

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 28th 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.