

Council (Extraordinary)

SUMMONS AND AGENDA

DATE: Thursday 12 June 2014

TIME: 6.00 pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, Harrow
Civic Centre

All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Extraordinary Council Meeting for the transaction of the business set out.



Hugh Peart
Director of Legal and Governance Services

Despatch Date: Wednesday 4th June 2014

PRAYERS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Dr Suzanne Nti, will open the meeting with Prayers.

1. EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

This Extraordinary Council Meeting has been convened in accordance with the provisions of Rule 3.1.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all Members of the Council.

3. HONORARY ALDERMAN (Pages 1 - 10)

Report of the Director of Legal and Governance Services.

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL
12 JUNE 2014

HONORARY ALDERMAN

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REPORT FOR: EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2014

Subject: Honorary Alderman

Responsible Officer: Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and Governance Services

Exempt: No

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: Appendix 1 – Draft Resolution
Appendix 2 - Details of Service and Achievements

Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out proposals to mark in an appropriate manner the long service to the Authority of Richard Romain (32 years from election in May 1982).

Recommendations: That

(1) the Council pursuant to Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Harrow upon Richard David Romain BSc Hons following his retirement from the Council on 22 May 2014;

(2) subject to (1) above, the granting of the status of Honorary Alderman be recorded in an illuminated scroll and presented to the recipient and the associated costs be approved at this meeting;

(3) a ceremony for the presentation of the Illuminated Scroll, Badge and Robe be held on 24 July 2014.

Introduction

On 27 February 2014, Council agreed to convene a Special meeting on 12 June 2014 to consider conferring the honour of Honorary Alderman on Councillor Richard Romain upon his retirement from the Council on 22 May 2014. The former Councillor achieved 32 years continuous service as a Councillor in May 2014.

1. Statutory Background

Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides as follows:

“A principal Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting 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 the Council but who are not then Councillors of the Council”.

2. Harrow Context

2.1 The Council has previously conferred the title of Honorary Aldermen in July 1986, on former Conservative Councillors Frank Rees and Nan Rees. Frank Rees had served a total of 26 years as a Councillor and 3 years as an Alderman (prior to that office being abolished); Nan Rees had served for 22 years consecutively as a Councillor. Each had served as both Deputy Mayor and Mayor. Both have since died.

2.2 In May 2006 the Council conferred the title of Honorary Alderman on former Labour Councillor Keith Toms in recognition of eminent and distinguished services rendered to the Borough over a continuous period of 32 years as a Councillor. Alderman Toms also served as Deputy Mayor and Mayor of the Borough.

3. Process:

3.1 It should be noted that were the honour of Honorary Alderman to be conferred on former Councillor Romain this would be with effect from the date of his retirement as a Councillor. Former Councillor Romain retired in May 2014.

3.2 If the Authority wishes to proceed with the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman, a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present at this specially convened meeting of the Council is required.

4. Status of an Honorary Alderman

4.1 Being Honorary Alderman brings the following privileges:

- to enjoy the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman and to be so addressed;
- to attend as a spectator at meetings of the Council and to have a seat reserved for this purpose;
- to receive a copy of the Council Summons;
- to receive invitations to all civic and social events to which Members of the Council are being invited;
- to walk in civic processions in a position immediately senior to serving Members.

4.2 The honour is held for the life of the recipient.

4.3 Honorary Aldermen are provided with Illuminated Scrolls recording the Council's Resolution to confer the honour and they were provided with distinctive Robes and Badges for civic occasions.

5. Further Information

This matter has been the subject of consultation with Group Leaders and the individual concerned. If Council considers that it wishes to bestow the honour of Honorary Alderman, the presentation of the Illuminated Scroll, Badge and Robe could be made at a ceremony prior to the Council Meeting on 24 July 2014.

6. Financial Implications

Any costs will be met from within existing budgets.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Simon George	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chief Financial Officer
Date: 2 May 2014		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 4 June 2014		
Ward Councillors notified:		NO

Section 6 - Contact Details

Alison Atherton, Senior Professional Democratic Services

Tel: 020 8424 1266 E-mail: alison.atherton@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

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Borough Arms

London Borough Of Harrow

At a special meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Harrow on Thursday the twelfth day of June 2014, it was

RESOLVED:- THAT the Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 do confer the title of

Honorary Alderman
of the
London Borough of Harrow Council
upon

Richard David Romain

BSc Hons

in recognition of the eminent and distinguished service he has rendered to the London Borough of Harrow over a continuous period of thirty two years as a Councillor, during which he served with distinction and application throughout as a Member of Council.

The Common Seal of the Mayor and
Burgesses of the London Borough of
Harrow was hereto affixed on the
day of 2014

Leader

Interim Head of Paid Service

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Richard Romain

Service and Achievements 1982 – 2014

Councillor Richard Romain was first elected in May 1982 as Councillor for the Stanmore South Ward, which he represented for the first 4 years. He was re-elected in May 1986 for the Canons Ward, which he has represented continuously until the present time. Councillor Romain was Leader of the Conservative Group from 1994 to 1996. In recognition of his completion in May 2007 of twenty-five years of public service to Harrow, a resolution was engrossed on vellum and publicly presented to Councillor Romain by the Mayor, at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2007.

Between 1982 and 2007, Councillor Romain served on various Council Committees, including the Education Committee and the Development Control Committee. However, his particular interest was with environmental issues, giving rise to extended service on the General Purposes Services Committee and subsequently the Environment Services Committee. In that time he variously held the offices of Chair of the Environment Services Committee, Vice-Chair of the General Purposes Services Committee and Chair of the Traffic and Transport Sub-Committee. He was the Chairman of the Anne Frank Committee, from 1988 to 1989, and was successful in bringing the Anne Frank Exhibition to Harrow in 1989. Councillor Romain first served on the Policy and Resources Committee in 1988/9, commencing a period of continuous service over the next ten years on that Committee in its various strategic guises, and additionally on the Resources Committee when this operated as a separate entity. When these arrangements were overtaken by the restructuring under the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Romain served as a member of the first Cabinet between 2000 and 2003. Councillor Romain also served on the Audit Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Romain represented the Council on numerous outside bodies including 12 years on the West London Waste Authority, serving as Chairman from 1991 to 1996, Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service, the London Home and Water Safety Council and Age Concern Greater London.

Since achieving 25 years service, Councillor Romain primarily occupied himself with individual and ward case-work. In terms of Council Committees, he had continuous membership on Governance, Audit and Risk Management Committee (GARM) and Pension Fund Committee (formerly Pension Fund Advisory Panel) and involved himself with both general affairs and matters of specific interest and sought transparency. He was Chair of both Committees for the 2013/14 municipal year. In relation to GARM, Councillor Romain developed a detailed knowledge of the external auditor role and a fondness for the workings of the Council's Internal Audit Department.

In terms of the Pension Fund Committee, Councillor Romain was actively involved in the investment strategy, particularly in relation to the difficult, illiquid and fragile period of the financial melt-down of 2008/2009. He actively scrutinised external fund managers and sought to ensure that the Council received value for money and accountability. Latterly, he was a prime mover for a rebalancing of the Pension Fund asset allocation and "pushed" for new external fund managers to be appointed to invest pension fund monies.

As Chair of both Committees, Councillor Romain sought to use his knowledge and diplomacy so that all who are involved felt that they had a meaningful input into each meeting.

Councillor Romain was an active participant at Full Council meetings and his input was considered with respect and attention.

