

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

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| 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

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Background Papers: None