

A **SPECIAL** meeting of **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** will be held in the **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2015** at **6:45 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

## A G E N D A

**Time  
Allocation**

### **PRAYER**

The Reverend A Milton, Vicar of St Mary's and All Saints, Huntingdon will open the meeting with prayer.

### **APOLOGIES**

**2 Minutes**

### **1. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

**2 Minutes**

To receive from Members, declarations as to disclosable pecuniary or other interests in relation to any Agenda item. See Notes below.

### **2. CONFERMENT OF THE TITLES OF HONORARY ALDERMAN: SECTION 249, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (Pages 5 - 8)**

To consider a report by the Elections and Democratic Services Manager.

Dated this 8th day of December 2015.



Head of Paid Service

### **Notes**

#### **1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

(1) *Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and unless you have obtained dispensation, cannot discuss or vote on the matter at the meeting and must also leave the room whilst the matter is being debated or voted on.*

(2) *A Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest if it -*

*(a) relates to you, or*

*(b) is an interest of -*

*(i) your spouse or civil partner; or*

*(ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife; or*

*(iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners*

*and you are aware that the other person has the interest.*

(3) *Disclosable pecuniary interests includes -*

- (a) any employment or profession carried out for profit or gain;
- (b) any financial benefit received by the Member in respect of expenses incurred carrying out his or her duties as a Member (except from the Council);
- (c) any current contracts with the Council;
- (d) any beneficial interest in land/property within the Council's area;
- (e) any licence for a month or longer to occupy land in the Council's area;
- (f) any tenancy where the Council is landlord and the Member (or person in (2)(b) above) has a beneficial interest; or
- (g) a beneficial interest (above the specified level) in the shares of any body which has a place of business or land in the Council's area.

### **Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests**

- (4) If a Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest then you are required to declare that interest, but may remain to discuss and vote providing you do not breach the overall Nolan principles.
- (5) A Member has a non-statutory disclosable interest where -
  - (a) a decision in relation to the business being considered might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the council tax payers, rate payers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or
  - (b) it relates to or is likely to affect a disclosable pecuniary interest, but in respect of a member of your family (other than specified in (2)(b) above) or a person with whom you have a close association, or
  - (c) it relates to or is likely to affect any body –
    - (i) exercising functions of a public nature; or
    - (ii) directed to charitable purposes; or
    - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of control or management.

and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

## **2. Filming, Photography and Recording at Council Meetings**

The District Council supports the principles of openness and transparency in its decision making and permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. It also welcomes the use of social networking and micro-blogging websites (such as Twitter and Facebook) to communicate with people about what is happening at meetings. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with guidelines agreed by the Council and available via the following link [filming, photography and recording at council meetings.pdf](#) or on request from the Democratic Services Team. The Council understands that some members of the public attending its meetings may not wish to be filmed. The Chairman of the meeting will facilitate this preference by ensuring that any such request not to be recorded is respected.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the District Council's website – [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk) (under Councils and Democracy).

If you would like a translation of Agenda/Minutes/Reports or would like a large text version or an audio version please contact the Elections & Democratic Services Manager and we will try to accommodate your needs.

*Si vous voulez une traduction de ce document, veuillez nous contacter au 01480 388388 et nous ferons de notre mieux pour satisfaire à vos besoins.*

Jeigu norite gauti šio dokumento išverstą kopiją arba atspausdintą stambiu šriftu, prašau kreiptis į mus telefonu 01480 388388 ir mes pasistengsime jums padėti.

***Jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać tłumaczenie tego dokumentu, wersję dużym drukiem lub wersję audio, prosimy skontaktować się z nami pod numerem 01480 388388, a my postaramy się uwzględnić Państwa potrzeby.***

Se quiser uma tradução desse documento, por favor, contate o número 01480 388388 e tentaremos acomodar as suas necessidades.

This page is intentionally left blank

**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Conferment of the Titles of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman: Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972

**Meeting/Date:** Special Council – 16th December 2015

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Leader, Councillor J D Ablewhite

**Report by:** Elections and Democratic Services Manager

**Wards affected:** All

---

### **Executive Summary:**

In 2010 the Council resolved to introduce the titles of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman for current and future Members of the Council who cumulatively have served a specific number of years as an elected Councillor on the District Council. The criteria upon which future Alderman should be selected was revisited by the Council in April 2013 and it was agreed that the title should be awarded for 12 years cumulative service on the District Council. The Council also took the view that the title could also be awarded in other circumstances as the Council might decide.

### **Recommendation:**

On the recommendation of the Council Programme Group and in recognition of their outstanding contribution to Huntingdonshire and their dedicated years of public service, it is

### **RECOMMENDED**

**that the Council, in sincere appreciation of distinguished public service to the District and people of Huntingdonshire and to the wards of Ellington and Stilton resolves under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Mike Baker and Peter Mitchell.**

This page is intentionally left blank

## 1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?

1.1 Nominations for the titles of Alderman/Woman are considered annually by the Council Programme Group. Having regard to the existing criteria, the Group nominated former Councillors Mike Baker and Peter Mitchell as potential recipients of the title at their meeting in June 2015. Both have subsequently indicated that they would be pleased to accept the honour.

1.2 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that -

"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/Alderwomen 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 Councillors of the Council".

1.3 Should the Council bestow the honour of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman, the incumbents would enjoy the courtesy title of Alderman/Alderwoman, would be so addressed and may receive invitations to civic functions such as the Chairman's Ball, Reception, Carol Service, etc as the Council may from time to time decide. No other specific rights are granted with the title and no financial allowance is payable. In addition, an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman shall not have the right to attend meetings of the Council or a Committee or Panel of the Council other than as a member of the public.

## 2. PROPOSALS

2.1 Former Councillor **Mike Baker** was not returned to office following the election in May 2015. Mike was first elected to represent the Ellington Ward in 1997 and served as the ward councillor for this area for 16 consecutive years. Over this period, Mike contributed with both wit and intelligence to most Council Committees and Panels. Most notably perhaps was his work, as Chairman of the Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Joint Group and as Vice Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Planning and Finance), latterly known as the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support). He also held the position of Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Governance Panel from 2010 to 2013, the only time the position has been held by a member of the opposition party. Although contributing to a wide range of Council activities over the years from Leisure Centre Management Committees, Member Development Groups and the Huntingdonshire Traffic Area Joint Committee, Mike also represented the Council on the Cromwell Museum Management Committee and the Alconbury and Ellington Internal Drainage Board for 16 years. In more recent times Mike held the position of Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and continued to champion the cause of his ward with great vigor and enthusiasm.

2.2 Former Councillor **Peter Mitchell** stood down as a District Councillor in May 2015. Peter had served four terms of office as Ward Councillor for Stilton having been first elected in 2003 and retained his seat in the whole District election in 2004. Peter served on a number of Council Committees and Panels and undertook a number of roles for the Council that included Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Governance Panel and Chairman of the Development Control Panel. As Chairman of the latter from 2004 to 2011, Peter became a planning expert and his calm manner and even handedness was welcomed during a number of difficult and very lengthy meetings. He also oversaw the introduction of new arrangements for public speaking at Development Control Panel meetings.

In more recent times, Peter was a keen member of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being) and participated in a number of studies on behalf of the Panel into financial matters including Gross Costs, borrowing and the Council's levels of reserves. Peter also played a key role in updating the Panel on developments at the Great Fen Project and representing the Council on the Middle Level Commissioners and Internal Drainage Board for Conington and Holme. Throughout his office, Peter continued to champion the cause of his ward and was an long standing member of the Stilton Children and Young People's Facilities Association.

### **3. WHAT ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There are no legal or resource implications arising from this proposal. Should the Council indicate their support for the recommendation, a scroll and badge/brooch will be presented to those honoured and as discussed earlier, the recipients will be invited to civic functions such as the Chairman's Ball, Reception, Carol Service, etc as the Council may from time to time decide.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Nominations for the honour were made by the cross party Council Programme Group. The Group was authorised by the Council to consider candidates for the award on an annual basis. It was the Council's view that the honour should recognise an individual's outstanding contribution to the activities of the Council and the wellbeing of the District rather than loyalty to a political party.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Minutes of the Corporate Governance Panel and Council – September 2010 and March/April 2013

### **CONTACT OFFICER**

Lisa Jablonska, Elections and Democratic Services Manager  
Tel No. 01480 388004