

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL (SPECIAL MEETING) - WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2016**

**HONORARY ALDERMAN**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

**(Contact: Keith Butler, Tel: (01993) 861521)**

**1. PURPOSE**

To consider conferring on Sir Barry Norton, former Leader of the Council, the title of Honorary Alderman.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That, in the light of the information in this report and the discussion at the meeting, Council considers conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Sir Barry Norton.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1. At its meeting on 18 May 2016 the Council approved the following motion, notice of which had been given in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure:

*“This Council recognises the outstanding service given to the Council and the people of West Oxfordshire by the former Leader of the Council, Sir Barry Norton. Council resolves (i) to convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council to take place at 2 pm on Wednesday 29 June 2016 for the purpose of considering conferring on Sir Barry the title of Honorary Alderman, as allowed by s249 of the Local Government Act 1972; and (ii) that the ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for that date shall commence at 2:15 pm, or at the conclusion of the extraordinary meeting, whichever is the later”*

3.2. Before the Local Government Act 1972 became operative, Councils had two categories of Members – Councillors and Aldermen. The Aldermen were chosen by their fellow Councillors. The term Aldermen is derived from the Old English title of *ealdorman*, literally meaning ‘elder man’, and was used by the chief nobles presiding over shires.

3.3. The position of Alderman was abolished under the provisions of the 1972 Act but, in recognition of the position Aldermen used to play in council life, Section 249(1) of the Act provides that a Council may confer the title of ‘Honorary Alderman’ on persons who are not current Members but have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members.

3.4. The office of Honorary Alderman does not in itself convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities, other than a ceremonial role at Civic functions. Honorary Aldermen may attend and take part in Civic Ceremonies as the Council decides but shall not, as such, have the right to attend meetings of the Council, nor receive any allowances or other payments.

**4. ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS**

None applicable – it is for Council to agree or not to the proposal as it sees fit.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## 6. RISKS

None

Frank Wilson  
Head of Paid Service

(Author: Keith Butler, Tel: (01993) 861521; EMail: [keith.butler@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:keith.butler@westoxon.gov.uk) )  
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Background Papers:  
None