

Cherwell District Council

Special Council

18 July 2016

Appointment of Honorary Alderman

Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To consider the appointment of former Councillor Fred Blackwell as an Honorary Alderman of Cherwell District Council,

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To appoint former Councillor Fred Blackwell as an Honorary Alderman of Cherwell District Council in recognition of his eminent 45 years of service in public office as an elected Member of this Council and its predecessor authority, Banbury Borough Council.
- 1.2 To thank former Councillor Blackwell in particular for his time on the Planning Committee, where his experience and local knowledge was of particular help to all Members.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The power to appoint Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen is contained in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.2 The title of Honorary Alderman/ Alderwoman can only be conferred 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 Councillors of the Council.” Service rendered as a member of a predecessor authority can also be taken into consideration.
- 2.3 At the 16 May 2012 meeting of Council, members resolved “That the procedure of appointment for Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen and Honorary Freemen/Freewomen and their associated roles and privileges be adopted.” (Minute 15).

- 2.4 The resolution to appoint to these positions has to be passed by at least 2/3 of the members present at a specially convened meeting. The resolution should recite the particular grounds upon which the Council have come to their decision.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 In accordance with the procedure for appointing Honorary Aldermen, Councillor Barry Wood has nominated former Councillor Fred Blackwell to be made an Honorary Alderman of Cherwell District Council in recognition of his eminent 45 years of service in public office as an Elected Councillor of this Council and its predecessor authority, Banbury Borough Council.
- 3.2 During this long service, former Cllr Blackwell held many offices, including that of Chairman of Council, Executive Member and Chairman of Committees. He is particularly thanked for his time on the Planning Committee where his experience and local knowledge was of particular help to members.
- 3.3 In accordance with the adopted procedure the nomination has been assessed by the Chairman and the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chief Executive who are now submitting their recommendations to the Council.
- 3.4 Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen receive the following privileges:
- The name of the recipient is inscribed on a roll of honour at the Council Offices.
 - A formal ceremony is held at which the recipient is presented with a Scroll.
 - A seat will be made available in the Aldermen and Freeman's Gallery at meetings of full Council.
 - An invitation to major Council events and ceremonies including Annual Council
 - An electronic copy of the Members Bulletin
 - Access to the Members car park and Members Room at Bodicote House

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 Pursuant to Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the council's adopted procedure, persons who have rendered eminent services to the Council as past members are eligible to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman, subject to two thirds of the Members present at a specially convened meeting voting in favour. Former Councillor Blackwell meets the eligibility criteria and is fully deserving of appointment as an Honorary Alderman.

5.0 Consultation

Chairman of the Council
Chief Executive

Supports the proposal

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not to make an appointment as an Honorary Alderman. This is not recommended as former Councillor Blackwell has rendered eminent services to the Council and the appointment recognises and expresses gratitude for his 45 years' service in public office.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 Pursuant to section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with the council's adopted procedure, persons who have rendered eminent services to the Council and any predecessor authority as past members are eligible to be appointed an Honorary Alderman, subject to two thirds of the Members present at a specially convened meeting voting in favour.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

None

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

N/A

Lead Councillor

Councillor Barry Wood, Leader of the Council

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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