

Report of the Leader of the Council

Extraordinary Council – 7 April 2016

HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE CITY & COUNTY OF SWANSEA TO MEL NURSE

Purpose:	To consider whether to confer the honorary freedom of the City & County of Swansea
Policy Framework:	None
Reason for Decision:	To bestow the Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea to Mel Nurse
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services. Group Leaders and Deputies have also been consulted.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The Council confer Honorary Freedom of the City & County of Swansea on Mel Nurse in recognition of his contribution to sport and the city, specifically his key involvement and leadership in saving Swansea City Football Club.
Report Author:	Jo-anne Cutler
Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley
Legal Officer:	Stephanie Williams
Access to Services Officer	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

Mel Nurse was born on October 11, 1937 and grew up in Alice Street, Cwmddu, where an incredible seven residents would go on to play for Wales including John and Mel Charles, Len O'Shea, Ernie Jones and Jackie Roberts.

At the age of 15 he decided to become a footballer and four clubs wanted to sign him but he wanted to stay in Swansea.

His playing career included playing for Swansea Town (1955—1962), Middlesbrough (1962—1965), Swindon Town (1965—1968), Swansea City (1968---1971) and many of the Welsh league teams.

He scored 257 league appearances in two stints for Swansea, the former centre-back also put in 12 appearances for Wales.

Mr Nurse invested in property and owned many of the B&B's along Oystermouth Road, Swansea as well as many properties in the city. He currently runs the Seahaven Hotel.

After finishing his career as a football player, he became a Director of the football club, and continued to support the club through financial difficulties, and at times, personally paying the bills and wages.

In 2002, Mr Nurse, known as 'Mr Swansea' to many fans used his business know-how and his personal financial support, to set up a consortium to save Swansea City Football Club from financial extinction and bought the club's debts to save it from administration.

Mr Nurse has been a player of distinction, passionate supporter and a vital saviour to Swansea City, his beloved home town football club. Mr Nurse is a true local hero who has played a vital role in the current success of Swansea City.

2. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

2.1 Under section 249 of the Local Government Act the Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, admit to be an Honorary Freeman person of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service to the County.

2.2 In the past similar honours have been bestowed by the Council and its predecessors on The Welsh Guards, The Royal Welsh Regiment (Royal Welch Fusiliers) and its antecedent regiments, HM Coastguard, RNLl, former President Jimmy Carter, the late Lord Callaghan, the late John Charles, HMS Scott, The Archbishop of Canterbury, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, and more recently 215 (City of Swansea) Squadron.

3. Ceremony Arrangements

3.1 It is proposed that the ceremony will be held at an ceremonial meeting of the Council to be held at the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Swansea on at 4.00 p.m. on 28 April 2016.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 None.

5. Financial Implications

The cost of the proceedings, including a Freedom Scroll, will be met from the Corporate Promotions budget.

6. Legal Implications

The power to grant Honorary Freedom of the City and County of Swansea is contained in Section 249 [5] of the Local Government Act 1972.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None