

Council

Date: **14 December 2023**

Time: **3.30pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall**

Members: **Councillors:** O'Quinn (Chair), Atkinson, Bagaeen, Davis, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Grimshaw, Meadows, McNair, Robins, Sankey, Shanks, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson, Williams, Alexander, Allen, Asaduzzaman, Baghoth, Burden, Cattell, Czolak, Daniel, Earthey, Gajjar, Galvin, Goddard, Goldsmith, Helliwell, Hewitt, Hill, Hogan, Loughran, Lyons, McGregor, McLeay, Miller, Mistry, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, Pickett, Pumm, Robinson, Rowkins, Sheard, Simon, Stevens, Taylor, Thomson and Winder.

Contact: **Anthony Soyinka**
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Chief Executive
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 6 December 2023

AGENDA

Part One

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9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services Officer preferably before the meeting.

10 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

To receive communications from the Mayor.

11 FREEDOM OF THE CITY

7 - 10

12 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor will move a closure motion under Procedure Rule 17 to terminate the meeting 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/adjournments).

Note:

1. *The Mayor will put the motion to the vote and if it is carried will then:-*
 - (a) *Call on the Member who had moved the item under discussion to give their right of reply, before then putting the matter to the vote, taking into account the need to put any amendments that have been moved to the vote first;*
 - (b) *Each remaining item on the agenda that has not been dealt with will then be taken in the order they appear on the agenda and put to the vote without debate.*

The Member responsible for moving each item will be given the opportunity by the Mayor to withdraw the item or to have it voted on. If there are any amendments that have been submitted, these will be taken and voted on first in the order that they were received.
 - (c) *Following completion of the outstanding items, the Mayor will then close the meeting.*
2. *If the motion moved by the Mayor is **not carried** the meeting will*

continue in the normal way, with each item being moved and debated and voted on.

3. *Any Member will still have the opportunity to move a closure motion should they so wish. If such a motion is moved and seconded, then the same procedure as outlined above will be followed.*

Once all the remaining items have been dealt with the Mayor will close the meeting.

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The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fourth working day before the meeting.

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Therefore, by entering the meeting room and using the seats in the chamber you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured, they should sit in the public gallery area.

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- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Anthony Soyinka, (01273 291006, email anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Brighton & Hove City Council

Special Council

Agenda Item 11

Subject: Honorary Freedom of the City

Date of meeting: 14 December 2023

Report of: Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
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Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report recommends that the Council confers the title of Honorary Freewoman of the City on Mary Clarke.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Council admits Mary Clarke to be an Honorary Freewoman of the City of Brighton & Hove posthumously.

3. Context and background information

3.1 The title of Honorary Freewoman or Freeman is awarded to people who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent service to the council or the city.

3.2 Mary Jane Clarke was a vital figure in the women's suffrage movement in the UK and our city, tirelessly campaigning for women's right to vote.

3.3 She was a co-founder of the National Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) with her older sister Emmeline Pankhurst and served as its organiser for Brighton from 1909 to 1910.

3.4 During her time in Brighton, she helped build the WSPU operation in the southeast and organise the campaigns for the general election, often addressing crowds of supporters on the seafront.

3.5 She was one of the 300 women to demonstrate outside the Houses of Parliament during what is now known as 'Black Friday', where she was injured and beaten by the police.

3.6 Throughout years of campaigning, she was a target of heckling and abuse. She was arrested 3 times and, in Holloway Prison, was subjected to force feeding – a cruel practice inflicted upon those on hunger strikes.

- 3.7 She died on Christmas Day in 1910, 2 days after her release from Holloway. Mary is widely believed to be the first suffragette to die for women's right to vote.
- 3.8 This proposal will recognise her legacy, sacrifice and extraordinary courage with a Freedom of the City award, so that they don't remain overlooked and hidden in history.
- 3.9 With the removal of the honorary title of freewoman from Aung San Suu Kyi, Mary Clarke will be the first woman recipient of the title since the authority was created in 1997.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 The Council has not adopted alternative options for the recognition of services or significant contributions to the city other than conferring the Freedom of the City.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Political Groups in the Council were consulted about the proposal at their meeting on 6 September 2023.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The conferral of the honour of Freedom of the city is for the council to determine. Given her contribution to women's rights and her local connection, it is recommended that the Council awards the title to Mary Clarke.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications. The costs arising from the award of this title is expected to be met from within existing resources.

Name of finance officer consulted: Ishemupenyu Chagonda Date consulted: 06.12.2023

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 Section 249 (5) The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) enables the councils of cities to confer the status of honorary freeman/freewoman on "(a) persons of distinction and (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the local area". The award of the title of Honorary Freeman has to be done by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose. The Freedom of the City does not confer rights other than to attend formal Council meetings.

Name of lawyer consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis Date consulted: 06.12.2023

9. Equalities implications

Freedom of the City is a civic honour that can be granted by the Council on deserving recipients and is used sparingly to maintain the significance of the award. The award of the title to Mary Clarke recognises her contribution to the struggle for women's equality and sends an important signal in underlining the Council's values of equality and inclusion. The way the Freedom of the City has been awarded historically may not have been as open and inclusive as it should be. It is therefore proposed to review the arrangements for the future to make them more inclusive and transparent.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

11. Other Implications

11.1 There are no other significant implications arising from the report.

