



REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

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

REPORT SUMMARY

This report requests the Committee to give consideration to whether to recommend to the Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be posthumously conferred on former Councillor Bill Davies.

Consideration of this matter had originally been scheduled for a meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee on 14 October 2020 but due to the serious nature of his illness, former Councillor Bill Davies sadly passed away on 2 October 2020, and the matter was deferred.

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is now asked to consider whether Council be recommended to posthumously confer of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Bill Davies.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is requested to recommend to Council the posthumous conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Bill Davies, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Former Councillor Bill Davies was a Member of the Council from May 1986, representing Rock Ferry Ward as a Labour Party Member until March 2019, after which he continued to serve Rock Ferry as an Independent Member-until tendering his resignation as an Elected Member of the Council on Friday 4 September 2020. Former Councillor Bill Davies sadly passed away on 2 October 2020, during the lead up to a meeting of this committee where a recommendation to confer the title of Honorary Alderman was scheduled for consideration.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 An alternative option would be not to recommend posthumous conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred by the Council on persons who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of this Council, (or a predecessor Council), but who are no longer Councillors. 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.
- 3.2 Honorary Aldermen are invited to attend Council meetings in a non-participating capacity. They do not to receive any allowances or payments under section 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972. Honorary Aldermen 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 are inscribed on a Roll of Honour board on the first floor landing of Wallasey Town Hall.
- 3.3 Previously, the Council determined that former Members who have served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council are eligible for nomination to this Award. Successful nominees have been awarded a suitable badge at a special ceremony. Until consideration of this matter, no prior considerations of the title of Honorary Alderman have been awarded posthumously.
- 3.4 Former Councillor Bill Davies was the only person eligible to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman at the time of preparing the original report scheduled for consideration by this committee in October 2020 and in light of the fact the process to confer the status of Honorary Alderman had already commenced prior to his passing it is considered that in these exceptional circumstances the conferment of the status of Honorary Alderman posthumously should continue out of respect for former Councillor Davies.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It would be the intention to present Mr Davies' family with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £600. 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 must be ratified at an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it. It is proposed that the Extraordinary Meeting be convened at 6:00pm on Wednesday, 9 December 2020.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 It would be the intention to present Mr Davies' family with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £600. There will also be the small cost of inscribing his name on the Roll of Honour board which can be met from existing budgets.
- 6.2 It is also customary for the Council to cover the cost of any hospitality provided for the newly appointed Honorary Aldermen and a select number of guests. There is no specific budget head for this but the funding required can be allocated from the Civic Services catering budget. Consideration will be given to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are no specific risks associated with this report other than referred to in paragraph 6.2 above, namely those directly arising from any hospitality arrangements that may be considered during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Political Group Leaders have been consulted on these 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 There are none arising directly from this report.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Not Applicable	