



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 5 December 2024
Time: 5.45 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this special meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

Page No

1. **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their decision councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.

If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN OF THE DORSET COUNCIL AREA**

3 - 20

To consider a report by J Andrews, Service Manager, Democratic and Electoral Services.

4. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.

5. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph x of schedule xx to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

Please note that there is no exempt business scheduled for this meeting.

Full Council

5 December 2024

Appointment of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council Area

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr N Ireland, Leader of the Council, Climate, Performance and Safeguarding

Local Councillor(s):

All Councillors

Executive Director:

J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Jacqui Andrews
Job Title: Service Manager, Democratic and Electoral Services
Tel: 01258 484325
Email: jacqui.andrews@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public Choose an item.

Brief Summary:

In December 2023, Full Council agreed a protocol for awarding the title of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council area to former members of Dorset Council. Current councillors were invited to nominate Honorary Aldermen from amongst former councillors and a panel comprising the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, the Group Leaders, the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer then met to consider nominations for the award, and to make recommendations to the Full Council.

Full Council is asked to agree to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council area as set out in the recommendation.

Recommendation:

That Full Council agrees to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council area to:

1. Anthony Alford
2. Pauline Batstone

3. Mary Penfold
4. Molly Rennie

Reason for Recommendation:

Being able to confer an honorary title on a former member of Dorset Council enables the council to recognise and celebrate the contribution made by those former members whose successors believe them to have made an outstanding contribution.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the Full Council meeting on 14 December 2023, members agreed to amend the Constitution to include the criteria and process for awarding the title of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council area to former members of Dorset Council.
- 1.2 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to confer the title "Honorary Alderman" on a person who has, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent service to the council as a former member of the council.
- 1.3 The status of an Alderman is a purely honorary one in recognition of previous service and does not give any special status to attend or to address meetings of the council or any committee or sub-committee.

2. Panel recommendations

- 2.1 A Panel of members consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Group Leaders of the Council met to consider nominations that were submitted in respect of former members of Dorset Council.
- 2.2 The nominations were considered against the criteria agreed by Full Council in December 2023, set out at Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Full Council is asked to consider the nominations that are recommended by the Panel, and agree to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council area to those former members set out in the recommendation namely:
 - Anthony Alford
 - Pauline Batstone
 - Mary Penfold
 - Molly Rennie
- 2.4 The motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman will require no less than two thirds of the members present at the meeting to vote in favour of a resolution for each of the nominees. A separate vote will be required for each of the nominations.

3. **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The cost of Honorary Alderman badges was met from the Chairman's 2023/24 budget. All Honorary Alderman will also be presented with a certificate which will be produced in-house with a nominal cost.

4. **Natural Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications**

- 4.1 There are no natural environment, climate and ecology implications associated with this report.

5. **Well-being and Health Implications**

- 5.1 There are no well-being and health implications associated with this report.

6. **Other Implications**

- 6.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

7. **Risk Assessment**

- 7.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 8.1 This report does not impact on any equality and diversity issues.

9. **Appendices**

- 9.1 The Protocol on conferring the title of Honorary Alderman to past members of the Dorset Council area is attached at Appendix 1.
- 9.2 The nominations that are recommended to Full Council are attached at Appendix 2.

10. **Background Papers**

- 10.1 There are no background papers associated with this report.

11. **Report Sign Off**

- 11.1 This report has been through the internal report clearance process and has been signed off by the Director for Legal and Democratic (Monitoring Officer), the Executive Director for Corporate Development (Section 151 Officer) and the Chairman and appropriate Portfolio Holder.



Protocol on Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman to Past Members of the Dorset Council area

The Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to Dorset Council as past members of the Council. The Act does not specify how eminent services are defined, and this is left as a matter of local interpretation.

1. The status of Honorary Alderman is non-political and is purely honorary in recognition of previous service.
2. It provides the Council with a means, at very little cost, to both recognise and celebrate the service and achievements of past councillors. It is hoped that by communicating the designation of Honorary Aldermen, this will raise the profile of councillors and highlight the important work that they carry out in the communities, as well as at formal decision-making meetings.
3. The award may not be conferred automatically on councillors upon retirement of the Council.
4. Nominations may be made while the proposed Honorary Alderman is still a member of the Council once it has been confirmed they will not be standing for election again. However, the Honorary Aldermanic titles can only be conferred once they are no longer a member of the Council.
5. Should an Honorary Alderman subsequently be re-elected to the Council, the award will be held in temporary suspension during the period of direct service as a member of the Council.
6. Awards can be made posthumously to former members.
7. Nominations for the title of Honorary Alderman of the Dorset Council area should be submitted to the Chair of Dorset Council.
8. The Chair will arrange for a cross-party panel of members to meet who will consider nominations for the title of Honorary Alderman and make recommendations to a specially convened meeting of the Full Council. The panel should be made up of one member from each of the political groups appointed by Group Leaders, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council and the Chief Executive or their nominee.
9. The specially convened meeting will ordinarily be held immediately prior to a scheduled Full Council meeting.

10. The Nominees who are put forward will be invited to attend the specially convened meeting.
11. During the meeting a Notice of Motion will be put forward to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on the Nominees.
12. The motion will be seconded and no less than two thirds of the members present at the meeting must vote in favour of a resolution for each of the nominees individually to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman.
13. Those awarded the title of Honorary Alderman will be presented with a Badge of Office and a Certificate of Conferral of the Status of Honorary Alderman which will carry the Council's Coat of Arms and the Common Seal of the Council. They will be invited to speak when accepting the honour if they wish.
14. The title of Honorary Alderman does not confer any special privileges or rights upon the appointee to speak or vote at council meetings, beyond the rights and privileges already afforded to the public nor to claim any allowances payable to members.
15. The only rights that are conferred to an Honorary Alderman by virtue of their appointment is to be invited to civic functions and events to which Members of the Council are invited. The Council will decide which civic functions and events it is appropriate to invite Honorary Aldermen to.
16. To walk in civic processions in a position immediately senior to serving councillors.
17. To wear the Badge of Office of Honorary Alderman on civic occasions.
18. To enjoy the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman and to be addressed as such.
19. Following notification of the death of an Honorary Alderman, the Dorset Flag will be flown at half-mast over County Hall on the date of the funeral.
20. There may be occasions where, due to the past or future behaviour of individuals who have been appointed as Honorary Aldermen, the Council may wish to remove the title from an individual.
21. Removal of the title of Honorary Alderman will follow the same process as appointment. However, it may take place at any meeting of Full Council rather than a specially convened meeting.

Criteria for appointment

1. Nominations for Honorary Aldermen will be considered by the Council as and when they are received.
2. Nominations may be received by the Chair's office from any Member of the Council within two years of the nominee ceasing to be a Dorset Councillor.
3. The appointment of Honorary Alderman is to confer recognition on members who, over a period of time, made a significant contribution to the Council in particular, and to public service in general.
4. The title of Honorary Alderman can only be conferred to a past member of Dorset Council for whom it has been deemed that they have provided eminent, exceptional and distinguished services to the Council, above such expectations and duties that are expected of councillors.

5. Honorary Aldermen must have ordinarily served on the Council for a minimum of 16 years. This can include serving on any of the following predecessor councils.
 - Dorset Council
 - Dorset County Council
 - East Dorset District Council
 - North Dorset District Council
 - Purbeck District Council
 - West Dorset District Council
 - Weymouth & Portland Borough Council
6. This service does not have to be consecutive.
7. On a case by case basis where exceptional circumstances apply, the title may be conferred on former councillors who fall outside of Criteria 5.
8. The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the community and has given notable service on behalf of Dorset Council, which has enhanced the reputation of councillors and the Council itself.

Dated 15th October 2024

Judy Saunders
Civic Officer and PA to Elected Members



Dorset Council

Honorary Alderman

Nomination Form

Anthony Alford

Dorset Council acknowledges the service undertaken by the Nominee. The honour of bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman is an important step which will enable the Council to recognise and celebrate the contribution made by those former councillors whose successors believe them to have made an outstanding difference in their service as a councillor and to their community:

- going above such expectations and duties that are expected of councillors
- having provided eminent, exceptional and distinguished service to the Council and to the community
- having made an outstanding and significant contribution in their role as an elected councillor on behalf of Dorset Council which has enhanced the reputation of councillors and the Council itself

Before completing, please read notes on page 3.

Please describe how the nominee's service to Dorset Council has gone above and beyond that of other councillors and warrants the special distinction of Honorary Alderman or how they are considered to have made an outstanding contribution in their role as an elected councillor (*use a separate sheet if necessary*)

Tony was first elected to Local Government in Dorset in 2003 to serve on West Dorset District Council (WDDC). He then went on to represent Eggardon Ward on the newly formed Unitary Dorset Council in 2019.

Main Council positions held include :

Deputy Leader West Dorset District Council 2007 - 2015
Leader of West Dorset District Council 2015 - 2019
Dorset Council Cabinet Member Communities 2019 – 2020

Tony is held in high esteem by local councillors representing all political parties and groups.

During this time Tony has held positions of authority in councils – serving as Chairman of the Dorset Waste Partnership, Deputy Leader of West Dorset District Council, and then Leader of WDDC.

Tony excelled in the responsibility of appointing others. He had very good foresight. Examples of this include the West Dorset District Council Cabinet of 2015 to 2019 which included those of professional acumen such as Peter Barrowcliff and Tim Yarker. It is worthy of comment that his Chief Executive at WDDC for the 4 years to 2019 progressed to be Chief Executive at Dorset Council and then in turn to be the head of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

Within six months of the 2015 District Council elections, he oversaw the approval of respected Development Plan, still relevant at the time of writing.

Tony was very good at working with others. A good example is the period after a West Dorset referendum when the voters voted for the main opposition party to be represented on the WDDC Cabinet. Tony accepted this readily and worked well with those with differing views.

He has overseen much of the early work for Dorset Council, to be held as a flagship authority in the world of recycling. In his role as Chair of the Dorset Waste Partnership, perhaps his greatest legacy is the creation of the Bridport Waste Recycling Centre which is widely seen as the ultimate in local facilities.

Tony, as an accountant, has been ideally qualified to participate in decisions which have resulted in millions of pounds of savings. He has spent his entire time in various Dorset authorities seeking to improve things for residents, to obtain efficiencies and further obtain better value for money for residents.

Tony was very involved and indeed committed to seeing successful Local Government Reorganisation in Dorset. He was, as a Chartered Accountant, once again a key influence during the period leading up to the Shadow Council and indeed beyond vesting day in April 2019. He devoted a considerable amount of time in considering the financial challenges associated with Local Government Reorganisation.

Tony has never been content to simply fulfil his duties as an elected councillor in any particular role, always going over and beyond the responsibilities. He has taken the role of a ward councillor incredibly seriously and never prioritised his leadership work over that of his residents.

His faultless attendance at the many parish councils in his various wards over the years, has been exemplary. Tony has not spent all his life in rural Dorset. However he has shown a great willingness to understand rural issues and challenges. He showed great commitment to meet regularly with Chairs and Clerks of Parish Councils to make sure they are comfortable with decisions affecting them. When Tony spoke at Planning Committees, he was very eloquent in delivering his thoughts on the opinion of the relevant parish council. When Tony spoke, Committee members always paid the greatest attention to his words.

He has given great thought before answering a question, this has earned the respect of everyone, whether in the Parish Council Meetings in the humblest of village halls or in the District and Unitary Council chambers.

To summarise, Tony has been a great role model in Local Government and its people in Dorset for 21 years. Dorset Council is a poorer place without the intellect and thoughtfulness that he brought to meetings.

We (the undersigned*) have read and understood that in making this nomination, we are not aware of any actions or behaviour of former councillor Anthony Alford that would embarrass or reflect badly on the Council if they were to be made an Honorary Alderman of Dorset Council.

The nominee is no longer a serving Dorset Councillor

Please tick

Therefore we nominate:

Full Name of Nominee	Authority <i>please delete as appropriate</i>	Term of Office	Total Number of Years' Service
Anthony Paul Robin Alford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • West Dorset District Council 	2019 - 2024 2003 – 2019	5 Yrs <u>16 Yrs</u> 21 Yrs

***Proposer's Name:** Cllr Simon Christopher **Date:** 26/09/2024

***Seconder's Name:** Cllr Craig Monks **Date:** 26/09/2024



Dorset Council

Honorary Alderman

Nomination Form

[Pauline Batstone](#)

Dorset Council acknowledges the service undertaken by the Nominee. The honour of bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman is an important step which will enable the Council to recognise and celebrate the contribution made by those former councillors whose successors believe them to have made an outstanding difference in their service as a councillor and to their community:

- going above such expectations and duties that are expected of councillors
- having provided eminent, exceptional and distinguished service to the Council and to the community
- having made an outstanding and significant contribution in their role as an elected councillor on behalf of Dorset Council which has enhanced the reputation of councillors and the Council itself

Before completing, please read notes on page 3.

Please describe how the nominee's service to Dorset Council has gone above and beyond that of other councillors and warrants the special distinction of Honorary Alderman or how they are considered to have made an outstanding contribution in their role as an elected councillor (*use a separate sheet if necessary*)

Pauline is an inspirational exemplar of dedicated, tireless service to Dorset's citizens over more than 40 years. She has provided strong inclusive leadership bringing together volunteers, organisations and authorities to achieve significant and concrete results across a wide area of Dorset for the benefit of our community. She has brought her extensive influence to bear through sheer strength of personality, an unshakeable integrity, dogged determination and an exceptional ability to build consensus.

Such that she is and remains universally admired and respected across the community. She also takes time to pass on her expertise and experience through mentoring others who are finding their feet in volunteering and local government.

Pauline's work as a district, county and town councillor, has included helping people and families address issues with social services benefits planning and housing. She is known for her selfless work on behalf of constituents. Her appointment in 2019 as the first chairman of the NYU unitary Dorset council is a testament to the high cross party regard and trust in which she has been held. She has also had a street named after her for her earlier work with East Dorset District Council as a councillor and then as Chairman of the council.

Pauline has been and continues to be a trustee of several key community organisations and charities, she has used her roles and extensive network of contacts over many years to initiate and support completion of a number of complex cross organisation projects. Examples include bringing in funding and coordinating volunteers for the establishment of a youth club and securing land for an extension of the key Sturminster to Blandford railway, she chaired the board of Dorset's race and equality council through a very difficult time to achieve stability. Her more recent economic development work for Sturminster Newton includes the establishing and chairing a new Chamber of Commerce, providing leadership to the project to set up a very successful community benefit society with a total of 4 venues taking over empty bank premises & shops with initiatives to raise money for the town. She has helped the Diocese of Lui in South Sudan to improve education and services (including visiting Lewis herself to help on the ground) and she is churchwarden for her local Parish.

Pauline started her political life, serving the community on East Dorset district council in 1983, and she served as chairman from 1993 to 1995. Whilst Pauline has now stepped down from Dorset Council she remains a Town Councillor with Sturminster Newton Town Council.

We (the undersigned*) have read and understood that in making this nomination, we are not aware of any actions or behaviour of former councillor Pauline Batstone that would embarrass or reflect badly on the Council if they were to be made an Honorary Alderman of Dorset Council.

The nominee is no longer a serving Dorset Councillor

Please tick

X

Therefore we nominate:

Full Name of Nominee	Authority <i>please delete as appropriate</i>	Term of Office	Total Number of Years' Service
Pauline Hannah Batstone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Dorset County Council • North Dorset District Council 	2019 – 2024 1993 – 2001 & 2013 – 2019	5 Yrs 8 Yrs 7 Yrs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Dorset District Council 	2011 – 2019 1983 – 1995	6 Yrs <u>12 Yrs</u> 31 yrs
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***Proposer's Name:** Cllr Carole Jones **Date:** 30/09/2024

***Seconder's Name:** Cllr Steve Murcer **Date:** 30/09/2024



Dorset Council

Honorary Alderman

Nomination Form

Mary Penfold

Dorset Council acknowledges the service undertaken by the Nominee. The honour of bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman is an important step which will enable the Council to recognise and celebrate the contribution made by those former councillors whose successors believe them to have made an outstanding difference in their service as a councillor and to their community:

- going above such expectations and duties that are expected of councillors
- having provided eminent, exceptional and distinguished service to the Council and to the community
- having made an outstanding and significant contribution in their role as an elected councillor on behalf of Dorset Council which has enhanced the reputation of councillors and the Council itself

Before completing, please read notes on page 3.

Please describe how the nominee's service to Dorset Council has gone above and beyond that of other councillors and warrants the special distinction of Honorary Alderman or how they are considered to have made an outstanding contribution in their role as an elected councillor (*use a separate sheet if necessary*)

Mary Penfold's service to the community over many decades includes a long period as the District Council Member for Frome Valley Ward (first elected in 1987 and re-elected at every election following) and as Chairman of the former West Dorset District Council for 9 years before stepping down in 2007

Elected to Dorset County Council for the Sherborne Rural division in 2017 and then the successor authority Dorset Council in 2019, representing the new

Yetminster Ward. From 2023 Mary was appointed the Lead member for Schools, supporting the Cabinet Member for Children and the wider Children's Directorate.

Additionally, Mary's commitment to the community is further evidenced from her term as the Chair of the North Dorset Primary Care Trust and as a Magistrate on the West Dorset Bench.

During her time at both West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council, Mary has been a keen supporter and advocate for the parishes she represented. She diligently attended the parish meetings and usually stayed for the whole meeting ensuring she understood the local views on the topics discussed. She would then ensure these views were heard at the council she was representing. In addition to her other councillor duties she was also clerk to Sydling St Nicholas parish council for some 20 years.

I first met Mary when I joined West Dorset District Council in about 1990 (it may have been a bit earlier I don't have the exact date). I worked with Mary who chaired the Environment Committee and at that time we were heavily involved with coastal defence works. This led to the substantial works done in two phases at Lyme Regis and the more recent works and pier at West Bay. Mary was always very hands on working with officers and engaging with the town councils and members of the public. She would visit on almost a weekly basis to review the works and ensure that there was always a listening ear for locals.

Her interest in this area led to her becoming the council's representative on SCOPAC, the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline. She continued on this board for the rest of her years as a councillor. There were representatives and officers from all the central England, the EA and many other local user groups. Mary chaired this forum for a number of years and gained central government support for the work needed on our much valued coastline. She continued to do this while Chairman of the District Council.

Mary comes from a farming family and for the last nine years has been heavily involved with the County Farm Estates, supporting our tenant farmers and ensuring that this hugely valuable resource is put to best use. She was often a visitor to the farms listening to their problem and championing them at the council meetings.

As stated in the submission Mary was also a Champion for mental health issues and chaired the North Dorset Primary Care Trust. Her leadership and example in bringing mental health to everyone's attention won her the MBE. For many subsequent years she was also the council's Mental Health Champion.

Since becoming a member of Dorset County Council (so for 9 years) Mary has been a Vice-Chair of the Northern Planning committee and was also on Strategic Planning. This involved many hours of visits and much reading to understand the

details of all the applications. Nothing was too much trouble for her to find out the local views and see the site on the ground.

In addition to her work as a councillor, Mary has been very involved in supporting young people in the community. In particular she liked to try to work with those youngsters who were “going off the rails” a little and encouraged them into sport and boxing. She was a keen supporter in the Dorchester boxing club, as was her father before her, and would regularly collect youngsters with no transport to ensure that they could gain the discipline of the sport.

Mary is very involved in the village’s church and runs the local nativity as well as many fundraising events in the community.

It has to be said over the many years that Mary has been a councillor she has gone above and beyond what would normally be expected but the sheer number of hours she put into her council and community work. It has been a distinguished and exceptional service recognised by her fellows by her being voted the Chairman of WDDC, being made a Magistrate and being awarded the MBE. I cannot think of anyone else who has made such a significant contribution to the community over so many years.

Mary’s dedication to the principle of “Service Above Self” demonstrated over many years, supports this submission to be awarded Honorary Alderman status.

We (the undersigned*) have read and understood that in making this nomination, we are not aware of any actions or behaviour of former councillor Mary Penfold that would embarrass or reflect badly on the Council if they were to be made an Honorary Alderman of Dorset Council.

The nominee is no longer a serving Dorset Councillor *Please tick*

Therefore we nominate:

Full Name of Nominee	Authority <i>please delete as appropriate</i>	Term of Office	Total Number of Years’ Service
Naomi Mary Penfold (known as Mary Penfold)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dorset Council• Dorset County Council• West Dorset District Council	2019 – 2024 2017 – 2019 1987 - 2019	5 Yrs 2 Yrs 32 Yrs

***Proposer’s Name:** Cllr Jill Haynes **Date:** 25/09/2024
***Secunder’s Name:** Cllr Byron Quayle **Date:** 25/09/2024



Dorset Council

Honorary Alderman

Nomination Form

Molly Rennie

Dorset Council acknowledges the service undertaken by the Nominee. The honour of bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman is an important step which will enable the Council to recognise and celebrate the contribution made by those former councillors whose successors believe them to have made an outstanding difference in their service as a councillor and to their community:

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- having provided eminent, exceptional and distinguished service to the Council and to the community
- having made an outstanding and significant contribution in their role as an elected councillor on behalf of Dorset Council which has enhanced the reputation of councillors and the Council itself

Before completing, please read notes on page 3. <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>

Please describe how the nominee's service to Dorset Council has gone above and beyond that of other councillors and warrants the special distinction of Honorary Alderman or how they are considered to have made an outstanding contribution in their role as an elected councillor (*use a separate sheet if necessary*)

I would like to nominate Molly Rennie for the title of Honorary Alderman of Dorset Council.

Molly was first elected to Dorchester Town Council in 1986, a council which she has served continuously on to date. She has been the mayor three times and has been a strong advocate for her community through all that time. She was later elected onto West Dorset District Council and served until LGR after which she

became a member of Dorset Council for the last five years until she stepped down at the elections in 2024.

Over the years Molly has championed the local community, having worked on all sorts of issues. As part of her work on housing she has been the Chair of one of the local Alms Houses. Through her Chairmanship that organisation is currently looking at redeveloping the site to provide an increased number of high quality housing units for her current tenants and for future tenants. This has been a long, difficult process but she has never given up. In 2019 she told me she was determined to get these flats built and opened by 2024. To date they are still in Planning at DC. A lot of people would have given up.

Molly is probably best known for her work on domestic abuse. I first met Molly when I was doing some work on refuge provision in Weymouth and found out that she had been involved with setting up a refuge in Dorchester, bringing partners together to make accommodation that helped many people over the years it was open. She didn't just set it up but remained hands on in a positive way helping many of the residents to a safer happier life. To this day she chairs the Dorset Domestic Abuse Welfare Committee which provides funding and support for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and has done numerous talks across the county to groups on DA. Taking this role into the councils she became the DA Champion initially WDDC which carried through onto Dorset Council. She has been a strong advocate for survivors of DA and has represented the Dorset Council in meetings with senior people from government and the judiciary. She has been very active in awareness raising, always making sure that the victims voices are heard and was always the one who speaks up for this group of people. Although no longer a councillor she still remains in an influential role as the voice for survivors. She was awarded an MBE 2019 for her work in domestic abuse.

While in WDDC Molly started the Shoe Box scheme for service personnel. This was triggered by feedback she had from members of the armed services in Afghanistan who were saying that they struggled to get toiletries and personal hygiene products but that they could receive parcels from the UK. She set up a scheme in Dorset where toiletries were donated, put into shoe boxes and sent out. Dorset is a county that has many serving personnel around the world and it so not only the awareness of need but the drive to come up with a scheme to address the issue that Molly is so good at.

Those who know Molly will know that she is described as a people person and who took this through to partnership working. She knows so well how to 'work a room' and will always come out of meetings with new contacts. She has always worked cross party and has little time for party politics which she has demonstrated time and time again in meetings both in the public and private. Partnership working is in her DNA and she has never lost sight of what we as councillors are here for; serving our communities.

We (the undersigned*) have read and understood that in making this nomination, we are not aware of any actions or behaviour of former councillor Rennie that would embarrass or reflect badly on the Council if they were to be made an Honorary Alderman of Dorset Council.

The nominee is no longer a serving Dorset Councillor

Please tick

X

Therefore we nominate:

Full Name of Nominee	Authority <i>please delete as appropriate</i>	Term of Office	Total Number of Years' Service
Molly Rennie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • West Dorset District Council 	2019 – 2024 ?1990 - 2019	34 years approx

***Proposer's Name:** Cllr Gill Taylor **Date:** 26/09/2024

***Secunder's Name:** Cllr Andy Canning **Date:** 26/09/2024