

Freedom of the Parish

POLICY REVIEW	
Signed	
Approving committee	(or full council) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Introduction

This document sets out the criteria, procedure, and arrangements relating to the selection and appointment process for the Granting of Freedom of the Parish to individuals.

Granting the Freedom of the Parish

Granting the Freedom of the Parish is the highest honour that the Parish Council can bestow. Although it carries no powers, rights or privileges, those who receive the honour are able to use the title of Freeman or Freewomen.

As this is the highest honour that the Parish Council can grant it should be used sparingly and should not be given too often in order to preserve its status and value.

Criteria

As the Freedom of the Parish is awarded in recognition of exceptional service to the Parish, it would be inappropriate to set out strict judging criteria. Instead, guidance on the attributes that successful candidates would be expected to have demonstrated is outlined within this policy.

Cost

Section 249 (9) of Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to spend "such reasonable sum as it thinks fit" on presenting an address to an Honorary Freeman or Honorary Freewoman. A commemorative certificate will be provided. Currently there is no budget provision for this but under the S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 the costs of the scroll and frame can be allocated.

Legislation

Section 249 (5) of Local Government Act 1972, as amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009, allows the Council of a relevant authority (including a Parish Council) to admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority:

- Persons of distinction, and
- Persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent service to that place or area.

Procedure for Granting of Freedom of Holt Parish

Any Parish Councillor may nominate to the Council individuals, who in their opinion, have rendered eminent services to the Parish and who should be considered to be granted the Freedom of the Parish.

Titles will not be awarded retrospectively.

The nomination for the Honorary title will be considered in an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. The agenda item will be discussed in private, and the public and press will be excluded. The name(s) of the individual(s) must not appear in the agenda or minutes of the meeting.

If the motion is passed, the Chairman in consultation with the Parish Clerk shall then make arrangements for the formal presentation of the 'Freedom' which will be marked by the giving of a framed certificate, and the addition of the recipients name to a board of honour which will be displayed in the Village Hall.