

Council

A meeting of Council was held on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022.

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Cllr Kevin Faulks); Cllr Helen Atkinson, Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr John Gardner, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Eileen Johnson, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Tina Large, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr David Minchella, Cllr Mick Moore, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell, Cllr Ross Patterson, Cllr Lauriane Povey, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Michael Smith, Cllr Lee Spence, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Mick Stoker, Cllr Hugo Stratton, Cllr Ted Strike, Cllr Steve Walmsley, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Alan Watson, Cllr Sally Ann Watson, Cllr Paul Weston, Cllr Julia Whitehill and Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

Officers: Julie Danks (MD); Michael Henderson, Peter Bell, John Devine (DS); Beccy Brown, Jonathan Nertney (HR,L&C), Emma Champley (AH), Reuben Kench (CL&E).

Also in attendance: Members of the Public.

Apologies: Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Ray Godwin, Cllr Steve Matthews, Cllr Javed Mohammed, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Hilary Vickers and Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

C **Welcome** **63/21**

The Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the arrangements for the meeting.

C **Declarations of Interest** **64/21**

There were no interests declared.

C **Nomination for the Posthumous Appointment of Honorary Alderman** **65/21** **Status – Julia Cherrett**

Council considered the criteria for eligibility for Alderman status in the light of a request received proposing the conferment of the posthumous title of Honorary Alderman status to former long serving Councillor Julia Cherrett, in accordance with Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Under Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 a principal Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of Members in attendance and voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who had, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members, but who were not current Members of the Council. This included conferring the award posthumously should the Council wish to do so.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, via discussions initiated by the Members Advisory Panel, had previously agreed that reckonable service for the purpose of conferring this title should be at least 16 years and should take into account factors such as the nominees' previous attendance at Council / Committee meetings; and/or contribution the individual had made to the Council.

A nomination had been received in respect of former Councillor Julia Cherrett, who passed away suddenly in October 2020. Julia was elected to Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council on the 5th May 2005 and served

continuously until the time of her death in 2020; a total of nearly 15 ½ years.

During her time in office, Julia served on a number of Council and partner committees, including Executive Scrutiny Committee, the Fire Authority and Stockton Home Safety Association. Julia also served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee.

Julia's service was however fractionally short of the approved reckonable service of 16 years set out in the Council's approved criteria. However, having been re-elected in 2019, had Julia lived to serve for the full duration of her electoral term until the next local elections in 2023, she would have accrued a further 2½ years of reckonable service, taking her to 18 years-service in total.

Council was therefore invited to consider whether in such tragic circumstances brought about by bereavement, the existing criteria should be amended to allow the reckonable service to include up to the date of the next local elections in each case.

The Members Advisory Panel at its meeting held on 9 February 2022 agreed in principle to the above amendment of the criteria and agreed that the matter should be referred to full Council for consideration, alongside the nomination in respect of Julia.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The amendment to the current criteria for eligibility for Alderman status where in such circumstances brought about by bereavement, the reckonable service be calculated to include up to the date of the next local elections in each case be agreed.
2. The Alderman nomination in respect of former Councillor Julia Cherrett be endorsed.