

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

15 October 2019

TITLE:	Admission of Honorary Freeman of the Borough
EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Anthony McKeown – Leader
CONTACT OFFICER:	Linden Vernon – Senior Officer (Governance and Member Support)
WARDS INVOLVED:	Not Applicable

Appendices Attached – None

1. Reason for the Report

- 1.1 To ask councillors to consider the admission of Mr John Pritchard, of Elnor Lane, Whaley Bridge as an honorary freeman of the Borough.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That under the power conferred by Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council admits as Honorary Freeman of the Borough, Mr John Pritchard, of Elnor Lane, Whaley Bridge being a person of distinction who has rendered eminent service to the Borough.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Council Leader, Councillor Anthony McKeown, brought to the Council's attention the contribution made to public life by Mr John Pritchard of Whaley Bridge and nominated him for this honour.
- 3.2 This nomination has the unanimous support of all the political groups on the Council.

Mark Trillo

Executive Director (People) and Monitoring Officer

Web Links and Background Papers

Not Applicable

Contact details

Linden Vernon
Senior Officer (Governance and Member
Support)
linden.vernon@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

4. Detail

- 4.1 Mr Pritchard moved to Whaley Bridge in 1967 and was elected to Whaley Bridge Urban District Council in 1971, becoming a High Peak Borough Councillor in 1976. He has shown great dedication to representing his local community for over 45 years, helping to empower local people and to ensure that they have a voice as recognised by being made an Honorary Townsman of Whaley Bridge in 1997 for his long and distinguished service, which continues to date as a member of the Whaley Bridge Town Council.
- 4.2 Within the Borough Council Mr Pritchard served on a range of committees. He was Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee from 1983-1987, elected Mayor during 1989-90, Executive Member for Community and Social Development from 2003 until 2007 and Chairman of the Council's Audit and Regulatory Committee from 2007 until 2017 and retired as a Borough Councillor in May 2019.
- 4.3 His drive to improve the quality of life for the community goes far beyond his role as an elected councillor as demonstrated by his time given to advise a wide range of organisations including Friends of Whaley Bridge Station, Whaley Bridge Sports Association, Peak District Rural Housing, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (past Chairman) and Whaley Bridge Amenity Society (past Chairman) to name but a few. He is a person of great integrity and a true public servant in every sense.
- 4.4 It is proposed that a celebration event will be hosted by the Council later in the municipal year when a commemorative scroll and badge will be presented.