

**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of Extraordinary Council on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman**

**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Amy Bryan Governance and Civic Manager

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

To seek approval to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on the nominees proposed and recommended by the Council's Honours Panel in accordance with the agreed procedures.

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**REPORT DETAILS**

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that "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 members of the Council."
- 1.2 Historically Bolsover District Council has conferred 20 Honorary Alderman since District Councils were permitted this right within the LGA 1992.
- 1.3 There is no statutory guidance or definition of "eminent services" and therefore Bolsover District Council have set their own criteria and process for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.
- 1.4 For reference, the criterion agreed by Council is set out below:
  - a) Must be a former councillor of Bolsover District Council who has rendered eminent services to the Council
  - b) Must have completed 16 or more years of service (4 terms) to Bolsover District Council (service does not have to be continual)

- c) Must have concluded their service to the Council within the past 4 years
- d) Consideration may be given to Members who have completed less than 16 years' service that have held the title of Chair of Council, Vice Chair of Council, Leader, Deputy Leader, or Leader of the Opposition.
- e) Must be nominated in writing to the Governance Manager by a current serving Member of Council, preferably (but not exclusively) by the Leader of the nominees party. The nomination must state how the nominee has rendered eminent service to the Council and the people of Bolsover.
- f) A proposition must be approved by two thirds of the present Members at a meeting of Council called specifically for that sole purpose.

1.5 An Honorary Alderman has the following role and limitations:

- a) To enjoy the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman and be so addressed and to receive a badge of office, and also to have their name entered on to the Roll of Honour within the Council Chamber.
- b) To be invited to attend civic functions hosted by the Council (services, dinners, charity events etc.) and be invited to take part in civic processions with precedence over currently serving members but not the Chair of the Council or Vice Chair.
- c) To be invited to attend meetings of Annual Council for the Appointment of Chair of the Council, Vice Chair, and they may attend Council meetings as a non-participating guest and (on advance notification received) will have a seat reserved for them in the Chamber.
- d) They are welcome to receive minutes, agendas and papers (non-exempt only) for meetings of Council.
- e) They are welcome to receive the Council Year Book.
- f) If the Honorary Alderman has held the office of Chair of the Council or Vice Chair during their service to Bolsover District Council, they may be called upon to represent the Council at a civic function in the absence of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council.
- g) They may wear their Aldermanic Badge at any function or meeting that they are attending in their capacity as Honorary Alderman.
- h) They may wish to assist the Chair of Council in charity fund raising for the Chair's chosen charity / charities.
- i) They become an ambassador for the Council and promote civic pride.

- j) To enjoy such privileges as Bolsover District Council may from time to time confer upon Honorary Aldermen.
  - k) No payments will be made to an Honorary Alderman for any service or expenditure that they undertake whilst in office.
  - l) They may not take part in Council meetings (apart from Public Question Time in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules).
  - m) Honorary Aldermen may be reappointed by election of the public to serve on Bolsover District Council, but their Aldermanic Office is suspended for the period of their appointment.
- 1.6 The process for receiving and hearing nominations has been carried out in accordance with the guidance approved by Council, and the Honours Panel brings forward recommendations for Council to consider.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 After their initial meeting, the Honours Panel requested confidential feedback from all Members of Council with three responses received. All three responses raised no objections to the proposed nominations. These responses were considered alongside the nominations and given a balanced judgement to ensure that the criterion was met fully, and the nominations were a suitable representative of the Council.
- 2.2 Consideration was given to the work that they undertook as a councillor, their services to the district and their local areas, and length of service.
- 2.3 All nominees were considered to meet the criterion set by Council and therefore put forward to this meeting with the Panel's recommendation to confer all three as Honorary Aldermen of the District of Bolsover.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Nominations were received and considered in line with the process adopted by Council. The next step in the process is for Council to approve or reject the recommendations of the Panel.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 Council may consider to reject one, some, or all of the candidates put forward for reasons that they may or may not wish to state.
- 4.2 Council may choose to refer nominations for reconsideration back to the Honours Panel with additional information to consider.

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## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Council:

1. confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Rose Bowler
2. confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Jim Clifton
3. confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Ray Heffer

Approved by Councillor Duncan McGregor Portfolio Holder for Corporate Performance and Governance

### **IMPLICATIONS.**

**Finance and Risk:**      Yes       No

**Details:** Costs associated with documenting the award and tokens of appreciation will be met from the existing civic budget.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**      Yes       No

**Details:** This decision is made under the legal framework of the 1972 Local Government Act, Section 249 as detailed in part 1 of the report.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Environment:**      Yes       No

**Details:** There are no environment implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

**Staffing:**      Yes       No

**Details:** There are no staffing implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

## DECISION INFORMATION

<p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b>  A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p><b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b>  <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b></p>	None
<p><b>Consultation:</b>  <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/>  <b>Members</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Details: All Councillors have been consulted on the nominations as part of the agreed nominations process.</p>

<p><b>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment</b></p>
<p>None</p>

## DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title

<p><b>Background Papers</b></p>
<p><i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>
<p>None</p>