

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

20 JULY 2011

REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

HONORARY ALDERMAN

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is requested to consider granting Honorary Alderman status to one of its former long-serving Councillors, Colin Orson Chapman.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confers the status of Honorary Alderman to Colin Orson Chapman in recognition of his eminent services to the Borough.

2.2 Once status is conferred, a ceremony to present the award be arranged to take place at the October 2011 Meeting of the Council and the recipient be asked to invite up to 10 personal guests.

2.3 Once status is conferred, the recipient and their partner be invited to all Civic and Ceremonial events as a guest of the Council and their name be added to the 'Roll of Honour' Board displayed at the Council's Offices.

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 Melton Borough Council has powers under the Local Government Act 1972, S.249 to *'admit to be honorary freemen of the borough, persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the borough'*.

3.2 The Council has conferred this honorary status to 3 other individuals, those being as follows :-

- John W. Greenslade deceased – conferred in 1991
- Gerald Y-C. Green deceased – conferred in 1991
- Mrs. Anne M. Dames – conferred in 2003

3.3 The Council has also conferred Freedom of Entry to the Borough to two military organisations being the Royal Army Veterinary Corps (RAVC) on 29 September 1977 and to HMS Quorn on 25 October 2006.

3.4 Should status be conferred, then it is intended that Mr. Chapman's name be added to the Council's 'Roll of Honour' board displayed at the Council's Offices.

3.5 The ceremonial event of presenting honorary status to Mr. Chapman at a future Council Meeting could involve speeches including the recipient's qualities to make him a worthy recipient of the award, presentation of a scroll followed by a Civic Reception in his honour. It is suggested that Mr. Chapman could be asked to invite up to 10 personal guests.

3.6 It is usual that those in receipt of honorary status and Freedom of Entry to the Borough are invited to Civic and Ceremonial events as guests of the Council.

4.0 **POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy or corporate implications.

5.0 **FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Local Government Act 1972 at Section 249 states :-

'The council of a London borough or a district which has the status of a city, borough or royal borough may spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person upon whom they have conferred the title of honorary alderman or admitted to be an honorary freeman of the city, borough or royal borough.'

5.2 The costs involved in conferring Honorary Alderman status include the provision of a scroll (inclusive of crest) and are approximately £1,350. The costs will be met from existing budgets or budget reductions in year.

6.0 **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 The Local Government Act 1972 at Section 249 states :-

'A principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council but who are not then councillors of the council.'

6.2 The section further states :-

'An honorary alderman of a principal council may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not, as such, have the right

(a) to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented) or

(b) to receive any such allowances or other payments as are payable under sections 173 to 176 above.'

7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 There are no direct community safety issues related to this report.

8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 There are no direct equality issues related to this report.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 Should two thirds of those present not vote for the recommendation, then honorary status could not be conferred.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no direct climate change implications related to this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 There has been consultation with the Leader of the Council.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 No wards are specifically affected by this report.

Contact Officer: Sarah Evans, Senior Democracy Officer
Date: July 2011
Appendix: None
Background Papers: Local Government Act 1972
Previous Council Minutes

Q:Committees/Council - 2011 12 – 200711- Special