

COUNCIL

4 September 2023

CONFERRING THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

Report of the Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr G Waller, Leader of the Council	
Contact Officer(s):	Mark Andrews, Chief Executive	01572 758339 mandrews@rutland.gov.uk
	Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	01572 758220 awakefield@rutland.gov.uk
	Tom Delaney, Democratic Services Manager	01572 720993 tdelaney@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	NA	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Confers upon Mr Edward Baines the title of Honorary Alderman of Rutland County Council.
2. Instructs the Chief Executive to arrange for Mr Baines name to be placed on a Roll of Honorary Alderman.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request Council to appoint Mr Edward Baines as an Honorary Alderman of Rutland County Council.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman 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 Members of the Council.

- 2.2 The Council has an adopted policy on the appointment of Honorary Alderman and Freeman agreed by Council on 10 September 2018.

3 NOMINATION PROCESS

- 3.1 The policy requires a nomination to be made to the Strategic Director for Law and Governance by an elected Member and the nominee must meet the following criteria:
- 3.1.1 Must have served as a Councillor for at least 2 terms.
 - 3.1.2 Must be considered suitable for fulfilling the role of an Honorary Alderman, and respected by their peers and communities.
 - 3.1.3 Their achievement/s should be exemplary.
 - 3.1.4 Must no longer hold elected office within the Rutland County District Council area.
- 3.2 In line with the adopted policy a Member has nominated former Councillor Edward Baines setting out his suitability for such an appointment. The Strategic Director for Law and Governance has considered the nomination and is satisfied Mr Baines meets the above criteria.
- 3.3 Mr Baines has been consulted and confirmed he would be honoured to accept the appointment.
- 3.4 It is usual for a principal council to present Honorary Alderman or Freeman with an address, in the form of a scroll, marking the conferring of the honour. In view of time constraints in the current case, Mr Baines will be presented with his scroll at a later date.

4 EDWARD BAINES

- 4.1 Maurice Edward Baines, known as Edward, was born on 5th December 1942 at Woodlane Farm Braunston, Rutland, and attended Braunston Village School, attaining an 11+ scholarship to Oakham School from where he went onto Selwyn College, Cambridge.
- 4.2 He first became involved in local politics in 1960, making a television appearance representing the youth of Rutland and serving as Chairman of Ridlington Parish Council from 1969-1997. He was actively involved in the campaign for Rutland's independence and was one of the first County Councillors elected to serve the newly formed Rutland County Council in 1996. Initially elected to represent the Ward of Belton, Councillor Baines served for a total of 22 years, in his last term representing the Ward of Braunston and Martinthorpe.
- 4.3 Councillor Baines would go on to hold a number of significant positions at the Council including serving as one of the first Leaders of the Council from 1999-2003 having been re-elected annually for four successive years.
- 4.4 Councillors Baines later served as Chairman of the Council from 2009-2012 and again from 2020-2021, alongside several spells as Vice-Chairman totalling five years.

4.5 Councillor Baines also notably served as the Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee, having been first appointed in 2014 and serving near continuously until leaving the Council in 2023 with a single gap in service from 2020-21 whilst serving as Chairman of the Council.

4.6 Mr Baines has also been involved in numerous voluntary endeavours outside of the Council including being a founding member of the Laurence Howard University of Leicester Scholarship, the Welland River Trust, the Rutland Record Society, and the Rutland Water Partnership.

5 CONSULTATION

5.1 Mr Baines has confirmed his wish to accept the appointment.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 Not to appoint Edward Baines as an Honorary Alderman, this is not recommended as the proposed appointment is in line with the adopted policy and Mr Baines is considered a suitable appointee.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The costs of providing an honorary scroll, a reception to present this and the Roll of Honorary Alderman in the Council Chamber can be met from within the Civic and Public Functions Budget administered by the Democratic Services Team.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The following provisions of the Local Government Act apply.

8.1.1 Section 249 (1) A principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary 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 members of the council.

8.1.2 Section 249 (4) An honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman of a principal council may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide.

8.1.3 Section 249 (4A) A principal council may spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the purpose of presenting an address, or a casket containing an address, to a person on whom they have conferred the title of honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman.

8.2 The Council's adopted policy entitles an Honorary Alderman:

8.2.1 To enjoy the ceremonial title of Honorary Alderman/Honorary Freeman and be so addressed.

8.2.2 To be invited to attend the following Civic events where appropriate and be invited to take part in civic processions where appropriate such as:

Remembrance Sunday
Annual Civic Service

8.2.3 To be invited to attend meetings of Annual Council

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no risks to the rights and freedoms of natural persons and no personal data has been collected in the preparation of the report.

10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed because there are no changes to existing policies proposed.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no health or wellbeing implications arising from this report.

13 ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no organisation implications arising from this report.

14 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

14.1 Mr Edward Baines has been nominated in accordance with Council's adopted policy and meets all eligibility criteria.

14.2 Council is therefore recommended to confer upon Mr Baines the title of an Honorary Alderman and confer the privileges outlined in the recommendations.

15 BACKGROUND PAPERS

15.1 Local Government Act 1972, Section 249

15.2 Report No. 58/2018 – Scheme for Honorary Alderman and Freeman- considered by Council on 10 September 2018

15.3 Rutland County Council Policy on Honorary Alderman and Freeman

16 APPENDICES

16.1 There are no appendices to the report.

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.