

Standards Committee

11 July 2016

Time 12.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Oversight

Venue Council Chamber - 4th Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Barry Findlay (Con)

Vice-chair

Labour

Cllr Ian Brookfield
Cllr Linda Leach
Cllr Tersaim Singh
Cllr Martin Waite

Quorum for this meeting is two Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

5 **Honorary Alderman (Pages 3 - 6)**

To consider whether to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Bishan Dass and on former Councillor Richard Fredrick Whitehouse. (Report to follow)

Standards Committee

11 July 2016

Report title	Honorary Alderman	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Roger Lawrence Leader of the Council	
Key decision	No	
In forward plan	No	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Kevin O'Keefe, Director of Governance	
Originating service	Democratic Services	
Accountable employee(s)	Colin Parr	Head Of Governance
	Tel	01902 550105
	Email	colin.parr@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be considered by	Council, 20 July 2016	

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened on 20 July 2016 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Bishan Dass and on former Councillor Richard Whitehouse.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider whether to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Dass and on former Councillor Whitehouse

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In July 1998 the Council agreed to establish a policy for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen, for which there is provision in the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 249). Subsequently, in September 1998, the then Policy and Resources Committee endorsed a procedure for reporting to Council on this matter and determined the eligibility criteria. The service criterion was reduced from 24 years to 20 years by resolution of full Council on 14 July 2010.

- 2.2 Mr Dass ceased to be a Member of the Council in May 2016 after a total of 24 years' distinguished service. During this time he served on many Council bodies too numerous to mention, but in particular was Deputy Mayor in 1985 to 1986 and Mayor in 1986 to 1987. Mr Dass was also Chair of the Licensing Committee from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2011 to 2015.
- 2.3 Mr Dass' service meets the criterion for eligibility for conferment agreed by the Council. And, following consultation with the political groups on the Council it is proposed that the title of Honorary Alderman is bestowed on Mr Dass.
- 2.4 Mr Whitehouse ceased to be a Member of the Council in May 2016 after 32 years' distinguished service. During this time he served on many Council and outside bodies too numerous to mention, but in particular was Deputy Mayor in 1992 to 1993 and Mayor in 1993 to 1994. Mr Whitehouse was also Chair of the Scrutiny Board from 2008 to 2010.
- 2.5 Mr Whitehouse's service meets the criterion for eligibility for conferment agreed by the Council. And, following consultation with the political groups on the Council it is proposed that the title of Honorary Alderman is bestowed on Mr Whitehouse.
- 2.6 Under the provisions of the Council's Constitution, the function of advising full Council on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman rests with the Standards Committee, and therefore, the Committee is asked to consider this proposal.
- 2.7 Honorary Aldermen are invited to attend full Council meetings in a non-participating capacity and are also invited to various functions such as Civic and Remembrance Sunday and other appropriate civic events. Honorary Aldermen are also afforded access to Councillors' rooms and Councillors' car park. The names of Honorary Aldermen are inscribed on a roll of honour board on the ground floor of the Civic Centre.
- 2.8 The Local Government Act 1972 Act provides that an extraordinary Council meeting be convened for the purpose of conferring the title and the necessary resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting. It is proposed that the extraordinary meeting be convened prior to the ordinary Council meeting on 20 July 2016.

3.0 Financial implications

- 3.1 As was the case with previous Honorary Aldermen, it would be the intention to present Mr Dass and Mr Whitehouse with a badge of office, the badges are already held by the Council. There will be small costs of inscribing Mr Dass and Mr Whitehouse's names on the badges and also on the roll of honour board. These costs can be met from existing budgets. [GE/05072016/E]

4.0 Legal implications

- 4.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a local authority to 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 the Council but who are not then Councillors of the Council”. [RB/05072016/A]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

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