

REPORT TO EVENTS COMMITTEE

TOWN CRIER

Report Reference E-24-09
Meeting Date 6th January 2025
Agenda Item 7
Prepared by Town Clerk



1.0 BACKGROUND

Town Criers have traditionally made public announcements and proclamations since the 18th century, though the role is mediaeval and previously known as a 'bellman'. The Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers notes that organisations often employ a town crier to "add a touch of colour and a memorable impact to their events".

In 1995 the council appointed Julie Mitchell as Honorary Town Crier of Knutsford and in 1997 this was extended indefinitely. Julie, and her husband David, is also the Town Crier of Chester.

The role of Town Crier is an honorary position. It is generally a voluntary (not employed) role but Town Criers may often charge a fee for attending commercial events.

The Knutsford Town Crier is not well utilised and has probably attended only a handful of events in the last decade, for example at the Crosstown Community Orchard Wassail 2023 and the opening of the Veincentre in 2024.

2.0 DECISIONS REQUIRED

The committee should consider whether it would wish to see greater use/prominence of the Town Crier. This would then be explored with the Town Crier.