

Special Council – 7 February 2008**HONORARY ALDERMEN – NOMINATIONS****Report of the Head of Corporate Services**

Statutory Powers: Local Government Act 1972: Section 249

Financial Implications: None directly arising from this report.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval, in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, to the nominations of David Thorning and Richard Yonge to receive the title of Honorary Aldermen of the Council, in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community. Nominees require the support of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at this special Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That, in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Special Council confer the title of Honorary Aldermen of the Council upon:

- (a) David Thorning, in recognition of his 12 years service as a Ward Member for Kingsbridge East; and**
- (b) Richard Yonge, in recognition of his 33 years service as a Ward Member for Yealmpton.**

Introduction

1. Special Council meetings can be specially convened for the purpose of approving nominations for persons to receive the title of Honorary Aldermen of the Council (minutes E.69/07 and 59/07(n) refer).
2. The title is conferred upon 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*' (Section 249(1), Local Government Act 1972).

Criteria for Honorary Aldermen

3. The agreed criteria for conferring the title Honorary Aldermen are:
 - (a) the title may be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered "eminent services" to the Council as past Members, but who are no longer serving Members;
 - (b) there shall be no specific definition of 'eminent services', it being left to the discretion of the Council at the time to assess and recognise any individual's contribution to the activities of the Council and the wellbeing of the district of the South Hams;

- (c) Nominees would normally require a minimum period of 12 years past service as a Member of the Council.

Rights of Honorary Aldermen

4. Whilst having no “legal or social precedence” in the community, it is custom and practice for Honorary Aldermen to be invited to Civic ceremonial events. This would be the Annual Council meeting, the Chairman’s Civic Reception, and other events such as any future appointment of Honorary Aldermen.
5. The status of Honorary Alderman carries no special right to attend or address meetings of the Council or its committees or to receive any allowances or payments to which serving Members are entitled. However, at the discretion of the Chairman, a nominee for Honorary Alderman may (if present) be invited to respond to the vote conferring that status.

Nominations

6. Each Group Leader has been invited to submit nominations to appoint Honorary Aldermen of the Council. The following nominations have been received and are presented for consideration by the Council:

David Thorning (Liberal Democrat)

David Thorning served as a Ward Member for Kingsbridge East for 12 years (1991-99 and 2003-2007).

In addition to representing the Council on a number of outside bodies, David was the Vice-Chairman of the Council for 1996/97 and Chairman of the Council for 1997/98 and was also a Member of a number of Committees which included:

- Health & Safety;
- Leisure & Recreation;
- Planning;
- Salcombe Harbour (including a period as Vice-Chairman);
- Policy & Finance; and
- Prosperity Policy Development Group.

Richard Yonge (Conservative)

Richard Yonge served as a Ward Member for Yealmpton for 33 years (1974-2007).

In addition to representing the Council on a number of outside bodies, Richard was the Leader of Council for 6 years (2001-2007) and was also a Member of a number of Committees which included:

- Health;
- Housing (including a period as Chairman);
- Leisure & Recreation;
- Planning;
- Policy & Resources (including a period as Vice-Chairman);
- Finance Sub-Committee;
- Economy & Employment (including a period as Chairman);

- Personnel (including a period as Chairman);
- Environment;
- Health & Safety;
- Resources;
- SHDC / DCC Partnership Committee (including a period as Chairman);
- Environmental Health & Housing; and
- Executive (including a period as Chairman).

7. Vera Harvey was also nominated for the title in recognition of her service as a Ward Member for Totnes for 20 years (1987-2007). However, when informed of her nomination, Vera advised that she would not wish to receive the title if conferred upon her. Whilst appreciating the nomination, Vera wishes to state that she would decline any such title due to her disagreeing with the honours system.

Conclusion

8. Members are requested to consider whether the nominations of David Thorning and Richard Yonge be conferred the title of Honorary Aldermen of the Council.

Darryl White
Member Support Services Manager

Special Council
7 February 2008

Delyth Jenkins Evans
Deputy Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

None