

Report of the City Solicitor to the meeting of the full Council to be held on Tuesday 14 January 2020

L

Subject:

HONORARY FREEMEN OF THE CITY

Summary statement:

The subject of this report is the legal framework for admission to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor

Phone: 01274 433696
E-mail: parveen.akhtar@bradford.gov.uk

1 SUMMARY

On July 14th 2019 the England Men's cricket squad scooped victory at the Cricket World Cup final. The final and dramatic match was watched by billions across the world. Huge numbers of cricket fans across the Bradford District were also glued to the media coverage, not least because of the involvement of two Bradfordians, Jonny Bairstow and Adil Rashid in the victory.

This report proposes that Jonny Bairstow and Adil Rashid be admitted to "The Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City". This honour would recognise their outstanding contribution on the field of cricket but also their work to inspire generations of sports men and women, and their connection to this City.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The 'Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City' was created in the late nineteenth century. The first name admitted to the roll was that of Sir Henry Mitchell, a former Lord Mayor, philanthropist and mill owner. Since that time other famous Bradfordians such as J.B. Priestley, Barbara Castle and David Hockney have been admitted to the roll.
- 2.2 The criteria for admission to the roll are that the person should have demonstrated distinguished and recent service, or made a significant beneficial and noteworthy contribution to the District or secured significant benefit to the District.
- 2.3 It is considered that Jonny Bairstow and Adil Rashid meet these criteria and should therefore be so honoured and admitted to the roll.
- 2.4 Jonny Bairstow – Jonathan Marc Bairstow was born in Bradford in 1989. He spent his early years in Bradford, first picking up a bat whilst toddling around Undercliffe Cricket Club where his father David Bairstow was a member. His family subsequently moved to York where he completed his education. But his ties with Bradford remain. In recent years he has supported the redevelopment of Park Avenue as a major cricket venue and acted as an ambassador for inward investment to Bradford and the Leeds City Region. On the field of cricket he has been part of the England line up since 2011, is an outstanding wicket keeper and the first England cricketer to score 3 consecutive one day international hundreds. He won the inaugural 'Young Wisden Schools Cricketer of the Year Award' in 2007.
- 2.5 Adil Rashid – Adil Usman Rashid was born in Bradford in 1988. Adil honed his skills playing in the Bradford Cricket League for Bradford and Bingley. He's been in the full England squad since 2008. In 2006 the ECB coach David Parsons considered him the most talented young leg spinner in the Country and in 2007 was described by Jason Gillespie "probably the best young cricketer in the Country". Since then Adil has become a seasoned all rounder playing at the highest level particularly known for his outstanding performance in one day internationals. Adil is an ambassador for the overseas Plastic Surgery Appeal, a Yorkshire based charity which carries out much of its work in the Punjab region of Pakistan. Here in

Bradford the Adil Rashid Cricket Academy provides coaching and opportunities for the next generation of talent.

3. LEGAL APPRAISAL

3.1 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 entitles the Council to admit persons of distinction to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City.

3.2 The power is expressed in the following terms:

- (i) Subject as follows, a relevant authority may admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority—
- (ii) persons of distinction, and
- (ii) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area

3.3 Any person nominated for the award of Honorary Freeman/Freewoman should:

- (i) Not be an existing member of the Council or an existing elected representative;
- (ii) Have demonstrated distinguished and recent service on their own account; or
- (iii) Have through their service made a significant, beneficial and noteworthy contribution to the District or been instrumental in securing for the District a significant advantage from which it has benefited.
- (iv) There shall be no representative nomination for a class of persons or a group of more than one person. Nominations shall only be on the basis of the personal character and achievements listed above.

3.4 For the purposes of guidance only and not so as to fetter the Council in the exercise of its power to appoint a freeman/freewoman, (but not so as to require any detailed comparison of individual merit), the consideration of any new candidate for appointment as a freeman/freewoman shall include taking into account:

- (i) The individuals who were appointed as freeman/freewoman during any earlier mayoral term.
- (ii) The individuals who were appointed as freemen before this policy was adopted and who are listed in the Annex to this policy.

3.5 In order to confer this honour:

- (i) A meeting of the Council specially convened for this purpose must take place (an extraordinary meeting).
 - (ii) Notice of the object of the meeting must be given.
 - (iii) The resolution conferring the honour must be passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting.
- 3.6 The Council is specifically empowered to make arrangements for the presentation of the accolade to a person upon whom the honour has been conferred.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

All costs incurred will be met from within current budget provision.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

None.

5.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

None.

5.5 TRADE UNION

None.

6. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Council admit Jonathan Marc Bairstow to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City in recognition of his distinguished career and close association with the City, pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

- 7.2 That the Council admit Adil Usman Rashid to the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City in recognition of his distinguished career and close association with the City, pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 7.3 That, for the purposes of presenting an address to Jonny (Jonathan) Bairstow and Adil Rashid, a civic ceremony be held. The arrangements for this event, including the date and time, will be determined by the City Solicitor having first consulted the Lord Mayor.

8. APPENDICES

None.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 9.1 Nomination of Jonny (Jonathan) Bairstow for Freeman of the City
- 9.2 Nomination of Adil Rashid for Freeman of the City