



# Special Council

23 September 2021

**Report of:** Councillor Joe Orson - Leader of the Council

## Conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman

<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant Ward Member(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Date of consultation with Ward Member(s):</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt Information:</b>	No

### 1 Summary

- 1.1 In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council is requested to consider granting Honorary Alderman status to one of its former long-serving Councillors, Gerald Edward Botterill.
- 1.2 At the request of Mr Botterill, the title will be conferred at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022.
- 1.3 Mr Botterill served the Borough from the Civic Year 1983 through to 2019.

### 2 Recommendation(s)

**That Council:**

- 2.1 **In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council confers the status of Honorary Alderman to Gerald Edward Botterill.**
- 2.2 **In accordance with Mr Botterill's wishes, the title will be conferred at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022.**
- 2.3 **Once status is conferred, the recipient and their guest be invited to Civic and Ceremonial events as guests of the Council and the recipient's name be added to the 'Roll of Honour' Board displayed at the Council's Offices.**

### 3 Reason for Recommendations

- 3.1 It is customary to award Honorary Alderman status to former long-serving Councillors.

3.2 Once awarded, it is customary to invite recipients to Civic and Ceremonial events of the Council and to add their names to the 'Roll of Honour' Board.

## **4 Background**

4.1 Melton Borough Council has powers under Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to "confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen 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 members of the council."

4.2 The Council has conferred this honorary status to the following four individuals:

- John W. Greenslade – conferred in 1991
- Gerald Y-C. Green – conferred in 1991
- Mrs Anne M. Dames – conferred in 2003
- Colin O. Chapman – conferred in 2011

4.3 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.

## **5 Main Considerations**

5.1 During the Council meeting, there will be a Proposer and a Secunder for the nomination. The Proposer and Secunder will each make short speeches and the Council will then vote on the nomination. The nomination needs to be agreed by at least two thirds of members present and voting. The ceremonial event of presenting honorary status to Mr Botterill at a Council meeting would involve speeches including the recipient's qualities to make him a worthy recipient of the award and the presentation of a scroll. This will be followed by a short acceptance speech by the Honorary Alderman.

5.2 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.

5.3 Members must note that, in accordance with Mr Botterill's wishes, the title will be conferred at the Council meeting on 17 March 2022.

## **6 Options Considered**

6.1 The only other option would be not to award honorary alderman status to Mr Botterill.

## **7 Consultation**

7.1 There has been consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Mayor.

## **8 Next Steps – Implementation and Communication**

8.1 Once conferred, it is standard practice to issue a press release stating that the Council has conferred Honorary Alderman status to an individual, in this case Mr Botterill.

8.2 Mr Botterill's name will be added to the 'Roll of Honour' Board as soon as possible following Council approval.

## **9 Financial Implications**

9.1 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 freemen of the city, borough or royal borough.'

9.2 The cost involved in conferring Honorary Alderman status include the provision of a scroll and is approximately £200 (for electronically produced scroll).

9.3 A small reception will be provided at an approximate cost of £6 per person.

**Financial Implications reviewed by: Director for Corporate Services, 13 September 2021**

## **10 Legal and Governance Implications**

10.1 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.'

10.2 In addition, the section states that:

'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.'

**Legal Implications reviewed by: Natasha Taylor – Deputy Monitoring Officer, 14 September 2021**

## **11 Equality and Safeguarding Implications**

11.1 There are no equality issues related to this report.

## **12 Community Safety Implications**

12.1 There are no community safety issues related to this report.

## **13 Environmental and Climate Change Implications**

13.1 There are no environmental and climate change implications related to this report.

## **14 Risk & Mitigation**

14.1 There are no risks related to this report.

## **15 Background Papers.**

15.1 None.

## **16 Appendices**

16.1 None.

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