

Bristol City Council

Audit Committee

24th April 2015

Report of: Democratic Services Manager

Title: The Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Democratic Services Officer

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that, due to their significant contribution to the local community as outlined below, the Committee endorses the proposals that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred upon:

- a. Mark Bailey
- b. Sean Beynon
- c. Faruk Choudhury
- d. Jay Jethwa
- e. Jackie Norman
- f. Colin Smith

and recommends to the full Council accordingly.

Summary

To enable the Committee to decide which nominations should be referred to full Council for consideration of Honorary Alderman status

Policy

1. This report is submitted in accordance with the Council's policy on the arrangements to be followed in respect of the granting of alderman status to former members of the Council.

Consultation

2. Internal/External

Not applicable - this report is submitted following nominations from the Party.

Context

3. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a person who has, in the Council's opinion, rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member.
4. Council have agreed that Audit Committee, in its role of monitoring and ensuring ethical standards and probity within Bristol City Council, should ensure all Honorary Aldermen nominations meet the criteria as set out below before they are forwarded to the Council for approval:

A minimum period of ten years service or having served in a position of significant public responsibility on behalf of the Council or for a Bristol ward on the former Avon County Council.

6. An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. Aldermen are not entitled to receive any members' allowances or other payments of allowances, expenses etc. Whilst a person who is a serving City Councillor cannot be made an Honorary Alderman, the Act does appear to envisage that a person on whom this honour has been conferred may subsequently be re-elected as a Councillor. In these circumstances, the Act specially provides that no Honorary Alderman shall, whilst serving as a city councillor, be entitled to be addressed as Alderman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the Council as an Alderman.
7. Honorary Aldermen substitute for the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor on a relatively infrequent basis. They are also invited to all major civic events, church services and Council meetings. They have no other formal role. Honorary Alderman, from time to time, be nominated by the Outside Bodies Committee, to serve as the Council's representative, on a specific outside body.
8. Council has agreed that the Honorary Aldermen's Association should be supported, but that no support should be provided for individual Honorary Aldermen.

Proposal

9. The Committee is asked to endorse the following Honorary Alderman nomination as follows:

10. Nominations

- (i) - Details contained in Appendix A – Mark Bailey
- (ii) - Details contained in Appendix B – Sean Beynon
- (iii) - Details contained in Appendix C – Faruk Choudhury
- (iv) - Details contained in Appendix D – Jay Jethwa
- (v) - Details contained in Appendix E – Jackie Norman
- (vi) - Details contained in Appendix F – Colin Smith

11. Other Options Considered

Not Applicable

12. Risk Assessment

Not Applicable

13. Public Sector Equality Duties

Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant

protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);

- encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to - tackle prejudice; and - promote understanding.

14. Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As set out in the report

(Legal advice provided by Shahzia Daya, Service Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Financial

(a) Revenue

None

(b) Capital

None

Land

None

Personnel

None

Appendices:

Nominations for Alderman

Appendix A – Details of Mark Bailey

Appendix B – Details of Sean Beynon

Appendix C – Details of Faruk Choudhury

Appendix D – Details of Jay Jethwa

Appendix E – Jackie Norman

Appendix F – Colin Smith

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None

Mark Bailey represented Windmill Hill Ward on Bristol City Council from May 2003 to May 2015.

He was the Liberal Democrats Chief Whip from May 2004 until he stepped down from the council in May 2015.

Over the last 12 years he has served on various committees including the old Education Scrutiny Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission, The Outside Bodies Committee, The Joint Employee Relations Board and the Corporate Employee Health and Safety Consultative Committee.

He is a longstanding governor of two primary schools in the ward, having served 16 years at Victoria Park Primary and 5 years at St Mary Redcliffe Primary School.

He is a member of many community organisation in the ward and is especially proud of being a founder member of two very successful park groups, the Victoria Park Action Group (VPAG) and The Community of Perrett's Park (COPP).

Sean Beynon

Councillor for Southville ward from 2007 to present day

Labour Lead on Children's Services 2009 -2010, 2011 – 2012?

(unsure), 2012 - 2013

Chair of S & E Planning Committee 2010 – 2011

Corporate Parenting Panel 2014 - 2015

Adoption Panel

Faruk Choudhury

He was first elected in 2007 for Easton.

Lord Mayor 2013-14

Deputy Lord Mayor 2014-15

Shadow Cabinet Member for Community Cohesion and Community Safety 2011-12

Jay Jethwa

Cllr Jay Jethwa was elected for Stockwood Ward in 2007 and represented Stockwood to May 2015.

She has served on various committees, commissions and working groups. Licensing and PSP from 2007 until present (2015) (Vice Chair of Licensing for approx. 2 years), Planning (approx. 3 years), CYPS (approx. 2 years), Peoples Scrutiny (approx. 1 year), Public Rights of Way (approx. 1 year) Legacy Commission (approx. 3 years), Waycroft Primary (now academy) from approx. 2006-2011) Burnbush Primary (approx. 2 years) Lansdown Pupil Referral Unit (approx. 1 year) Post Office Working Group, Stockwood Community Group.

Jackie Norman

Jackie Norman was first elected Councillor for Brislington West in a by election in July 1997. Over the years she has served on the Leisure Services and Social Services Committees, the Children's Services Scrutiny Commission which she chaired for a year and now the People Scrutiny Commission. She has been a member of the Corporate Parenting Panel since its inception and is the Lib Dem member of the Bristol Fostering Panel. She has also served as a member of the Bristol Adoption Panel for the last 8 years. She has been a member of the governing body of St Annes Infant School in my ward since 1997 and am currently the vice chair of the governing body of the Hope virtual school for children in care.

Colin Smith

Served as a Councillor for Whitchurch Park between 2002 – 2006, then Bedminster ward between 2007 to present day

Committees:

All 3 planning committees

Chair of S & E for at least 2 years

Chair of Enterprise DC 2012/13

Vice Chair of DC B committee 2014/2015

Licensing committee (at some point)

Housing Scrutiny

Select Committee for Museums

Select Committee for Anti-Social Behaviour

Used to sub a lot for various committees too

Lord Mayor 2010 – 2011

Deputy Lord Mayor 2011 - 2012