



Council

Extraordinary Meeting

30 September 2022

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **5.00 p.m. on Monday, 10 October 2022** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine the following subjects:

Contact Officer: Daniel Sharples
Tel: 0151 666 3791
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Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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. 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 27 September, 2022 (Minute 7 refers):

That Council be recommended to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors:

- A) Adrian Jones
- B) Les Rowlands; and
- C) Moira McLaughlin

in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. Minute and report attached.



Vicki Shaw, Head of Legal Services
(Deputy Monitoring Officer)

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

27 SEPTEMBER 2022

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| REPORT TITLE: | CONFERMENT OF THE TITLES OF HONORARY ALDERMAN / ALDERWOMAN |
| 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 / Alderwoman be conferred on former Councillors Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin.

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 / Alderwoman on former Councillors Adrian Jones, Moira McLaughlin and Les Rowlands 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 Adrian Jones was a Member of the Council from May 1995, representing Seacombe Ward as Labour Party Member until May 2022. Adrian Jones served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2008-2009 and is a retired lecturer and Union UCU Official. Adrian Jones was also a Cabinet member for Resources, Finance, Assets and Technology during his service to Wirral Council.
- 1.2 Former Councillor Moira McLaughlin was a Member of the Council from May 1996, representing Rock Ferry Ward (formerly Tranmere) as Labour Councillor until October 2018. Councillor McLaughlin then resigned from the Labour Party and served the remainder of her term as an Independent until May 2022. Moira McLaughlin served as Mayoress of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2011-2012. Moira was a nurse and has also served as a cabinet member for Adult Health and Social Care.
- 1.3 Former Councillor Les Rowlands was a member of the Council from May 1998, representing Heswall Ward as Conservative Party Member until May 2022. Les Rowlands served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2015-2016. Les is a talented entertainer who has performed at the Empire Theatre and The Floral Pavilion Theatre and appeared in Coronation Street.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Former Councillors Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin are therefore eligible to have the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman 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 Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin for the position of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman.

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 Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin 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 Adrian Jones, Moira McLaughlin and Les Rowlands with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £2070. There will also be the small cost of inscribing his name 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.

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 Civic and Electoral Services Manager
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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Section 249 Local Government Act 1972

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

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

MINUTE EXTRACT

REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2022

7 CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

Councillor C Jones declared a personal interest in this matter (minute 3 refers).

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/Alderwoman be conferred on former Councillors Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that former Councillor Adrian Jones had been a Member of the Council from May 1995 representing Seacombe Ward as Labour Party Member until May 2022. Adrian Jones had served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2008/09. Adrian Jones had also been a Cabinet Member for Resources, Finance, Assets and Technology during his service to Wirral Council.

It was reported that former Councillor Moira McLaughlin had been a Member of the Council from May 1996, representing Rock Ferry Ward (formerly Tranmere) as Labour Councillor until October 2018. Moira McLaughlin had then resigned from the Labour Party and served the remainder of her term as an Independent until May 2022. Moira McLaughlin had served as Mayoress of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2011/12 and had also served as Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care.

It was further reported that former Councillor Les Rowlands had been a Member of the Council from May 1998, representing Heswall Ward as Conservative Party Member until May 2022. Les Rowlands had served as Mayor of Wirral for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

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 Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin were eligible to have the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman conferred upon them.

Members were informed that Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman may be conferred by the Council on persons who are persons of distinction and/or who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the place or area. The title is to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

It was reported that successful nominees for the office of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen of this Council had previously been awarded a suitable badge at a special ceremony. Currently, former Councillors Adrian Jones, Les Rowlands and Moira McLaughlin were the only former Councillors eligible to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman based on the Council's criteria.

Members were further informed that the intention would be to present former Councillors Adrian Jones, Moira McLaughlin and Les Rowlands with a badge of office, the total cost of which would be approximately £2070 and there would also be the small cost of inscribing their names on the Roll of Honour Board which could be met from existing budgets.

Resolved – That the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman on former Councillors Adrian Jones, Moira McLaughlin and Les Rowlands be recommended to Council in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.