

CHARTER TRUSTEES FOR THE CITY OF DURHAM

At the **Meeting** of the **Charter Trustees for the City of Durham** held in the Committee Room 1B - County Hall, Durham, on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 12.00 pm

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham, B Kellett (in the Chair) and Councillors D Bell, J Blakey, L Brown, J Chaplow, K Corrigan, S Dunn, D Freeman, D Hall, A Hopgood, C Marshall, E Mavin, L Mavin, M McKeon, R Ormerod, E Scott, M Simmons, A Simpson, P Taylor, F Tinsley, J Turnbull, M Wilkes and M Wilson

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor formally reported the death of Mr Francis Grant who was a former member of the Mayor's Bodyguard.

Trustees stood for a moments silence as a mark of respect.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E Bell, L Hovvels and D Stoker.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 To receive nominations for the Deputy Mayor

The Mayor asked Trustees for nominations for the Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2018/19 prior to their formal appointment at the Annual Meeting.

Seconded by Councillor Blakey, Councillor McKeon moved that Councillor Jean Chaplow be nominated Deputy Mayor of Durham for the ensuring Municipal Year 2018/19.

No other nominations were received.

Resolved:

That Councillor Jean Chaplow be nominated Deputy Mayor of Durham for Municipal Year 2018/19 and be formally appointed at the Annual Meeting.

5 Honorary Aldermen – Recognition

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Clerk to Charter Trustees requesting consideration of options for acknowledging Durham County Council appointed Honorary Aldermen who had sufficient connections with Durham City to attend and wear red robes at ceremonial events (for copy see file of minutes).

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council had recently appointed 8 new Honorary Aldermen of which 4 were previous Charter Trustees. The Clerk asked if Charter Trustees wished to consider if any of those newly appointed Aldermen should be recognised in the same way as the former Durham City Council Aldermen.

Whilst Charter Trustees were not able to confer the title itself, they could consider acknowledging newly appointed Honorary Aldermen if they deemed the individuals concerned had sufficient connection via past and present service with the old Durham City Council area. In doing so Charter Trustees would be ensuring some continuity of recognition for those individuals and strengthen the numbers entitled to attend future ceremonial events in support of the Mayoralty.

Councillor Wilkes explained that the former Durham City Council criteria was for 4 terms of office and understood that the County Council had a similar policy of 16 years' service. Each of the 3 options presented could potentially serve less than 4 terms of office, which has cost implications and could result in large numbers of Honorary Aldermen at a cost to Charter Trustees.

Councillor Hopgood agreed that the length of service should be specified as 16 years representing a City ward. She referred to the Leader's appointments to the Charter Trustees and if he were to appoint the same person on a regular basis then technically they could have 16 years on the County Council, however, not had anything to do with the City.

Councillor Blakey requested a stock check to be undertaken of existing robes. The Mayor's PA advised that there were a large number of spare robes as very few Honorary Aldermen were attending events.

Councillor Turnbull asked for the entire process to be reviewed and a breakdown of costs be provided. He commented on Councillors who served as Charter Trustees for a number of years, live in the city and contribute to the city, yet not invited to civic occasions because they were not Honorary Aldermen. He highlighted that 3 of the 4 former Trustees listed in the report lived outside the city area. An error was noted in paragraph 8b of the report, as the former Trustee did not live in the City area.

Seconded by Councillor Ormerod, Councillor Hopgood proposed a small cross party Working Group be arranged to look at the criteria, which would then be reported back to Charter Trustees.

Councillor C Marshall asked as part of the review, that cost implication be considered as the expense may be minimal for Charter Trustees, however public perception could be negative. He added that as a Charter Trustee living outside the

Charter Trust area, he would totally understand if the group were to decide not to invite him to ceremonial events and wear Aldermen robes.

The Clerk advised that the report provided a few options to consider and it was for Charter Trustees to agree the rules and set the criteria and parameters. He agreed that the cost implications be considered and recorded and asked for volunteers to sit on the Working Group.

Resolved:

- i) That a Working Group be arranged comprising of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk to the Charter Trustees, Councillors D Bell, Freeman, Hopgood and Turnbull;
- ii) That a proposed criteria setting out parameters in recognising Durham County Council Honorary Alderman and cost implication be reported to a future meeting.

6 Honorary Freedom of the City / RAF100 - Request for Contribution

Charter Trustees considered a report of the Clerk to Charter Trustees regarding a proposed ceremonial event and to consider a request to contribute to presentation expenses (for copy see file of minutes).

The Clerk advised that he and the Mayor's PA had been in close contact with RAF organisers regarding a ceremonial event which was due to take place later in the year at Durham Cathedral and on Palace Green. The event was part of RAF100 northern celebrations and would include a commemoration service and a march past/inspection including air cadets and members of No. 607 Squadron.

It was reported as part of the Cathedral service, it was proposed that the Mayor would make a presentation of the Freedom of the City Certificate and take a central role in the events of the day accompanied by Mayoral officers and Bodyguard. It was expected that Charter Trustees would be invited together with senior officers/members of Durham County Council

The RAF were organising logistics of the proposed events in conjunction with the Lord Lieutenant's Office, Durham University and Durham Cathedral and Mayor's office. The organisers have requested if Charter Trustees would contribute to the expenses of receptions and presentation on the day.

The Treasurer advised that there was scope for reserves to be utilised if Charter Trustees wished to do so. The Clerk was in contact with the Chairman of the RAF Auxiliary who would be providing contribution details.

Members were aware that when granting Freedom of the City, there would be costs associated with that honour. They discussed the presentation, costs associated with the Freedom of City and the contribution to the RAF centennial celebration. The Clerk advised that it was not possible to know the full cost, however time was of the essence and Trustees agreed to the contribution in support of an exceptional event.

Seconded by Councillor Hopgood, Councillor Dunn proposed to delegate authority to the Mayor and the Clerk to Charter Trustees to make the requested contribution and report the amount back to Charter Trustees.

Resolved:

That delegate authority be given to the Mayor and the Clerk to Charter Trustees to make the requested contribution and report the amount back to Charter Trustees.

The mayor agreed that in order to keep members informed, the next item of business could be reported.

7 Charter Trustee Meeting Times

Councillor Hopgood asked if Charter Trustee meetings could be brought forward when County Council business finished early. The Clerk advised that the meeting was open to the public, which requires a specific time to be published on the Council's website to meet legal access requirements.

The Mayor commented that on occasions the Chairman of the Council has other commitments immediately following the County Council meeting and would not always be available to attend the meeting earlier.

It was suggested that when appropriate, meetings start at 11.30am and the note on the agendas be changed to state that in the event that County Council business runs beyond 11.30am, the meeting would commence immediately following County Council business.