

Motion: Commemoration of Deceased Serving Councillors and Posthumous Conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman

This Council recognises the significant public service and commitment demonstrated by councillors who pass away while actively serving their communities. Such individuals often dedicate many years to local governance, playing a vital role in the democratic process and the wellbeing of the residents of Swale.

At present, there is no formal process within Swale Borough Council to honour or commemorate those members who die during their term of office. Nor is there a mechanism for posthumously recognising long-serving councillors whose contributions might otherwise have been acknowledged had they completed a further full term of service.

This Council therefore proposes:

1. That a formal memorial be established within an appropriate civic building, such as the Council Chamber or entrance to the Council Offices, to respectfully acknowledge and commemorate the service of those councillors who pass away while in office. This tribute may take the form of a plaque or other suitable marker, and will serve as a lasting record of their contribution to public life in Swale.
2. Furthermore, this Council agrees that in circumstances where a councillor passes during their term of office and would have completed twelve years of service (or three full terms) by the end of that term, the Council shall have the power, with permission from the family of the member, to confer the title of Honorary Alderman posthumously. This will allow due recognition to be given to those who have demonstrated enduring service and dedication, and whose full term of office was only interrupted by their untimely death.
3. That Swale Borough Council instructs officers to refer back through records of instances that this relate to members since Swale BC was created and include them in any future memorial or award the Honorary Alderman posthumously.

The establishment of these provisions will ensure that the Council formally recognises the lasting impact and service of its members, and expresses appropriate respect and gratitude to those who have served the Borough with distinction until the end of their lives.

Proposed by: Councillor Lloyd Bowen

Seconded by: Councillor James Hunt