

CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Thursday 12 December 2013

at 4.00 p.m.

in Committee Room 'A'

MEMBERS: CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE:

Councillors S Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Dawkins, Martin-Wells and Simmons

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2013**
- 4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
- 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
- 6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006**

EXEMPT ITEMS

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph



referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

7. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 7.1 Nominations for Election as Freeman/Freewoman of the Borough – *Chief Executive* (para 2)



CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

25 July 2013

The meeting commenced at 1.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor S Akers-Belcher (In the Chair)

Councillors Dawkins, Simmons and Wells

Officers: Dave Stubbs, Chief Executive

Alyson Caman, Legal Services Manager

Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None

3. Business Report (*Chief Solicitor and Democratic Services Team Manager*)

Honorary Titles

The Chief Solicitor reported that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009 amended the Local Government Act 1972 Act insofar as making reference to 'Honorary titles' as opposed to explicit mention to 'Honorary alderman and freemen'. Further recognition had been given to the conferment of such distinction upon an 'honorary alderwomen' as well as the long held description of honorary aldermen'. This is equally applicable in the use of the singular description of 'alderman' and 'alderwoman' within the legislation. It also provided;

'A principal council 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 on whom they have conferred the title of honorary alderman or alderwoman'.

It was noted that the amendments were also translated across to allow for recognition of the title of 'honorary freeman' as well as that of 'honorary

freewoman'. There was also the comparable provision for a Council to mark the occasion of conferment of such an honour through a suitable gift/presentation. The preconditions for the consideration of such an honour, namely, to a person of distinction who in the opinion of the Council have 'rendered eminent service' were retained unaltered, as were the formal procedural requirements, associated with the passing of the necessary resolution at the specially convened meeting."

RESOLVED – That the item be noted.

Nominations for the Award of Civic Honours

Members were reminded that Council, at its meeting held on 30th July 2009, had agreed the process relating to the nomination and election of Honorary Freeman and Alderman, a copy of which was appended to the report. Nominations received would be considered by this Committee which had the authority to recommend a nomination to Council. The role and function of the Committee was approved by Council as part of the adoption of the Constitution under new governance arrangements as shown in Appendix 2

At a meeting of Council held on 11 March 2010 it had been agreed that, in order to address concerns of some Members about potentially devaluing Civic Honours, a moratorium of three years be imposed before any further honours were conferred, unless someone was to be recognised for an exceptional achievement. Given that the moratorium had ended and that nominations had been received since the moratorium was imposed, Members were requested to consider the process for nominations which had been received to date and whether to invite the submission of additional nominations. In the event that Members agreed to invite the submission of nominations, a suggested timeline was presented for consideration.

RESOLVED – (i) That submission of nominations be advertised in accordance with the timeline set out in the report and
(ii) That those nominations which were received during the moratorium are considered when the Committee meet to discuss nominations received as a result of the advertisement inviting additional nominations.

The meeting concluded at 1.15 p.m.

CHAIR