

North Yorkshire County Council**Planning and Regulatory Functions Committee****24 October 2017****Conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman****1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 For the Committee to consider whether it would wish to make a recommendation to the County Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Members of the Council.

2.0 Powers and Criteria

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred by the County Council on persons who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of this Council, (or a predecessor Council), but who are no longer Councillors. The title is to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the County Council specially convened for the purpose.
- 2.2 A number of long serving Members ceased to be County Councillors, following the elections on 4 May, 2017. Of those retiring Members, 6 had served as Members of the County Council for more than 20 years - (20 years' service on the County Council or any of its three predecessor County Councils, the York County Borough Council and the pre-1974 Borough Councils of Harrogate and Scarborough is the criterion for previous service agreed by the County Council, in 1985, for the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman). Those retiring Members (with their years of service in brackets following their name) are Margaret Ann de Coursey-Bayley (20), John Fort BEM (20), Bill Hoult (24), Shelagh Marshall OBE (28), Chris Metcalfe (24) and John Savage (20).
- 2.3 It has been requested that the Committee consider the position of Members that were elected part way through a municipal year, by way of a by-election, with a view to this being considered as a full year's election term. Should Members agree to this alteration, Bernard Bateman MBE would become eligible to be conferred as an Honorary Alderman, for service between 1997 and 2017, with 20 years' service.
- 2.4 Also, in view of the length of service provided by former County Councillor Michael Heseltine (this would have been 40 years in May 2017), up until his death late last year, the Committee is asked to consider that he be conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman, posthumously.
- 2.3 Although the title of Honorary Alderman must be conferred by the County Council, at a special meeting set up for the purpose, the County Council's constitution delegates, to this Committee, the power to make recommendations to the Council on the matter.

3.0 Former Members of the Council Who Satisfy the Criteria

- 3.1 The Committee is asked whether it wishes to invite the former Members of the County Council, identified at 2.2 above, to accept conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman, of North Yorkshire County Council, and whether it wishes to take the action identified at 2.3 and 2.4, and, if so, is asked to make the necessary recommendations to the County Council.
- 3.2 In the past, arrangements have been made for the special meeting of the Council which is required to confer the title of Honorary Alderman to be held at 12.30 pm on the day of an ordinary meeting of the County Council, thereby maximising the number of Members of the Council able to be present. It has been customary to present each new Honorary Alderman with a framed illuminated address and Honorary Alderman's badge. The Committee is asked whether it would wish similar arrangements to be made on this occasion.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Committee decides what, if any, recommendation it wishes to make to the County Council about the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on past Members of the County Council and the associated arrangements which are to be made.

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Background documents: None