



Borough of Gosport

Notice is hereby given that an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF GOSPORT** will be held in the **TOWN HALL, GOSPORT** on **WEDNESDAY the FIFTEENTH DAY OF OCTOBER 2014 AT 5.30 PM AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS –**

1. To receive apologies from Members for their inability to attend the Meeting.
2. Election of Honorary Freeman

In accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council is required to approve the following recommendation:-

“That this Council, in pursuance of their powers under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act, 1972, do hereby confer on Mr Geoffrey John David O'Neill, the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Gosport in recognition of his eminent services to the people and Borough of Gosport over many years.”

IAN LYCETT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TOWN HALL
GOSPORT

7 October 2014

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

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| Board/Committee: | EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL |
| Date of Meeting: | 15 October 2014 |
| Title: | HONORARY ALDERMAN O'NEILL – HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH |
| Author: | CHIEF EXECUTIVE |
| Status: | FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL |

Purpose

To set out proposals for Honorary Alderman O'Neill to be conferred the Title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

Recommendation

It is recommended that, in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, and in recognition of his eminent services to the people and Borough of Gosport over many years, the Board request that an Extraordinary Council Meeting be called, to confer the Title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough to Honorary Alderman O'Neill.

1 Background

- 1.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution (Part 2, Chapter 4, Paragraph 4.02(g)) a decision to confer the Title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough is reserved to full Council.

2 Proposal for the Award of the Freeman Honour

- 2.1 Councillor Beavis has kindly provided the following statement in support of the proposal:

Over the past 50 years Honorary Alderman O'Neill has served the residents of Gosport with distinction.

Geoffrey O'Neill moved to Gosport from London in 1964. In the late 60's, he joined the Ultra Radio and Television Company (later Ferguson and Thorn EMI) at their Gosport Factory. Geoff acted as company social secretary, and organised a number of events for the employees which raised a large amount of money for local good causes including St. Catherine's & St. Boniface Children's homes in Lee-on-the-Solent and Foxbury Special Needs school.

Following the closure of the "Ferguson" factory he was employed by Hampshire County Council as Director of The Thorngate Halls. He was later promoted to Community Liaison Officer for the County of

Hampshire.

Geoff has been a member of the Gosport Community Association for 50 years, and has in the past enjoyed giving help and support to numerous groups, clubs and organisations. The Association made him an Honorary Life Vice President for his services. He is interested in local amateur entertainment and is also Honorary Life Vice President of the Thorngate Pantomime and Variety Company.

He was elected to Gosport Borough Council as Councillor for the Leesland Ward in May 1976 and served on a number of committee's until 1988, a total of 12 years. He was Mayor of Gosport 1986/7 and made an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Gosport in January 1995. He continues to serve on the Royan Twinning Committee and make a significant contribution to the Civic affairs of the town.

He was a member of Gosport and Lee on the Solent Lions Club from 1967 to 1987, holding various offices including Secretary and helped to organise fundraising activities raising money for local charities.

He was the leader of the voluntary guides for a number of years at Haslar Hospital, until its closure in 2009. He is a past President of Gosport Probus Club, an organisation for people who have retired from a business or profession. He is at present their Social Secretary.

Until recently he served in a voluntary capacity on a Hampshire based charity, dispensing grants to charities and good causes in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The Trustees of this registered charity identify charitable and needs groups, in Hampshire and Isle of Wight who would benefit from a donation from the Fund. The ideal organisations to be targeted are small self-help groups with limited resources, especially those whose activities involve children where a modest grant would make a significant difference to their work. The total amount of grants awarded and donated since the charity was established in 1985 exceeds £560,000.

He is a member of the Patient Participation Group at the Stoke Road, Doctors Surgery.

Geoff is an active member of Holy Trinity Church, Gosport. He has been Church Treasurer since May, 2010 and the founder treasurer of an appeal to raise money for the restoration of the historic Handel Organ helping to obtain £167,000 from the Big Lottery Fund and a recent appeal for the Clock Restoration both of which have recently been completed. He has organised for some years the annual Heritage Open Days at the Church. He is a member of the Gosport Deanery Treasurers Forum, giving help and advice to other treasurers and Churches in the group.

Geoff was awarded the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony which took place at The Guildhall in London on Friday 1st. June, 2012.

Honorary Alderman Geoffrey J. D. O'Neill is a man of great distinction who has consistently given his time freely in support of others over a long period of time; his contribution to the local community and to a number of charities is invaluable. He is held in very high esteem by all who come into contact with him.

3. Risk Assessment

3.1 There are no business risks associated with this proposal.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no significant costs associated with this proposal.

5 Conclusion

5.1 Honorary Alderman O'Neill has worked tirelessly for the people of the Borough of Gosport over the years and it is appropriate that the Council consider the proposal that he be conferred the Title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

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| Financial Services comments: | There are no significant costs associated with this proposal. |
| Legal Services comments: | Contained within the Report |
| Service Improvement Plan implications: | There are no Service Plan implications. |
| Corporate Plan: | There are no Corporate Plan issues. |
| Risk Assessment: | There are no business risks associated with this proposal. |
| Background papers: | None. |
| Appendices/Enclosures: | None. |
| Report author/ Lead Officer: | Ian Lycett, Chief Executive |