



**WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL**

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL – 22 JULY 2026, 2.00 PM
Subject	AWARD OF HONORARY TITLE TO JULIAN COOPER
Wards affected	None
Accountable member	Councillor Andy Graham, Leader of the Council Email: andy.graham@westoxon.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Andrea McCaskie, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services Email: Andrea.McCaskie@westoxon.gov.uk
Report author	Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services Email: andrew.brown@westoxon.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on former councillor Julian Cooper for eminent services to the Council.
Annexes	None
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: a) Confer the title of Honorary Aldermen on former councillor Julian Cooper for eminent services to the Council.
Corporate priorities	Working Together for West Oxfordshire
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	None

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Council may, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman titles on Councillors who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of the Council.
- 1.2** A resolution to confer an honorary title must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting at a Council Meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 1.3** Council at its annual meeting on 20 May 2026 passed a motion to hold an extraordinary meeting for the purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on former councillor Julian Cooper. Council resolved to:
 - 1. Convene an extraordinary meeting of the Council to take place at 2pm on 22nd July 2026 for the purpose of considering conferring on Mr Julian Cooper the title of Honorary Alderman, as allowed by s249 of the Local Government Act 1972; and*
 - 2. Note that the ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for that date shall commence at 2.15pm, or at the conclusion of the extraordinary meeting, whichever is the later.*
- 1.4** The Council has previously conferred the honour on one former Councillor – Sir Barry Norton, in June 2016.

2. PROTOCOL ON CONFERMENT OF HONORARY TITLES

- 2.1** The Council's Protocol on the Conferment of Honorary Titles was adopted in 2023 and forms Part 6F of the Council's Constitution. It is based on the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.2** The Protocol requires that motions seeking to convene an extraordinary meeting should be brought to the annual meeting of Council. It also clarifies that nominations should be restricted to former Members of the Council who have retired as Councillors and chosen not to stand for re-election to West Oxfordshire District Council.
- 2.3** Two thirds of members present and voting at the extraordinary meeting must be satisfied that the former Member has provided eminent service to West Oxfordshire District Council. In reaching this conclusion, Members may consider various issues including, but not limited to, length of service to the Council, roles appointed or elected to within the Council, and any other notable contribution made.

3. JULIAN COOPER

- 3.1** Former West Oxfordshire District Councillor Julian Cooper served on the Council from 1986 to 2006 and from 2010 to 2026, representing first Woodstock ward and later Woodstock and Bladon ward.
- 3.2** Julian Cooper was Chair of the Council from 2021 to 2023 and served on a number of committees, including as Chair of the Uplands Area Planning Sub-Committee from 2022 to 2026 and Chair of the Development Control Committee from 2023 to 2025.

- 3.3 Julian Cooper also led the (then opposition) Liberal Democrat Group on the Council for a period from 2012 to 2019.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Council could decide not to bestow the honorary title but has previously passed a motion to hold an extraordinary meeting for this purpose.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.
- 5.2 An extraordinary meeting of the Council has been convened to bestow the title of Honorary Title on the same day as an ordinary Council meeting. This largely avoids the additional costs of holding a meeting on a separate date e.g. travel allowances.
- 5.3 An Honorary Alderman will be presented with a certificate, a plate and medallion. The associated costs are met from within existing budgets.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman on Councillors who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to it as former Members. The resolution to confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting at a specially-convened Council Meeting.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no climate or ecological emergency implications arising directly from this report.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

(END)