



ADUR & WORTHING
COUNCILS

Joint Governance Committee
28 July 2022

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

Conferment of Honorary Alderman - Sean McDonald and Robert Smytherman

Report by the Interim Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Worthing, on former Mayors Sean McDonald and Robert Smytherman, who are no longer members of the Council.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Joint Governance Committee is invited to consider the granting of the Honorary Aldermanship of the Borough of Worthing to former Mayors Sean McDonlad and Robert Smytherman.
- 2.2. If Committee agrees 2.1 above, then to make the following recommendation to Worthing Borough Council:

That a special meeting of the Council be arranged under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act for the specific purpose of conferring the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to Sean McDonald and Robert Smytherman.

3. Context

- 3.1. It is the tradition of Worthing Borough Council that when a former Mayor retires from the Council as an elected representative (a Councillor), or, is defeated at the elections, they are recommended for appointment as Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman of the Borough.
- 3.2. Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1972, provides the following criteria for honorary Alderman / honorary Alderwoman, namely:

“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.”

- 3.3. Councils can decide their own criteria or tradition for the conferment of the honorary title.
- 3.4. These appointments are honorary in nature so the persons appointed to the office do not carry out Council duties or have a vote.
- 3.5. Honorary Alderwomen / Aldermen may attend and take part in civic ceremonies as invited but will not have the right to participate in meetings of the Council, or to receive any allowances or payments under section 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1. The Joint Governance Committee is invited to consider the granting of the Honorary Aldermanship of the Borough of Worthing to former Mayors Sean McDonald and Robert Smytherman.
- 4.2. Former Mayor of the Borough, Robert Smytherman, retired from the Council in May 2022.
- 4.3. Robert Smytherman represented the Tarring Ward from 2002 to 2022 and was Mayor of the Borough in 2013-2014.
- 4.4. Former Mayor of the Borough, Sean McDonald, was not re-elected following the local election held in May 2022.

- 4.5. Sean McDonald represented the Northbrook Ward from 2014 to 2022 and was Mayor of the Borough in 2016-2017.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. It is customary to present a Scroll commemorating the conferment and to hold a small reception, to celebrate the granting of Honorary Aldermanship after the Special Council Meeting; expenditure for which would be contained within the existing budget for Council refreshments.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1. The power to appoint Honorary Alderman is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 6.2. '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'.
- 6.3. Each Council can decide its own criteria or tradition for the appointment, the criteria for Worthing Borough Council was approved in December 2013 and is attached as Annex A.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

None.

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Sustainability & Risk Assessment

1. Economic

Matter considered, no matters arising.

2. Social

2.1 Social Value

Matter considered, no matters arising.

2.2 Equality Issues

All former Mayors who are no longer members of the Borough Council are considered for conferment of the honorary title 'Alderman/Alderwoman'.

2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

Matter considered, no matters arising.

2.4 Human Rights Issues

Matter considered, no matters arising.

3. Environmental

Matter considered, no matters arising.

4. Governance

The reputation of the Borough Council's tradition of honouring past Mayors would be questioned if a past Mayor was not considered as an Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman.