

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE – 5 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND LOCAL SERVICES

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY FREEMEN AND HONORARY ALDERMEN/WOMEN

This report proposes the appointment of one Honorary Freeman and four Honorary Aldermen/women of the Royal Borough.

FOR DECISION

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 By virtue of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may confer the titles "honorary freeman" and "honorary alderman". Resolutions to confer these titles must be carried by a majority of two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object of the meeting. The legislation was amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 so as also to allow councils to confer the title "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman" where appropriate.

2. FREEDOM OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH

- 2.1 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest honour, which the Borough can bestow. It is a signal honour, recognising a significant contribution to public life. The Freedom can be bestowed, entirely at the discretion of the Council, on an individual the Council deems "a person of distinction" – or – "who has rendered eminent services to that place or area". The award of the Freedom of Kensington and Chelsea has been bestowed on a very small number of people. The former Royal Borough of Kensington appointed seven Honorary Freeman between its creation in 1901 and 1965. The Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea appointed nineteen Honorary Freeman in that same period. Following the merger of the two boroughs in 1965, the current Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has appointed eight Honorary Freeman. A list of Freeman is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. NEW APPOINTMENTS – THE FREEDOM OF THE ROYAL BOROUGH

One individual has given such eminent and distinguished public service in various capacities over many years that it is felt their outstanding contribution should be recognised by the award of the greatest honour the Council can bestow; the Freedom of the Royal Borough. He is:

The Lord Cadogan KBE, DL (8th Earl Cadogan)

- 3.1 Lord Cadogan's great-grandfather and father were, respectively, the first and the last Mayors of Chelsea.
- 3.2 His interest in and support for a wide range of charities is immense, but much of the work he does goes unreported and unseen by the wider public. However, it makes an immense difference to those who receive this support. The Cadogan Charity is involved with a wide range of causes, some at a national level, but many in the Royal Borough. Many are connected with the advancement of health or saving of lives, disability, accommodation/housing and animal welfare.
- 3.3 Lord Cadogan chaired the Cadogan Estate for many years, which also makes many charitable donations, including to local organisations such as Age Concern (Kensington and Chelsea), the K&C Foundation, West London Churches Homeless Concern and the nominated Mayoral Charity every year.
- 3.4 He has given huge support to the Royal Hospital, played a significant part in shaping Chelsea and continued to ensure that clergy who have served congregations in the Royal Borough can make their home here after retirement. Through his position as Patron of a number of Chelsea churches he has assisted them greatly in the work they do.
- 3.5 Lord Cadogan holds or has held a number of significant positions with national, London-wide and local organisations. These include Chairmanship of the Royal Veterinary College, the Leukaemia Research Fund and the London Playing Fields Society. He is President of the Friends of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital and Vice-President of the Chelsea Society. He is patron, *inter alia*, of the Chelsea Arts Society, Kensington and Chelsea Crime Prevention Panel, Holy Trinity and St. Saviour, St. Luke and Christchurch and of Chelsea Old Church.
- 3.6 Lord Cadogan was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the

British Empire (KBE) in the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours (for charitable services).

- 3.7 He is a Life Fellow at the College of Advocates, St Paul's Cathedral; a Member of the Court of Patrons, RCS; a Freeman of the City of London; Hon. Freeman of the Apothecaries' Society and a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.
- 3.8 His contribution to public life has been widespread and he has worked assiduously to maintain his family's tradition of service to the community and to charitable causes at an unparalleled level.

4. HONORARY ALDERMEN

- 4.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, gives local authorities the power to confer the title of honorary aldermen/women 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.
- 4.2 Prior to 1972 Aldermen were council members chosen by the elected members themselves rather than by popular vote. The appointment often reflected the individual's seniority and expertise. In the 1972 Local Government Act this position was abolished with effect from 1978 and the Honorary position introduced.
- 4.3 Since 1972 the Council has appointed thirteen Honorary Aldermen:

Alderman	Date
Robert W Orme	27.01.88
Laurence A Kenny	28.06.94
Sir Adrian FitzGerald, Bt	26.06.02
Bob Pope	26.06.02
Ernest P Tomlin	07.03.07
Richard Walker-Arnott, D.L.	07.03.07
John Corbet-Singleton, CBE	19.01.11
John Cox, MA, FCA	19.01.11
Thomas Fairhead	19.01.11
Priscilla Frazer	19.01.11
Rima Horton	19.01.11
Mushtaq Lasharie	19.01.11
Bryan P Levitt, MA, PhD, FRSC	19.01.11

5. NEW APPOINTMENTS – HONORARY ALDERMEN

5.1 There are four individuals who have given long and distinguished service to the Royal Borough as Councillors. Their valuable contribution and impeccable record of public service is worthy of signal recognition. Details of their service is set out in Appendix B and it is proposed that the following four former Councillors of the Royal Borough be appointed Honorary Aldermen/women:

- Former Councillor Miss Doreen M Weatherhead
- Former Councillor Mrs Frances Taylor
- Former Councillor Christopher Buckmaster
- Former Councillor Tony Holt

6. FINANCIAL, LEGAL, PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The cost of conferment ceremonies and receptions will be met from within existing budgets.

6.2 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 amended the Local Government Act 1972 so that councils may confer the title "honorary freewoman" and "honorary alderwoman" where appropriate. The proposed recipients have been contacted and the wording of the recommendations below reflects the choice of title by each of the ladies.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 The Administration Committee is **recommended** to invite the Council to resolve as follows (by a majority of at least two-thirds of those voting):

7.1.1 The Freedom of the Royal Borough

That in sincere appreciation of his support for a wide range of charities, especially those operating in the Royal Borough, and his role in shaping Chelsea, **The Lord Cadogan** be admitted to be an Honorary Freeman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

7.1.2 Honorary Aldermen

(a) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Miss Doreen Weatherhead** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 47 years and her untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of Pembridge Ward; on Committees of the

Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Miss Doreen Weatherhead**;

- (b) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Mrs Frances Taylor** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 32 years and her untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Redcliffe Ward; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Mrs Frances Taylor**;
 - (c) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Christopher Buckmaster** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 20 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Campden Ward; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Christopher Buckmaster**;
 - (d) That this Council, in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by **Tony Holt** to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period of 20 years and his untiring service to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Courtfield Ward; on Committees of the Council and to local organisations, does hereby confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on **Tony Holt**.
- 7.2 That illuminated addresses be presented to the Freeman and Honorary Aldermen/women; and
- 7.3 That the common seal of the Council be affixed to the addresses and to entries in the Roll of Freemen and the Roll of Aldermen/women.

FOR DECISION

TONY REDPATH
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Background papers: Report to Council on retiring members April 2014.

APPENDIX A

Honorary Freemen of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

John Waring Sainsbury, MA, LL.M. 19.3.68

John Waring Sainsbury received his honour in recognition of 21 years service, ending his career successively as Town Clerk of the Royal Borough of Kensington and then the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea over a period stretching from 1947 to 1968. In 1962 he was elected President of the Society of Town Clerks.

Lady Petrie 21.7.71

Lady Petrie served on Kensington Council from 1946 to 1965 and in 1954 became the first lady Mayor, an office she held for two years. She went on to serve as an Alderman of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea from 1964 to 1971. She was the United Kingdom's delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1959.

Mrs. John Walford 21.7.71

As Lady Petrie was the first lady Mayor of Kensington, so Mrs. John Walford was the last, from 1962 to 1965. Mrs. Walford was a Councillor for the Royal Borough of Kensington between 1937 and 1946 and again from 1952 to 1965. She was elected an Alderman in May 1964. Her son, Christopher Walford, became the Mayor of the Royal Borough in 1979 and was Lord Mayor of London from 1994-95.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher 13.6.79

For many years Margaret Thatcher lived with her husband in Flood Street, Chelsea. In 1979 she became Britain's first and only woman Prime Minister and the only twentieth century Premier to win three consecutive General Elections. She was subsequently appointed a Lady of the Garter.

Sir Malby S. Crofton, Bt 14.7.82

Sir Malby Crofton served on the Council from 1962 to 1982, representing the Queen's Gate Ward. He was Leader of the Council between 1968 and 1977 and Mayor in 1978-79. He also served two terms on the GLC.

Councillor Miss Elizabeth M. Christmas, MBE 18.7.01

Miss Christmas was born in Earl's Court and was first elected to the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington in the year of The Queen's accession, 1952. She served as a Councillor for a total of 50 years.

The Rt Hon the Baroness Hanham, CBE 19.01.11

Baroness Hanham served as a member of the Council from September 1970 until May 2010. She was Leader of the Council for 11 years from 1989 until 2000 and was made a Life Peer in 1999. She stood down from the Council

upon her appointment as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at Communities and Local Government following the General Election in 2010.

Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, CBE, TD, DL, FCI Arb. 19.01.11

Sir Michael was a Royal Borough Councillor from 1968-74 and then an Alderman until 1978. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1968. Appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London in 1986, he then became Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal Borough. In 2006 he was appointed Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London. He still serves on the Council's Investment Committee.

Between its creation in 1901 and 1965 the former Royal Borough of Kensington created seven Freemen. They were:

H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll

The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., O.M., C.H.

H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone

The Rt. Hon. the Lord Balfour of Burleigh

Francis (Frank) Carter

Henry Charles Dickens

Robert Jenkins, M.P., J.P.

In the same period, the former Metropolitan Borough of Chelsea created nineteen Freemen. They were:

Frederick Welch

Violet, Lady Melchett

Reginald Blunt

Sir Samuel Hoare

The Hon. William Sydney (5th Baron de L'Isle and Dudley)

The Hon. Major William Philip Sydney, V.C. 6th Baron and 1st Viscount de Lisle

Anthony Smith, G.C.

Admiral Sir Edward Evans (1st Baron Mountevans of Chelsea)

Lt. Col. Samuel Boyle

Professor Sir Alexander Fleming

Prebendary Walter Arrowsmith

Charles Clapcott

Commander Sir Allan Noble, R.N., M.P.

Sir Gerald Thesiger

The 7th Earl Cadogan
Alderman Arthur Sims
Captain Cecil Townsend
Miss Dorothy Mia MacNamara, OBE
Robert Gilligham Wharam MRSanl

To be appointed Honorary Aldermen

Miss Doreen M Weatherhead

Doreen Weatherhead was first elected in May 1964 as a Member for Pembridge Ward. She served as Chairman of the Libraries Committee from May 1970 until May 1971 when she lost her seat at the Borough Council elections. She was co-opted to the Health Committee between 1971 -1974 and re-elected to Pembridge Ward in May 1974 and served on the Council until May 2014. Miss Weatherhead was Mayor in 1994-95 and Deputy Mayor in 1979-80. Her chairmanships include the Libraries and General Services Committee in 1978-80; the Works Committee 1984-86; the Street Trading Sub-Committee 1984-85; the Review Sub-Committee 1987-90; the Highways and Traffic Committee 1991-93; and the Regulation and Enforcement Review Committee from 2001 to 2014. In addition, she has been a Vice-Chairman of the Libraries Committee (1968-1970) Borough Community Relations Committee (1997-2000); Benefits Review Board (1998-2001); Environmental Health and Leisure Committee (1999-2001); and the Licensing Committee (2001- 2014).

She served on numerous outside organisations, most notably as a trustee of the Pepper Pot Day Centre and the Nicholas Freeman Memorial Trust. Previously, she also served on the Community Health Council and the Kensington Chelsea and Westminster Area Health Authority (Teaching) and has represented the Council on the AMA Public Transport Committee, the Crime Prevention Panel, the Police Consultative Committee, the Post Office Advisory Committee and the West London Family Service Unit.

Mrs Frances Taylor

Frances Taylor was first elected in May 1982 as a Member for Campden Ward. In May 1990 she was elected as a Member for Redcliffe Ward which she represented until May 2014. Mrs Taylor was Mayor in 1991-92. She was Chairman of the Public Realm Scrutiny Committee from 2007 until 2010, the OSC on Community Partnerships and Economic Development (2003-05), the Libraries and Arts Committee, the Public Transport and Road Safety Liaison Group, the Twinning Advisory Group and the Borough Voluntary Organisations Working Party. Mrs Taylor also served on many outside organisations during her time as a councillor, including the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Foundation Trust, the London Boroughs Transport Committee, the London Planning Advisory Committee, the CAB, North Kensington Amenity Trust, Family Welfare Association, Campden Charities and Age Concern.

Christopher Buckmaster

Christopher Buckmaster was elected in May 1994 as a member for Campden Ward. He had two terms as Mayor - in 2003-04 and again in 2012-13 - and was Deputy Mayor in 2002-03. He served as Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee, Licensing Committee and OSC on Adult Social Care, Health and Environmental Health. He also chaired the Scrutiny Steering Group and the Pan London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Christopher Buckmaster was the Cabinet Member for Education, Libraries and Arts from 2001-03 and prior to that, Chairman of the Education and Libraries Committee, Youth and Continuing Education Committee and Teachers' Joint Consultative Committee. He also served on the Investment Committee and has been a Governor of Holland Park School.

Tony Holt

Tony Holt represented Courtfield Ward between May 1994 and May 2014. He was Deputy Mayor in 1999-2000 and Mayor in 2001-02. He was Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Property Scrutiny Committee, the Holland Park Advisory Group and the Appeals Panel, on which he served for many years. Previously, Tony Holt chaired the Major Planning Development Committee, the Planning Applications Committee and its predecessor, the Planning Services Committee. He also chaired the OSC on Public Realm and the OSC on Environmental Services, Environmental Health and Planning Policy. Before the introduction of the 'new governance' arrangements in 2001, he served as Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee and the Highways and Traffic Committee (1996-99). For many years he served as the Council's representative at the Chelsea Physic Garden and has chaired the Brighter Kensington and Chelsea Scheme. Together with Mrs Taylor, Tony Holt served on the Twinning Advisory Group until it was extinguished several years ago.