

Crawley Borough Council

	Report No: LDS/049	B
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Report to General Purposes Committee

25 September 2012

Appointment of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen

1. Key Points

1.1 This report asks:

- a) the Committee to recommend that the Mayor convenes an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 30 November 2012 to appoint nominees as Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen of the Borough of Crawley; and
- b) the Council at its extraordinary meeting on 30 November 2012 to confer the honour and title of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen on the persons listed in paragraph 3.3 of this report.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That this Committee recommends that the Mayor convenes an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 30 November 2012 to confer upon a number of nominees the titles of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen as set out in this report.**

ANN MARIA BROWN
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

3. Background

- 3.1 Under the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may, by resolutions passed by not less than two-thirds of the councillors voting thereon at a meeting specially convened for the purpose:
- (i) admit to be Honorary Freemen of the Borough persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Borough; and
 - (ii) confer the title of Honorary Aldermen upon persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Councillors.
- 3.2 The protocol for the appointment of Honorary Freemen and Honorary Aldermen is set out below:-
- (1) Nominees for Honorary Aldermen should be former Councillors who have served in that capacity for a significant time. Their length of service would normally be substantially greater than the average length of service per Councillor. Nominees should also have given service to the wider community in a role outside of their duties as a Borough Councillor. This might include notable work with the Voluntary Sector, with Educational Bodies, with other Local Authorities covering the geographical area of the Borough, or any other body that the Council deemed appropriate.
 - (2) Nominees for Honorary Freemen should be either individuals that have given extraordinary service to the town over a prolonged period, or who, by their action, have brought significant distinction to the town.
- 3.3 The following past Councillors of Crawley Borough Council have been duly nominated having met the criteria set out in paragraph 3.2 above:

Honorary Freemen

Alan Quine
Jim Smith

Honorary Aldermen

Bert Crane
Alan Quine
Jim Smith

3.4 Service Record

- 3.41 Bert Crane is Crawley's longest serving Councillor with fifty-eight years' service. He was first elected in May 1954 to the Horsham Rural District Council for West Green Ward and was elected two years later in 1956 to the Crawley Urban District Council and in 1974 to Crawley Borough Council. Bert served on every committee of the Urban District Council, was Chair of Planning from 1957 until 1972 and Vice-Chair of the Management Board/Policy and Resources Committee from 1974 until 2000 and the Vice-

Chair of the Cabinet until 2006. Bert was Secretary of the Labour Group from 1954 until 2006. Bert was a School Governor of Ifield Secondary School in the 1950s and for West Green Primary School for many years in the 1950s and 1960s. Bert oversaw the building of the Greenfields Sheltered Housing development. He served on the Crawley and District Employment Committee during the 1950s and 1960s. Bert was Chairman of Crawley Urban District Council from 1972 to 1974 and served on the Crawley Development Corporation Committee for many years.

- 3.42 Alan Quine was elected to Crawley Urban District Council for Northgate Ward in 1969 and served a three-year term to 1972. In 1976 he was elected to Crawley Borough Council for the Pound Hill Ward and re-elected several times until he left the Council in 1995. During his time as a Councillor he served on the Housing Committee, Leisure Services Committee and Management Board. He has been a school governor for both Northgate Primary School and Holy Trinity School. He is a long serving member/trustee of Crawley Council for Voluntary Service and was its Chairman for four years in the 1990s. Alan remains a Board Member/Trustee for CCVS and has served on the committees of Crawley Dial-a-Ride, Crawley Shopmobility and Crawley Connexions Centre for young people. For many years he was a member/trustee of Crawley Arts Council. Alan served on the Mid Downs Community Health Council from 1995 and completed two four-year terms.
- 3.43 Jim Smith was elected to Crawley Urban District Council in 1968. After a short break Jim returned in 1987 and had served for thirty-nine years upon his retirement as a Councillor in 2010. Jim was Chairman of the newly-formed Crawley District Council from 1973 to 1974 and was the first Borough Mayor from 1st April until the 23rd May 1974. He was Mayor again in 1976-77, 1996-97 and 2004 -05. Jim served on most Committees of the Council. He saw The Hawth built and opened while he served as Chair of the Recreation and Leisure Committee and was the Council's first Cabinet Member for Leisure. Jim was an elected Councillor for West Sussex County Council from 1997 to 2009. Jim has been the President of Crawley Town Twinning Association since 1998 and was its first Chair from 1973 until 1998. Jim served as a Magistrate on the Crawley Bench from 1976 until 1997 and was President of Crawley Arts Council from 1995 until 2005. He has been a Patron of Crawley MELA since 2005 and is currently a Trustee of the Courage-Dyer Recreational Trust.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 Both Group Leaders have been consulted about the proposed nominations and are in agreement for these honours to be made.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 A Scroll of Freedom will be a need to purchased for each nominee, which will cost £150 -£200 per scroll and badges for Honorary Freeman/Aldermen which will cost £750 each. These costs will be met from existing budgets.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 As stated above, in order to confer the title of Honorary Freeman or Honorary Alderman on anyone, the Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to pass a resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of the councillors voting thereon at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.
- 6.2 All nominees have been informed of their nominations and will be delighted to accept the respective honorary titles.
- 6.3 There are no equality implications arising from the report.

7. Reason for the Decision

- 7.1 To recognise formally the distinguished service to the Council and Borough of former Councillors.

8. Background Papers

The Council's Protocol on the Appointment of Honorary Freeman and Honorary Aldermen

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