

CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday 12 December 2016

at 9.30 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE:

Councillors C Akers-Belcher, Barclay, Cook, Moore and Tempest.

Co-opted Member – Councillor Martin-Wells

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2016.
4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
5. **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.



6. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION

- 6.1 Nominations for Election as Freeman/Freewoman and Alderman and Alderwoman of the Borough - *Chief Executive (para 2)*

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT



CIVIC HONOURS COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

1 September 2016

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

Present:

Councillor Cook (In the Chair)
Councillors S Akers-Belcher, Barclay and Tempest.

Co-opted Member – Councillor R Martin-Wells

Officers: Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor
Amanda Whitaker, Democratic Services Team Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of interest by Members

None

3. Business Report – Nominations for the Award of Civic Honours *(Chief Solicitor)*

The Chief Solicitor reported 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 as appended to the report. Tabled at the meeting was an updated process to the Committee at its meeting on 12 December 2013. The role and function of the Civic Honours Committee had been approved by Council as appended to the report also.

Members were advised that Council on 8 May 2014 agreed that, in order to address concerns of some Members about potentially devaluing Civic Honours, a moratorium of two years be imposed before any further honours are conferred, unless someone was to be recognised for an exceptional achievement. Given that the moratorium had ended and that one nomination has been received since the moratorium was imposed, Members were requested to consider the process for the nomination which had been received to date and whether to advertise inviting the submission of additional nominations. In the event that Members agreed to invite the submission of nominations, a timeline was presented for consideration.

Following presentation of the report, the Committee discussed issues arising from the report. Members agreed that an invitation to submit nominations for election as Freeman/Freewoman of the Borough should appear in one edition of Hartbeat (the September edition) and a closing date for nominations of two months from publication of the magazine was agreed. The Committee agreed to meet again, ideally in December 2016 to consider nominations.

The Committee agreed to a suggestion made at the meeting that nominations should be sought as set out in the timeline and thereafter a moratorium of four years be imposed ending in 2020, unless recognition for an exceptional achievement was applicable.

The Committee supported a view expressed by a member at the meeting that the process relating to the nomination of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman should be amended so that nominations are made by any Hartlepool Borough Councillor/Committee or Council only. It was agreed, therefore, that reference to nominations from a 'political party or group connected with the Council', should be deleted from the agreed process for nominations.

Decision

The Committee agreed the following process to be adopted in respect of nominations for Civic Honours:-

1. Advertise in Hartbeat magazine in the September edition supplemented by press releases and use of Facebook and Twitter.
2. Closing date to be 2 months after publication of Hartbeat
3. Civic Honours Committee to meet to discuss nominations in December 2016.
4. Individuals to be consulted on whether they accept their nominations
5. Accepted nominations to be submitted to next Ordinary Council meeting for approval.
6. A Special Council to be convened to confer honours on a date agreed by the Ceremonial Mayor.

That a moratorium of four years be imposed ending in 2020, unless recognition for an exceptional achievement was applicable.

That the process relating to the nomination of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman be amended to delete reference to nominations from a 'Political Party or group connected with the Council.'

The meeting concluded at 1.25 p.m.

CHAIR