

Agenda Item 35.

TITLE	Appointment of Honorary Alderman
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 24 July 2023
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Susan Parsonage, Chief Executive

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The position of Honorary Alderman is intended to acknowledge the eminent services of past Members of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by him to the Borough of Wokingham does hereby admit Mr Angus Ross to be an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Wokingham in recognition of his untiring service over a period of 32 years to the people of the Borough and particularly to those of the Wokingham Without Ward; on Committees of the Council, including as an Executive Member, to local organisations including the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, and in the offices of Chairman and Mayor.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

In accordance with the Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen of Wokingham Borough Council, which was agreed by Council on 19 May 2016, and amended in 2018, a nomination has been received for a past Member of Council to be conferred the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of his eminent services during his time on the District/Borough Council. Council is therefore asked to consider this nomination.

Background

1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman can be conferred on “persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the Council, but who are not then Councillors of the Council”.

1.2 In order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a past Member of Council a meeting of the whole Council needs to be convened specifically for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting Members present at that meeting.

2. Role of Honorary Alderman

2.1 An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in civic events organised by Wokingham Borough Council and is entitled to wear the badge of ‘Honorary Alderman’ at such events. An Honorary Alderman will receive invitations to all civic and social events to which Members of the Council are also invited.

2.2 The badge of Honorary Alderman must only be worn at civic events outside the Borough at the specific request of the organisers of the event.

2.3 Those elected to the roll of Honorary Alderman are entitled to use the title ‘Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Wokingham’.

2.4 An Honorary Alderman does not carry any right to attend meetings of the Council or its committees or to claim any allowances payable under the Members’ Allowances Scheme.

3. Criteria for Appointment

3.1 The appointment of Honorary Alderman is to confer recognition on previous Councillors who, over a period of time, have made a significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service.

3.2 Any person nominated must meet the following criteria:

- a) No longer holds the position of Councillor;
- b) Must have served for a minimum of 20 years on the District/Borough Council;
- c) Must have rendered eminent services during their time on the District/Borough Council;
- d) Must have made a significant contribution to the Council and the people it represents.

3.3 Past Member of Council, Angus Ross has been duly nominated having met the criteria in 3.2 above. Mr Ross was a District/Borough Councillor for 32 years and represented Wokingham Without Ward during this time, as well as being the last Chairman of Wokingham District Council and the first Mayor of the Borough Council.

In his time on the Council, Mr Ross has played a significant role for the Borough in many organisations such as the Veteran Tree Association, and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority, and has also served as the Council’s Armed Forces Champion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£912.50	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

£912.50 is required to purchase a Badge of Office and Illuminated Scroll. Costs will be met from the Mayor's and Democratic Services' budgets.

Cross-Council Implications

None

Public Sector Equality Duty

N/A

Climate Emergency – This Council has declared a climate emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030

None

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

None

List of Background Papers

None

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