

## **SPECIAL COUNCIL**

**7 OCTOBER 2021**

### **GLYN GRIFFITHS, TOM MASON AND JULIE SHAW – CONFERMENT OF TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN AND HONORARY ALDERWOMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive  
Author: Jane Ringham, Head of Elections and Member Services

#### Summary

This report is submitted in accordance with the criteria for Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen agreed at the Full Council meeting on 25 April 2019 and invites the Council to consider a proposal to confer the status of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman of the Borough on Glyn Griffiths, Tom Mason and Julie Shaw respectively.

1. Budget and policy framework
  - 1.1. This is a matter for Council.
2. Background
  - 2.1. The conferment of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman of the Borough is a significant civic distinction that can be conferred upon individuals in recognition of outstanding service as past Members of the council, ensuring the honourable perpetuation of their memory within the community.
  - 2.2. Entry to the roll of Aldermen and Alderwomen is usually accompanied by the presentation to the recipient of a scroll embodying details of the formal Council resolution and engrossed with the Council's corporate seal.
  - 2.3. The power to award Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman of the Borough is contained in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Section 249 of that Act requires that an appropriate resolution is passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose. Those awarded Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman status are required to be persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members.

2.4. At the Full Council meeting on 25 April 2019, the criteria and process for the appointment of Honorary Alderwomen and Aldermen were approved. Accordingly, nominations in respect of Glyn Griffiths, Tom Mason and Julie Shaw were submitted and the Chief Executive has confirmed that they all meet the criteria in respect of having served on Medway Council or its predecessor authorities for an aggregate total of not less than 25 years. The information in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 below is based on the nominations submitted by the Leaders of the Conservative and Labour and Co-operative Groups and describes the extent to which they have each provided eminent service to the Council in addition to any services to the people of Medway, are respected by their peers and have been proposed and seconded by serving members of the Council.

### 3. Personal history of Glyn Griffiths and contribution to Medway Council

3.1. Glyn has lived in Medway his entire life. Having been brought up in Strood, he has made Gillingham his home for the past 40 years.

3.2. Glyn continuously represented the Twydall community for 30 years across 3 tiers of local government: First elected to Kent County Council (KCC) in 1989 for the Gillingham North Central Division; becoming a Councillor for Beechings Ward on Gillingham Borough Council in 1990 (until 1998); then representing the Beechings Ward on Medway Council from 1997 before its amalgamation into the present Twydall Ward in 2003 which he represented until his retirement in 2019.

3.3. Glyn became Labour Group Leader on Gillingham Borough Council in 1991 (until 1998). His experience on KCC convinced him of the need for a unitary council to better serve the needs of Medway's residents. He campaigned vigorously for the ultimately successful unitary bid, including being part of a cross party delegation that made the case directly to the then Secretary of State.

3.4. Upon creation of Medway Council, Glyn took on the role of Finance Chair until 2000 and was Labour Deputy Leader and Finance Spokesperson until 2011. This reflected his focus on local government finance throughout his time as a councillor including serving on the Business Support and Audit committees.

3.5. In 2011, Glyn returned to his passion for spatial planning when he became the Labour Regeneration, Community & Culture Spokesperson until 2015, while serving on the Planning Committee and Local Plan Working Group until his retirement.

3.6. Outside the Council, Glyn served as a Non-Executive Director of Medway NHS Primary Care Trust between 2007 and 2011, and then for 10 years on Medway Community Healthcare until his retirement as Deputy Chair in 2021. Glyn also served as a trustee of Chatham Maritime Trust, and of the Trust then in control of Danecourt School (located in Twydall).

#### 4. Personal history of Tom Mason and contribution to Medway Council

4.1. Tom Mason has been committed to serving the community over many years. He represented Frindsbury Extra on Strood Rural District Council (starting 1969) and Rochester Upon Medway City Council (1973 to 1997), and Strood Rural and Frindsbury Extra on Medway Council (1997 to 2015) as well as being a member of Frindsbury Extra Parish Council. Tom served as Mayor of Rochester upon Medway City Council on two occasions, in 1984-5 and again in 1995-6.

4.2. Tom was elected to Kent County Council in 1977 and served until 1989 as the member for Rochester No 3 Division (Medway North West).

4.3. He served as Vice Chairman of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority and been a member of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and the Rochester Bridge Trust. Prior to retiring Tom served with the Royal Air Force and on the P&O shipping Company Passenger Liners.

#### 5. Personal history of Julie Shaw and contribution to Medway Council

5.1. Julie has called Medway her home for more than 50 years living across the Medway Towns.

5.2. Julie was first elected in 1973 to Brompton Ward on Gillingham Borough Council, she has subsequently represented wards around the Chatham and Luton area since 1988 until her retirement in 2019 serving the final 16 years representing Chatham Central ward.

5.3. Her dedication to councillors of all parties acting with honesty and integrity were at the heart of Julie's service. Julie served as Labour Group Whip for 10 years on Medway Council from 2009 to 2019 as well as for a two year period from 1991 on Rochester Upon Medway City Council. Julie was also the Labour Spokesperson on the Councillor Conduct Committee from 2013 until her retirement.

5.4. The arts continue to be a passion for Julie who was the Chair of Leisure & Arts from 1991 – 1997 and Labour Spokesperson for Leisure, Arts & Libraries from 1999 to 2001. Julie also served as the Labour spokesperson for the International Relations Committee from 2009 to 2011.

- 5.5. Julie served on a variety of committees including Regeneration, Community and Environment from 2008 to 2018 and Standards Committee from 2002-2012.
- 5.6. Outside of the council chamber, Julie served on a wide variety of community bodies including as Ambassador for Chatham Historic Dockyard, school governor at All Saints Church of England Primary School and continues to serve on Chatham Charities.

## 6. Risk management

- 6.1. Risk management is an integral part of good governance. The Council has a responsibility to identify and manage threats and risks to achieve its strategic objectives and enhance the value of services it provides to the community. The following table considers any significant risks arising from this report.

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk	Risk rating
Damage to reputation of the Council amongst local population	Failure to have consistent policy on awarding title of Honorary Alderwoman/man	Criteria have been approved by Full Council and title holders must agree to adhere to the highest standards and conduct themselves in accordance with the 7 principles of public life while acting in the capacity of Alderwoman or Alderman	D1

## 7. Financial implications

- 7.1. The cost of this special Council meeting, the scrolls setting out the resolution of the Council that will be presented to Glyn Griffiths, Tom Mason and Julie Shaw and presentation caskets will be met from existing budget provision within Democracy & Governance Division.

## 8. Legal implications

- 8.1. The power to confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman of the Borough of Medway on persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Member, is contained within section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Section 249 of the Act also empowers the Council to spend a reasonable sum for the purpose of presenting an address or casket containing an address to a person upon whom the Honorary Alderman of the Borough has been conferred.

## 9. Recommendations

9.1. That, in pursuance of the power vested in it by virtue of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, and in recognition of the eminent services they have rendered to the Council and its predecessor authorities, the Council agrees to confer the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman of the borough respectively to:

- (a) Glyn Griffiths;
- (b) Tom Mason; and
- (c) Julie Shaw

in perpetuity on the basis that they may, from time to time, be invited to participate in civic ceremonies as the Council may decide.

**Note:** this resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon to take effect, in accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### Lead officer contact

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### Appendices

None

### Background papers

None