



Extraordinary Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at **5.30 p.m. on Monday, 9 October 2023** in the Assembly Room, within the Town Hall, Birkenhead, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

Contact Officer: Dan Sharples
Tel: 0151 666 3791
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Please note that public seating is limited, therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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

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. HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS)

AWARD) GLENDA JACKSON (Pages 1 - 8)

Council is requested to consider the following recommendation from the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 7 September 2023 (minute 19 refers):

That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her dedicated service to the Borough, that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 9 October 2023.

Minute and report attached.

Full Council Responsibility for Functions

The full responsibility of functions for Full Council can be found at the end of this agenda.



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 AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

7 SEPTEMBER 2023

19 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD)
GLENDA JACKSON**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee recommend to Council that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 9 October 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. Glenda Jackson of Birkenhead is considered to be within this category.

Councillor M Sullivan paid tribute to Glenda Jackson for her great service to the country and highly commended that this award be given.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Civic and Electoral Services Manager advised that proposals for this award may be provided by a Councillor or anyone in the Borough for consideration by this Committee.

On a motion by Councillor M Sullivan and seconded by Councillor J Stewart Laing, it was –

Resolved –

(1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her dedicated service to the Borough, that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 9 October 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 Glenda Jackson and some invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 9 October 2023.

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REGULATORY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday 7th September 2023

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| REPORT TITLE: | HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) – GLENDA JACKSON |
| REPORT OF: | DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER) |

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, quite rightly, it should only be awarded to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Glenda Jackson of Birkenhead is within this category.

Past recipients of this ward 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
2017 The Hillsborough 96
2019 Doctor Nunzia Bertali
2019 2nd Lt. Jay Frederick Simpson USAF
2022 Baron Frank Field of Birkenhead
2022 Andrew Devine
2023 Paul O’Grady

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 her dedicated service to the Borough, that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 09th October 2023.
- (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 Glenda Jackson 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 Glenda Jackson of Birkenhead for her eminent service to the Borough and the people of Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The alternative option is not to recommend Glenda Jackson as 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 Glenda May Jackson was born on 09 May 1936 in Birkenhead. Glenda Jackson was the oldest of four daughters and she went to school at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary school. Her secondary education was at West Kirby County Grammar School for Girls. She performed in the Townswomen's Guild Drama group in her teens and made her first acting appearance in J.B Priestley's 'Mystery of Greenfingers' in 1952 for the YMCA Players in Hoylake.
- 3.5 Glenda Jackson left school and obtained a job in Boots the Chemist before winning a scholarship in 1954 to study at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA) in London. She moved to London to begin her course early in 1955.
- 3.6 Glenda's early career began while she was studying at 'RADA' and she began appearing in repertory theatre whilst also undertaking a role as a stage manager. She unsuccessfully auditioned for the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and undertook what she later described as "a series of soul-destroying jobs". This included waitressing at a coffee bar, clerical work for a large City of London firm, answering phones for a theatrical agent, and a role at British Home Stores. She also worked as a Bluecoat at Pwllheli where her new husband and fellow actor Roy Hodges was a Redcoat. Glenda eventually returned to repertory theatre in Dundee but worked in bars in between acting jobs.

- 3.7 Glenda went on to star in film and TV productions between 1969 to 1980. There had always been a pull towards a political career for Glenda that ran alongside her acting career. In 1991 she retired from acting to devote herself to politics and was elected as an MP for Hampstead and Highgate in 1992. In July 1996 she became the shadow minister for transport. Following Labour's victory in the 1997 General Election Glenda was re-elected and appointed as a junior minister in the government of Tony Blair with responsibility in the London Regional Transport. She remained as an MP until 2015 when she announced that she would not seek re-election in the scheduled 2015 General Election.
- 3.8 Glenda Jackson is the only British actress to have won two Oscars, for her 1970 role opposite Oliver Reed in *Women in Love* and three years later for *A Touch of Class*.
- 3.9 The Glenda Jackson theatre in Wirral was officially named after her at a ceremony in September 1983.
- 3.10 The theatre was named after Ms Jackson after she reached the pinnacle of her fame. The theatre was demolished in 2005 following the establishment of a purpose-built site for students.
- 3.11 Glenda Jackson died on Thursday 15th June 2023 at her home in London with her family by her side. She was 87 years old.

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 Glenda Jackson 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.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution Part 5, Section 19
Online source: Wikipedia

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)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Not applicable | |

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Full Council – Responsibility for Functions

1. Introduction

Full Council is the primary decision-making body of the Council and, as such, is responsible for the exercise of all of the functions that are held by the local authority.

Whilst decisions in relation to these functions could be made by the Council, and indeed some functions can only be carried out by the Full Council, in order to operate more effectively as an organisation, most of the Council's functions are exercised through delegation to a committee, sub-committee or an officer, or to another local authority.

This part of the Constitution contains the remits of the Council, Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels and also contains the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

2. Council Functions

The Council reserves to itself the following functions (in accordance with the rules and procedures contained in this Constitution):

- (a) All non-delegable functions as defined by the Local Authorities (Committee System) (England) Regulations 2012 including: -
 - (i) **The Budget** – The approval or adoption of a plan or strategy for the control of the local authority's borrowing, investments or capital expenditure or for determining the authority's minimum revenue provision, which includes the overarching annual:-
 - (1) Capital programme
 - (2) Capital investment strategy
 - (3) Medium term financial plan
 - (4) Treasury management strategy,except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—
 - (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
 - (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
 - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution (including virements); and
 - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

(ii) **Policy Framework (Required)** – The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies required to form a part of the Council’s Policy Framework:

- (1) Annual Library Plan;
- (2) Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy;
- (3) Development Plan Documents;
- (4) Licensing Authority Policy Statement;
- (5) Policies made under the Gambling Act (including any resolution relating to casinos);
- (6) Local Transport Plan;
- (7) Plans and alterations which together comprise the Development Plan;
- (8) Sustainable Community Strategy; and
- (9) Youth Justice Plan;

except for any amendment, modification, variation or revocation which—

- (aa) is required for giving effect to requirements of the Secretary of State or a Minister of the Crown in relation to a plan or strategy submitted for approval, or to any part submitted; or
- (bb) is authorised by a determination made by the local authority—
 - in pursuance of arrangements made for the discharge of functions as set out in the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of this Constitution; and
 - at the time when the local authority approves or adopts the plan or strategy, as the case may be.

- (iii) Making of a Members Allowance Scheme and amending the same.
- (iv) Determination of Mayor’s and Deputy Mayor’s allowances.
- (v) Making a request for single member electoral wards to the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- (vi) Resolution to change a scheme for elections.
- (vii) Making an order giving effect to the recommendations made in a Community Governance Review.
- (viii) Conferring voting rights on co-opted members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees (if any).

- (b) **Policy Framework (Choice)** - The making or revoking or amending the following policies, plans and strategies reserved by Council to form a part of the Council's Policy Framework
 - (i) The Council Plan.
- (c) Setting the Council's Council Tax requirement
- (d) Electing the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
- (e) Appointing the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council (Chair and Vice-Chair of Policy & Resources Committee)
- (f) Agreeing or amending the committee structure, the remit/terms of reference of committees, their size and membership
- (g) Confirming the appointment (or dismissal) of the Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance (Section 151) Officer.
- (h) Confirming the appointment of the Independent Persons.
- (i) Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation including bylaws or personal bills.
- (j) Appointment of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.
- (k) Significant changes to the Council's Constitution, including adopting and amending standing orders, Rules of Procedure, Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations, Codes and Protocols that make up the Constitution.
- (l) All other matters which by law are reserved to the Council including: -
 - (i) Ombudsman reports where there has been a finding of maladministration with injustice and the report has been rejected
 - (ii) Statutory officer reports of the Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Head of Paid Service and External Auditor's public interest reports.
- (m) Conferring the title of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman.
- (n) Approving the Annual Senior Officer Pay Policy Statement.
- (o) Changing the name of the Borough.
- (p) Appointment of representatives of the local authority not otherwise delegated to a Committee.
- (q) Nomination of councillors and other persons to outside bodies
- (r) Consideration of reports from committees or any other body constituted by the Council.

- (s) To receive the minutes of committees and sub-committees acting under delegated powers for question and comment.
- (t) Making recommendations to the Secretary of State on the Borough boundaries, ward boundaries, electoral divisions, ward or polling districts; and
- (u) any other function which must by law be reserved to full Council.

Note

For the avoidance of doubt, the Full Council retains ultimate responsibility for the actions and decisions of all its Committees and also retains the ability to exercise all its powers whether or not they have also been delegated to a Committee or Officer. Full Council shall not, however, exercise a power that has been delegated without first ensuring that such a step is in the best interests of the Council and in accordance with the rules set out in the Articles of this Constitution. The Council's ability to exercise its powers will not override or supersede any decision or action already taken and implemented by a Committee or Officer acting under delegated authority.