

Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee

Thursday, 19 January 2023 at 5.30pm
Belle Vue Offices, Skipton

Please note the following advice in advance of the meeting:

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering or continue to social distance, please be considerate towards the wellbeing of others.

Anyone showing Covid symptoms or feeling unwell, are asked not to attend an in-person meeting, this is in the interest of general infection control. Further guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Membership: The Chair (Councillor Myers) and Councillors Foster, Brockbank, Brown, Madeley and Solloway

AGENDA

Exclusion of the Public – In accordance with the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules, Members are recommended to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Appendix \$1 of item \$5 on the grounds that it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 2 (likely to reveal the identity of an individual) of those Rules and Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2. Confirmation of Minutes** – To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2022.
- 3. Public Participation** – In the event that any questions/statements are received or members of the public attend, the public participation session will proceed for a period of up to fifteen minutes.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** – All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have in items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests.

(Note: Declarations should be in the form of:

a “**disclosable pecuniary interest**” under Appendix A to the Council’s Code of Conduct, or “**other interests**” under Appendix B or under Paragraph 16 where a matter arises at the meeting which relates to a financial interest of a friend, relative or close associate.

A Member of Council who has a disclosable pecuniary interest must leave the room and not take part in the discussion or vote. When declaring interests under Appendix B or Paragraph 16 of the Code, Members must move to the public seating area, not vote, and speak only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.)

- \$5. Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, Freedom of the District and Post-Humous Awards** – Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager. Attached. (Appendix \$1 to the report is considered exempt and not for publication.)

Purpose of report – To consider appointing Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, Freedom of the District and Post-Humous Awards in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 6. Any other items** which the Chair decides are urgent in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Agenda Contact Officer:

Alice Fox, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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Recording at Council Meetings: Recording is allowed at Council, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings which are open to the public, subject to

(i) the recording being conducted with the full knowledge of the Chair of the meeting; and

(ii) compliance with the Council’s protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings, a copy of which is available on request. Anyone wishing to record must contact the agenda contact officer (details above) prior to the start of the meeting. Any recording must be conducted openly and not disrupt proceedings.

AGENDA ITEM 2

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY TITLES COMMITTEE

13 December 2022

In attendance: Councillors Myers (Chair), Foster, Brockbank, Brown, Madeley and Solloway

Officers: Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Apologies for absence: None

Start: 5.00pm

Finish: 5:30pm

Minutes for Decision

AHT.2

HONORARY ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN

The Democratic Services Manager submitted a report which asked the Committee to consider awarding Alderman or Alderwoman status in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. Members were reminded that in 2015, Full Council approved to increase the eligible period of former service as a Craven District Councillor as a qualification for appointment as an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman from 15 to 20 years, which need not be continuous.

The Committee is required to present their recommendations at an Extraordinary Council Meeting in February 2023.

Councillor Solloway pointed out that some Members have served for longer than they were elected for as elections were cancelled during the Covid pandemic. Also, it should be recognised that some long serving Members have retired.

Members agreed that Councillors who have served at least 20 years should be awarded Alderman/Alderwoman status. There was discussion around if they should look at other Members who have served less than 20 years but have provided exemplary service, especially given that this is the final year of Craven District Council.

The following actions were agreed:

- The Solicitor to the Council to confirm the protocol for awarding post-humous awards and Freedom of Craven awards. Once this has been established, the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager to ask all Councillors for their nominations for post-humous or Freedom of Craven recognition.
- The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager to establish how the other North Yorkshire authorities are proposing to recognise Aldermen/Alderwomen and other awards similar to post-humous or Freedom of Craven.
- The Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee will convene a further meeting in January.

Recommended –

- a) That, Alderman and Alderwoman status to be awarded to Members who have served at least 20 years' service (need not be continuous service).
- b) That, Members of the Committee should consider if length of service could be reduced to 15 years.

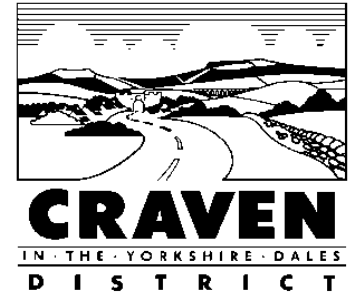
AGENDA ITEM 2

- c) That, the Solicitor to the Council will confirm the protocol for formally awarding post-humous and Freedom of Craven awards.
- d) That, the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager will circulate the criteria and ask all Councillors for their nominations for post-humous or Freedom of Craven recognition.
- e) That, an Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee is convened in January 2023 and recommendations presented to an ECM in February 2023.

Chairman.

Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee – 19 January 2023

Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen and Freedom of the District



Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. An updated report following the Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee Meeting on 13 December 2022 when Members requested further information before recommending the appointments of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen, Freedom of the District and posthumous awards in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider conferring the title Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen and awarding Freedom of the District in the final year of Craven District Council.
- 2.2 That the Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee presents its recommendations to an Extraordinary Council meeting convened specifically for that purpose.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 13 December 2022, the Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee convened to discuss who they would like to recommend being granted Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman status in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.2 The Council has previously resolved that Councillors who have served at least 20 years' service (need not be continuous service) will be considered for Alderman status.
- 3.3 At the last meeting, Members considered whether the length of service could be reduced to 15 years (need not be continuous) as it was noted that some Councillors not meeting the 20 years criteria have provided exemplary service to the district. It was agreed that Democratic Services would ask the other North Yorkshire local authorities if they have altered their Alderman/Alderwoman criteria given that this is the last year before the new unitary

authority. Members were also keen to know if honorary titles can be granted posthumously.

3.4 The Committee requested that the qualifying criteria to be circulated to the Committee and Members were asked to submit their nominations.

3.5 It was agreed that an Appointment of Honorary Titles Committee is convened in January 2023 and recommendations presented to an ECM in February 2023.

4. Report

4.1 Consultation with the other North Yorkshire authorities concludes that the eligibility period to qualify for appointment as an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman ranges from 15 to 20 years. Information received from four LA's confirms that they have not amended their existing qualifying period. One LA discounted their qualifying criteria by one year in respect of each year the individual served as Chair of the Council. One LA is awarding Alderman/Woman status to 2 Councillors posthumously. No LA is awarding Freedom of the District/Borough.

4.2 CDC's criteria for awarding the Freedom of the District is "persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the District". "Eminent" has a dictionary meaning which includes 'highly regarded' and 'distinguished'.

4.3 Democratic Services circulated an email to all CDC Councillors asking for nominations for Freedom of the District. The nominations are presented in Appendix 1.

4.4 In exceptional circumstances, honorary titles may be granted posthumously. One post-humous nomination is presented in Appendix 1.

4.5 Once the Committee has agreed on their recommendations, they will be presented to an ECM on 7 February 2023.

5. Financial and Value for Money Implications

5.1 There will be expenditure in providing a scroll to those awarded the honorary title and placing names on the Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen. This can be met within the Member Services budget.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 The power to grant honorary titles is found in s249, Local Government Act 1972.

7. Contribution to Council Priorities

8. Impact on the declared Climate Emergency

8.1 No impact.

9. Risk Management

9.1 There is a risk that the reputation of any Councillor awarded the Honorary Title may change between now and 1 April 2023.

10. Chief Finance Officer (s151 Officer) Statement

10.1 A Chief Finance Officer statement is not required for this report.

11. Monitoring Officer Statement

11.1 A Monitoring Officer statement is not required for this report.

12. Equality Impact Analysis

12.1 Not relevant.

13. Consultations with Others

13.1 Chief Executive, Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer, Chief Finance Officer

14. Background Documents

14.1 There are no background documents

15. Appendices

15.1 Exempt Appendix \$1 – Nominations for Honorary Titles

16. Author of the Report

Alice Fox, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

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Note: Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.