE DL, and some invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the extraordinary meeting of Council.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To posthumously honour Paul O’Grady MBE DL Comedian, Broadcaster, Actor and Writer for his eminent service to the Borough and the people of Wirral.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 The alternative option is for this Committee not to recommend to Council that Paul O’Grady MBE DL be admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The origin of the Freedom of the Borough goes back to early medieval times, when with the growth of the great English towns, there emerged a class of citizen known as Freemen, who enjoyed important privileges in the government of their own and in the matter of corporate property, as against strangers and the rest of the inhabitants.
- 3.2 With the passing of the Honorary Freedom of the Boroughs Act 1885 the dignity attached to the Office of Freeman was revived and enhanced. This Act conferred upon all Municipal Corporations the power to admit as Honorary Freeman of the Borough “persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the Borough”. This can only be achieved by the Council voting at a specially called meeting.
- 3.3 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest award the Council can bestow.
- 3.4 Paul O’Grady MBE DL was born on 14 June 1955 at St Catherine’s Hospital in Tranmere, Birkenhead. He spent his early life at the family’s rented home at 23 Holly Grove in Higher Tranmere and attended St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School. He then attended Blessed Edmund Campion R.C Secondary Modern and the Corpus Christi High School. He was enrolled in the Cub Scouts and was an altar boy at a local Catholic Church. He then joined the Marine Cadet Section of the Sea Cadet Corps and at the advice of his captain joined the Boys’ Amateur Boxing Club.
- 3.5 Paul left school aged 16 and obtained a job in the civil service, working as a clerical assistant for the DHSS at their Liverpool office. He also worked part-time at the bar of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) club in Oxton.
- 3.6 Paul briefly worked as an assistant clerk at Liverpool Magistrates’ Court and subsequently as a barman at Yates’s Wine Lodge however following the birth of his daughter in May 1974 realised this wage was insufficient to support both himself and his daughter and travelled to London but only found poorly paid work as a barman. He returned to Birkenhead and was employed as an accountant in FMC Meats Merseyside, he then worked for three years at the Children’s Convalescent Home and School in West Kirby, a home for disabled and abused children.

- 3.7 Paul returned to London and whilst working for Camden Social Services, Paul O’Grady made his first attempt at putting together a drag act creating the character of Lily Savage and performed annually as Lily from 1989 to 1992. He subsequently appeared on a number of TV and radio shows and in April 1996 filmed a performance at the LWT Tower as An Evening with Lily Savage, broadcast on ITV in November and was awarded Best Entertainment Program at the 1997 National Television Awards.
- 3.8 He subsequently hosted other Entertainment programmes including game shows Blankety Blank and Eyes Down as well as travel shows. From 2004-2011, Paul had his own daytime show, The Paul O’Grady Show and Paul O’Grady Live. From 2012-2023 the documentary series Paul O’Grady: For the Love of Dogs was launched where he became an ambassador for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home.
- 3.9 In 2005, Liverpool John Moores University awarded Paul O’Grady an honorary fellowship for services to entertainment and in 2010 he received an honorary Doctor of Arts from De Montfort University in Leicester in recognition of his outstanding contribution to television, radio and the stage.
- 3.10 Paul O’Grady supported a number of philanthropic causes for carers. In 2008 he became an ambassador for Save the Children. In 2014 he co-starred in a Dementia Friends TV advertisement campaign to raise awareness about the disease. In 2015 following his work on Animal Orphans he became a patron of Orangutan Appeal UK. In September 2016, he was recognised for his work with animals when he won the award for Outstanding Contribution to Animal Welfare at the RSPCA’s Animal Hero Awards. During the last 20 years of his life he lived in Kent and accepted the unpaid position of Deputy Lieutenant of Kent in 2022.
- 3.11 Paul O’Grady died unexpectedly on 28 March 2023 at age 67. He was hailed by many as a national treasure.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The modest financial implications can be met from within existing budgets.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose with notice of the purpose, admit Paul O’Grady to be Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the place or area for which it is the authority persons/organisations of distinction and persons/organisations who have in its opinion rendered eminent services to the Borough. (Section 249(5), of the Local Government Act 1972).

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 There are no implications associated with staffing, ICT or assets.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 There are no known risks associated with this report.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Political Group Leaders have been consulted and support the proposals.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. Measuring the impact of equality implications and mitigating any negative impact where possible is embedded into the core principles of good governance. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct environment and climate implications.

## **11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct Community Wealth Implications.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Anne Beauchamp  
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## **APPENDICES**

None

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Wirral Council Constitution Part 5, Section 19  
Online sources

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

This report is being considered by the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee in accordance with Section 8.2 of its Terms of Reference

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
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<b>Not applicable</b>	
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## REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

7 JUNE 2023

### MINUTE EXTRACT

10 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) – PAUL O’GRADY MBE DL**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee recommend to Council that Paul O’Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 10 July 2023.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that this was a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people had been awarded this status and it should only be awarded to someone who had made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Paul O’Grady MBE DL, Comedian, Broadcaster, Actor and Writer, who was born and raised in Birkenhead and who sadly passed away on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023 aged 67 is considered to be within this category.

In respect of a query raised, it was noted that the year The Hillsborough 96 had been granted the title of Honorary Feeman or Freewoman of the Borough was 2017, which had been inadvertently omitted from the report.

**On a motion by Councillor James Stewart Laing and seconded by Councillor Louise Luxon-Kewley it was –**

**Resolved –**

**(1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of his dedicated service to the Borough, that Paul O’Grady MBE DL be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freeman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 10 July 2023; and**

**(2) That officers be requested to take the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a small civic reception for family representatives of Paul O’Grady MBE DL and some invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 10 July 2023.**

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