

Report No.2

Report to Policy and Resources Committee 12th January 2016

Town Crier

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To request the committee to consider advertising for a replacement Town Crier following the resignation of the previous appointee.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Town Council has traditionally supported the appointment of a Town Crier who has been paid an annual stipend to assist in covering expenses.
- 2.2 The role of the Town Crier has been to support the Town Mayor at annual local civic events such as Mayor Making, Service of Remembrance, Evensong and special events such as the Millennium, Jubilee and national celebrations commemorated by the town.
- 2.3 The Town Crier also has the role of announcing, or more traditionally “crying”, important events or news of local significance.
- 2.4 Subject to the receipt of consent and appropriate payment the Town Crier has also been used to herald the opening of a new shop or business within the town.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 The previous Town Crier held the appointment for ten years and resigned in December 2015.
- 3.2 A number of town councils do not have a Town Crier but it may be argued that such a role adds to the pageantry of some events.
- 3.3 In the event that the committee wish to secure an appointment to the office of Town Crier it is proposed that in the first instance an advertisement is placed on the Town Council website.

4. Financial implications and risks

- 4.1 The approved budget for the next financial year includes funds for payments to both the Town Crier and the Mace Bearer.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are requested to determine if action should be taken to appoint a new Town Crier.

Jeff Penfold
Town Clerk
29th December 2015