



Council

A meeting of the Council to receive nominations for Honorary Aldermen will be held at The Great Hall at The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Thursday 16 May 2024 at 5.00 pm

Councillors are hereby summoned to attend

Agenda

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1. | Apologies for Absence |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. |
| 3. | Chairman's Announcements To receive communications from the Chairman of the Council. |
| Items of Business | |
| 4. | Nominations for Honorary Aldermen (Pages 5 - 16) |
| 5. | Urgent Business (previously agreed with the Chairman) The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda. |
| 6. | Exclusion of Press and Public In respect of the following items the Chairman may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Committee is requested to resolve: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if |

the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them”

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
8 May 2024

Council Members:

Councillor John Shephard (Chair)

Councillor Jo Gilford (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Ann Addison

Councillor Rufia Ashraf

Councillor Jamal Alwahabi

Councillor Azizur Rahman

Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb

Councillor Fiona Baker

Councillor Dermot Bambridge

Councillor Harry Barrett

Councillor William Barter

Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Councillor Phil Bignell

Councillor Lizzy Bowen

Councillor Rebecca Breese

Councillor Adam Brown

Councillor Michael Brown

Councillor Muna Cali

Councillor Alan Chantler

Councillor Pinder Chauhan

Councillor Nazim Choudary

Councillor Imran Ahmed Chowdhury BEM

Councillor Paul Clark

Councillor Stephen Clarke

Councillor Maggie Clubley

Councillor Fiona Cole

Councillor Raymond Connolly

Councillor Karen Cooper

Councillor Daniel Cribbin

Councillor Julie Davenport

Councillor Janice Duffy

Councillor Paul Dyball

Councillor Terrie Eales

Councillor Alison Eastwood

Councillor Penelope Flavell

Councillor Louisa Fowler

Councillor Rupert Frost

Councillor Terry Gilford

Councillor Matt Golby

Councillor André González De Savage

Councillor Andrew Grant

Councillor Mike Hallam

Councillor Enam Haque

Councillor Lauryn Harrington-Carter

Councillor Jonathan Harris

Councillor Cheryl Hawes

Councillor Rosie Herring

Councillor Stephen Hibbert

Councillor James Hill

Councillor Nigel Hinch

Councillor Keith Holland-Delamere
Councillor Rosie Humphreys
Councillor David James
Councillor Paul Joyce
Councillor Anna King
Councillor Phil Larratt
Councillor Malcolm Longley
Councillor Charles Manners
Councillor Ian McCord
Councillor Colin Morgan
Councillor Jonathan Nunn
Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor Wendy Randall
Councillor Jake Roberts
Councillor Cathrine Russell
Councillor Brian Sargeant
Councillor David Smith
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms
Councillor Laura Stevenson
Councillor Winston Strachan
Councillor Walter Tarasiewicz

Councillor Mark Hughes
Councillor Cecile Irving-Swift
Councillor Koulla Jolley
Councillor Andrew Kilbride
Councillor Jamie Lane
Councillor Daniel Lister
Councillor Greg Lunn
Councillor Peter Matten
Councillor Dennis Meredith
Councillor Charles Morton
Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Bob Purser
Councillor Emma Roberts
Councillor Sam Rumens
Councillor Lisa Samiotis
Councillor Sue Sharps
Councillor Zoe Smith
Councillor Carl Squires
Councillor Danielle Stone
Councillor Nick Sturges-Alex
Councillor Mike Warren

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

If a continuous fire alarm sounds you must evacuate the building via the nearest available

fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the assembly area as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

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Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Democratic Services via the following:

Tel:

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Street
Northampton
NN1 1DE



WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

16 May 2024

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Report Title | Nomination of Honorary Alderman |
| Report Author | Catherine Whitehead catherine.whitehead@westnorthants.gov.uk |

Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Monitoring Officer | Catherine Whitehead | 28/03/2024 |
| Chief Finance Officer (S.151) | Martin Henry | 28/03/2024 |
| Communications | Becky Hutson | 28/03/2024 |

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Alderman Scheme

Appendix B – Biographies of nominees

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Council to consider nominations for the Honorary Alderman role in accordance with the provisions in the Scheme attached at Appendix A.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 In 2023 the Council approved a scheme for the appointment of honorary Alderman. The Chief Executive has received a number of nominations in accordance with the Scheme and has consulted the members of the Civic Group in relation to those nominations. The Chief Executive is now recommending the acceptance of those nominations for the reasons set out in this report.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that Council approves the nominations to the role of Honorary Alderman as follows:
- Sandra Barnes MBE
 - Caryl Billingham MBE
 - Liz Griffin

- David Harries BEM
- Chris Millar
- Suresh Patel
- Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke
- Judy Shephard

4. Reason for Recommendations

To recognise and celebrate those who have given eminent service to the area.
To comply with the statutory framework and the local Scheme attached.

5. Report Background

5.1 In 2023 the Council established a scheme for the creation of Honorary Aldermen, delegating responsibility for creation and implementation of the Scheme to the Chief Executive in consultation with the members of the Civic Group.

5.2 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the position of Honorary Alderman is open to:

“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 members of the Council”.

5.3 The nominees have been identified as qualifying under the following definition of eminent services:

Serving as an elected member for a total of 12 years for West Northamptonshire Council and/or one of the following councils:

a. the former Northampton Borough Council,

b. the former Daventry District Council,

c. the former South Northamptonshire Council, or

d. the part of the former Northamptonshire County Council which covered the West Northamptonshire area

AND *meeting at least one of the following conditions:*

· Holding senior political office with distinction;

· Having an exceptional record of community service and leadership.

5.4 Predecessor Councils conferred the title Honorary Alderman on a number of former Councillors and under transitional provisions those persons are Honorary Alderman of the new Council. The nominees are the first for West Northamptonshire Council itself.

- 5.5 The position of Honorary Alderman and Councillor are mutually exclusive. In the event of an Alderman being elected as a Councillor, membership as an Honorary Alderman would cease.
- 5.6 Honorary Aldermen are subject to the same codes of conduct and standards requirements as a Councillor and would face the sanction of loss of title and role should they be found in breach of the codes and standards set out in the Council's Constitution. Removal of the title of Honorary Alderman will follow the same process as appointment.
- 5.7 The nominations for the appointment of Honorary Alderman are as follows:
- Sandra Barnes MBE
 - Caryl Billingham MBE
 - Liz Griffin
 - David Harries BEM
 - Chris Millar
 - Suresh Patel
 - Mary-Anne Sergison Brooke
 - Judy Shephard
- 5.8 Short biographies of each of those nominated are attached in Appendix B to this report.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The issues and choices insofar as they relate to the appointment of Honorary Alderman is as set out in the attached Scheme. An Alderman can be appointed if the Council is satisfied that the individual meets the criteria set out. Council can also reject a nomination for failure to meet the criteria.
- 6.2 **Resources and Financial**
- 6.2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly. Badges have been purchased at minimal cost to award to Honorary Alderman using existing budgets.
- 6.3 **Legal**
- 6.3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that: "a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary aldermen 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 members of that council".
- 6.3.2 Section 32 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No2) Regulations 2008 confirms that a person who has been admitted as an Honorary Alderman of a local government area that has been abolished shall be treated as being admitted as an Honorary Alderman of the new reorganised area.

6.4 **Risk**

6.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6.5 **Consultation**

6.5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Civic Working Group in relation to the selection of candidates for nomination.

6.6 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

6.6.1 The Scheme provides for the involvement of the Civic Group as consultees. This is a non-executive matter with the decision requiring support from two thirds of elected members.

6.7 **Climate Impact**

6.7.1 There is no climate impact to consider in relation to the recommendation.

6.8 **Community Impact**

6.8.1 The Scheme is designed to recognise service to the community in accordance with the criteria set out.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 None

Scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen of West Northamptonshire Council

Background

1. In accordance with the provisions of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may 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 that Council, but who are not then members of the Council”.

2. In order for Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman, a special meeting of full Council needs to be convened for this purpose and a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting members present at that meeting.
3. For the purposes of this scheme “eminent services” shall mean serving as an elected member for a total of 12 years for West Northamptonshire Council and/or one of the following councils:
 - a. the former Northampton Borough Council,
 - b. the former Daventry District Council,
 - c. the former South Northamptonshire Council, or
 - d. the part of the former Northamptonshire County Council which covered the West Northamptonshire area

and meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- Holding senior political office with distinction;
- Having an exceptional record of community service and leadership.

4. In exceptional circumstances less than 12 years’ service may be considered upon the recommendation of the Leader of the Council.
5. No person who meets the above qualification criteria will automatically become an Honorary Alderman, but they may be nominated and enrolled as an Honorary Alderman in accordance with the provisions of this scheme.

Nomination and Enrolment

6. Nominations for the position of Honorary Alderman should only be made where there are exceptional cases meriting this honour.
7. Any serving West Northamptonshire Councillor can submit a nomination in writing to the Chief Executive Officer with the support of their Group Leader or the Leader of the Council.

8. Once a valid nomination has been received by the Chief Executive Officer, informal discussions will take place involving a panel of members chaired by the Chairman of the Council to establish whether there is sufficient support for the nomination. The panel of members will be the Civic Working Group, with additional attendees invited as required. The individual will also be consulted as to whether they wish to accept the offer if made.

If there is sufficient support for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on the nominated person, a special meeting will be convened immediately prior to the next ordinary meeting of full Council for this purpose.

9. At a specially convened meeting, full Council will formally resolve to confer the honorary title and will celebrate the achievements of the recipient and make any presentation to them. The summons for this meeting will contain the proposal to award the honour including the reason.

Privileges

10. An Honorary Alderman shall be entitled to the following privileges:
 - To enjoy the courtesy title of “Alderman” and to be so addressed.
 - To be named as an Alderman on the Council website.
 - To attend, as an observer, meetings of the Council and to have a seat made available for them.
 - To receive invitations to all civic and social events to which members of the Council are invited.
 - In the event of the Council deciding to give a badge, robe or emblem to Honorary Aldermen, to wear such a badge, robe or emblem on civic occasions.
11. The Council may decide to alter, amend, supplement or withdraw the privileges set out in this scheme.
12. Honorary Aldermen shall not have the right to influence meetings of the Council or a committee of the Council or to receive any allowance or other payment under the Members' Allowance Scheme.

Withdrawal of the title and its privileges

13. The Council shall retain the competence to withdraw the title of Honorary Alderman and its privileges in particular cases.
14. Withdrawal of the title and its privileges shall be by way of a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of voting members present at a specially convened full Council meeting.

The summons for that meeting will contain a proposal to withdraw the title and its privileges including the reason.

15. Honorary positions are non-political roles. In the event of an Alderman subsequently resuming membership of the Council, they may not be addressed as Alderman or benefit from any privileges that Aldermen may be entitled to until they once more cease to be a Councillor.

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Biographies of those nominated for the title of Honorary Alderman

Sandra Barnes MBE

Sandra was first elected to the former South Northamptonshire Council in 1995 and represented Tove Ward until 2021. In 1999 she was later elected Leader, a post that she held for 11 years. During her time with SNC, Sandra also held other leadership positions including Chairman of the Council, and was a member of several other groups. Sandra was involved in appointing two Chief Executives, several senior officers and Housing Associations.

Prior to the establishment of the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation in 2004, Sandra was called to give evidence, under oath, to a House of Lords committee looking into the setting up and representation of local authorities on this body. She was appointed to the Board for 6 years.

In 1999 Sandra was appointed by the Minister to be a member of the UK delegation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to the Council of Europe. Sandra fulfilled this role for 16 years and is said to have found it challenging but very stimulating and enjoyable. She was elected Leader of the delegation, which comprised 18 full members and 18 substitutes.

Sandra was also elected President of the Social Cohesion committee, and perhaps her most significant role as President was when she was appointed rapporteur to the two important committees drafting the Convention on Trafficking Human Beings and the Convention on Violence against Women including Domestic Violence Abuse.

Sandra's list of achievements goes on - she was also involved in work with the Committee of the Regions at the EU Parliament. She was appointed to various other European Municipalities committees. She was a Director of the LGIB and on the LGA Management Committee. She was appointed to the East Midlands Cultural Consortium and was a member of the East Midlands Regional Assembly.

Sandra has been a Board member of various health bodies for many years including a stint as Chairman of the Family Health Services Authority. She has also been a Parish Councillor and Chairman of School Governors.

In 2010, Sandra was awarded the MBE for her service in the community and the NHS.

Caryl Billingham MBE

Caryl began her time in politics when she joined Brackley Town Council in 1975. She served on the Town Council until 2012 and during her many years of service, was elected Mayor of Brackley on five occasions.

In 1990, Caryl became a district Councillor for the former South Northamptonshire Council and went on to be elected as Chairman of the Council twice.

Since retiring from her role as Councillor, Caryl has continued to be an important figurehead for the town of Brackley and has been involved with almost every charity and organisation in the town in some way. Caryl was a board member for the South Northants Homes housing association, a trustee for the Home-Start Daventry and South Northants charity, as well as being Chairman of Brackley United Feoffee Charity.

Caryl has played an active role as a member of the Rotary club, been President of the Brackley Royal British Legion branch, President of the local amateur dramatic society and Chairman of the Brackley & District Band.

Caryl is also the Chair of Trustees for the Northamptonshire Yeomanry Association Benevolent Fund and has previously organised trips for veterans and their families to villages across France and Belgium.

In 2016, Caryl was awarded the MBE in the Queen's 90th Birthday honours for her dedication and service to the community of Brackley.

Liz Griffin

Liz was first elected as Councillor in May 1999, serving for over two decades at the former Daventry District Council before retiring from her role in 2021 at the end of DDC. During her time at the Council, Liz was elected to the position of Deputy Leader in 2004, serving in this position until 2020 when she stepped down to make way for a new leadership to be selected for the shadow authority.

Within her portfolio as Deputy Leader of the Council, Liz had responsibility for HR, and when asked about the highlights of her time in post, she notes this as being one of the elements that she most enjoyed.

During her time at Daventry District Council, Liz also enjoyed being elected to the position of Chairman in 2005. Throughout her year in office, she had the opportunity to represent the Council and various events and functions, whilst raising funds for charity at the same time.

Liz's desire to stand for Council was driven by her passion for her community and her ambition to try to make a difference. Throughout her two decades of service, Liz was a committed Councillor for her ward and acted as a real champion for her local community, standing up for her residents on many issues and attending the Woodford cum Membris Parish Council meeting each month without fail.

David Harries BEM

David was elected to Bugbrooke Parish Council in 1980 and has dedicated nearly 50 years to the parish as a member of the Council, currently serving as Vice-Chair. David also served as Councillor at the former South Northamptonshire Council between 2003 and 2021.

David has given much of his time to the community of Bugbrooke, chairing a number of organisations and charities in the area. He is currently the Chair of the Bugbrooke Millenium Green Trust, a charity which seeks to provide a green space for all and to promote native flora and fauna. David is also Chair of the Bugbrooke Sports and Community Centre Association.

David is well known for the work he has undertaken with the history society and for his continued efforts to promote and develop Bugbrooke and the surrounding area.

In 2016, David was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to this community.

Chris Millar

Chris was first elected to the former Daventry District Council in 1998 and served as Leader for over 20 years, taking over in August 1999 and stepping down in October 2019. Chris served the local

community and wards of Brixworth and Long Buckby with distinction during this time and oversaw a well-respected local authority.

In 2020, he went on to become the 48th and final Chairman of Daventry District Council, a role that he had been due to take on back in 2000 prior to becoming Leader. During his time as Chairman, Chris fundraised widely for Time2Talk and Marie Curie, whilst championing the town of Daventry and its surrounding area.

During his political career, Chris also served a short stint as a County Councillor and has acted as a supportive mentor to many new Councillors over the years.

Suresh Patel

Suresh was first elected to the former Northamptonshire County Council in 2009, initially representing St James and Briar Hill, which, following subsequent boundary changes became known as Old Duston. He was later elected on to Northampton Borough Council in 2011.

During his time at Northamptonshire County Council, Suresh served as Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Children's Services. Suresh also held the offices of Chief Whip and Business Manager, contributing a great deal to his political party during the transition to West Northamptonshire Council.

When the new unitary authorities were established in 2021, Suresh went on to represent East Hunsbury and the Nene Valley Ward. His experience serving on the Council's Standards Committee, and Audit and Licensing Committee, was complemented by his work in the community, as he also served on the Parish Councils of Duston and East Hunsbury & Wootton prior to his retirement in 2023.

Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke

Mary-Anne served as Councillor at the former South Northants Council for almost 40 years, from 1983 to 2021. She was the Chair of Planning and played a major part in transferring housing from South Northants Council to Grand Union, a move that tenants were very pleased with.

Mary-Anne also played a large role in the Housing Design Code for South Northants Council which produced housing stock which is well-regarded to date.

Following her retirement from the role of Councillor, Mary-Anne now serves as Trustee on Lady Blakenham's Charity Trust which gives grants to children, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

Mary-Anne has devoted many years to serving at both District and Parish Council level and plays an active role in the local community.

Judy Shephard

Judy first joined the former Northamptonshire County Council in 1997 and was elected as Councillor for 6 terms. Judy served for over 20 years for the Moulton Division, comprising the villages of Boughton, the Bramptons, Hannington, the Harlestons, Holcot, Moulton, Old, Overstone, Pitsford, Spratton and Walgrave.

During her time as a County Councillor, Judy was involved with a number of committees and initiatives. Most notably, she was Chairman of Development Control and Chairman of Heath, Adult Social Care

and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. In 2008, Judy was elected as Chairman of the County Council and undertook a successful term in this role.

Throughout her political career, Judy is known to have been a popular ward member, with a welcoming and positive attitude which allowed her to be accepted by all political parties.