**HEREFORD CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL MEETING 24th February 2015**

**RECOGNITION OF MAYOR ELECT AND DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT**

**1. Background**

1.1 The City has long observed the practice of appointing the Mayor on the basis of seniority, ie years of service with the Council. Where there is a break in service such as a member losing their seat and then being re-elected then accumulated service is counted towards a total, a member does not go back to zero and start again. Thus members who have been to the Council before the 2011 elections will have seniority other those elected in that year under that accumulated process.

1.2 The recognition of a Mayor-elect and Deputy Mayor-elect is done in February or March as part of usual custom and practice. It has no legal force, and with elections pending there can be no certainty in any case as to who will be eligible to take the office in May 2015, but it is extremely useful to have this advanced decision to enable the likely incumbent(s) to prepare for their mayoral year and to inform officers of the expectations of Council as to whom they should work with on preparing for Mayor-making.

1.3 The legal obligation under the Local Government Act 1972 (Sections 14(1), 15(20, 33 910, and 34(2) is to elect the Chairman of the Council as the first item of business at the first meeting after the elections. The Chairman is co-terminous with the Mayor as the right to call a member the Mayor is inferred from the parish council having city status but the title Mayor can only be conferred upon the elected Chairman of the parish council, Local Government Act 1972 s 245 and 246.

1.4 There is no legal obligation to elect a Vice-Chairmen or deputy mayor; although there is also no impediment to doing so, Local Government Act 1972 Sections 15(6) and 34 (6). It has been practice at Hereford for many years to appoint the deputy mayor to the mayoralty in the following year. This allows the probable mayor to become acquainted with civic life by supporting the mayor in engagements, and undertaking representational duties and visits on behalf of the city. However, legally, holding the office of deputy mayor does not automatically confer the appointment of mayor in the following year.

1.5 A member may pass in their year of seniority without prejudice to their right in future years. However, the standing orders of the Council do state that a member who defers their seniority for five years may not be considered after that, but this has no legal force and is therefore incapable of enforcement.

1.6 Once a Councillor has served as Mayor they automatically lose all precedence and could only be considered for a second appointment if all other councillors had served or deferred their seniority.

**2. Current Position On Seniority**

2.1 Based on accumulated service with the Council, the current order of seniority among those presently on the Council is :

1. Councillor Aubrey Oliver
2. Councillor Glenda Vaughan-Powell
3. Councillor Jacqui Carwardine
4. Councillor Charles Nicholls
5. Councillor Jim Kenyon
6. Councillor Jason Kay
7. Councillor Nick Nenadich
8. Councillor Sharon Michael
9. Councillor Liz Chave
10. Councillor Sue Boulter

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

**3.1 That after hearing any declarations from members who wish to pass on their seniority for the coming year, the Council recognises a Mayor-elect and a Deputy Mayor-elect pending the results of the elections and affirms that seniority will continue to be the main criterion in selecting candidates for the office in future.**

Steve Kerry

Town Clerk