



FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

14th June 2022

PRESENT: Cllr Mark Thorpe (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Mann (Vice Chairman)

Councillor Sharmilee Bhowe	Councillor Sandra Grove
Councillor Alan Biggs	Councillor Matthew Parker
Councillor Lindsey Dedden	Councillor Jane Russell
Councillor Spencer Flower	Councillor Kate Stephens
Councillor Simon Gibson	

Also present: Cllr Pat Morrow

In Attendance: Carrie Lloyd, Town Clerk & Jan Sebire, Assistant Town Clerk
Public: 0

026/22/23 **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Standing Order 13(a)(vii) be suspended and Cllr M. Thorpe be elected as Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

027/22/23 **Election of Vice Chairman**

RESOLVED that Cllr P. Mann be elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year.

028/22/23 **Minutes of the meeting held 10th May 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

029/22/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Toni Coombs

030/22/23 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

031/22/23 **Annual Governance & Accountability Return**

The Internal Auditor had signed off his section that day. The complete document would be circulated to Members prior to Council on 29th June. Following the Financial Regulations Working Group meeting earlier that evening, Members had decided to continue meeting as a working group to ensure that the Council was meeting its Statutory & Scrutiny requirements.

032/22/23 **Poole Crematorium**

Members noted the concerns raised. Cllr Flower advised that he had received an update regarding this matter which would be circulated to Members.

Cllr Flower advised that Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council would be asked about their consultation process.

033/22/23 **Details of Staff Review**

Councillors noted the proposed strategy and cost of £550 for this exercise. **RECOMMENDED** that the work on the Review be approved.

(Action: Town Clerk)

034/22/23 **Amended Honorary Freeman Policy**

Members noted the draft amended Policy. It was requested that the Award of Honorary Freeman should be used sparingly and that a Working Group should consider any nominations prior to consideration by Council.

RECOMMENDED that the Draft Policy attached at Appendix A be approved.

(Action: Town Clerk)

035/22/23 **Closure of Lloyds Bank Verwood**

Members expressed concern at the closure of the last bank in Verwood. Of particular concern was lack of access to cash, need for "float" change and potential loss of an ATM with paying in capability.

Cllr Flower advised that he had received an email from Lloyds Bank in his capacity as Leader of Dorset Council and it was agreed that this would be circulated to Members.

Members **RECOMMENDED** that the Council's concerns be sent to Lloyds Bank.

(Action: Town Clerk)

036/22/23 **Quote from Mears for the Youth Centre**

Members considered the submitted quote. Members requested that an itemised quote be submitted to Council. Concern was also expressed that the Council had paid for a full survey prior to taking over the building via lease and this should have been picked up at that point.

RECOMMENDED that Council consider the work in light of further information requested.

(Action: Town Clerk)

037/22/23 **Town Lengthsman**

Members considered the draft document and **RECOMMENDED** that a Working Group be set up to consider the business case.

(Action: Town Clerk)

037/22/23 **Advice regarding Solar Farm Funds**

Members considered NALC's advice and Cllr Flower undertook to discuss this with Dorset Council's s.151 Officer and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

(Action: Cllr Flower)

038/22/23 **Health and Safety Matters**

Members were advised that all issues raised were in hand or had been dealt with.

(Action: Assistant Town Clerk)

039/22/23 **Other reports and future agenda items**

The Clerk was requested to obtain an expected date of delivery for the new gate into the Recreation Ground.

(Action: Town Clerk)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.

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Chairman



VERWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Policy on Granting **Honorary** 'Freeman' Status In the Civil Parish of Verwood

Any Verwood Resident who has lived in the Civil Parish for a minimum of 25 years may be considered to become an **Honorary** Freeman of the Parish.

This honour will carry no special privileges apart from those listed below, will not affect Council Governance and attract no form of financial recompense whatsoever. **The award of Honorary Freeman shall be used sparingly.**

~~There will be a maximum of 6 Freemen of the Town of Verwood and Three Legged Cross at any one time.~~

The honour will be in recognition of outstanding and exceptional service, in terms of type and length, to the Community.

The appointment will be for the remainder of the recipient's life and a badge will be awarded to mark the honour.

~~Nominations will be considered once in any council term, normally once every four years. Applications should be received by the end of May of that year and will be considered in the July.~~

Nomination for the honour may be made by any **Councillor** or resident of the Town of Verwood and Three Legged Cross

Serving **Staff**, Town and Unitary ~~District and County~~ Councillors will not be eligible for nomination but former **Staff**, Town or Unitary ~~District and County~~ Councillors will be eligible for nomination.

Nominations must be made in writing as specified by the Council from time to time. This will then be scrutinised by the Nominations Working Group prior to consideration and confirmation at a meeting of the Council. Nominations will not be accepted from members of families and the nominator should get two additional residents or Councillors to endorse the application. ~~All nominations received will be considered in confidential session by the Council on a date specified.~~ Those to be appointed **Honorary** Freemen will be notified and a public announcement made as appropriate. A presentation will be made on an appropriate occasion as specified by the Council.

The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution the Town and must involve one or more of the following factors;

- **A significant allocation of the person's time in serving members of the community for the improvement of their well being;**
- **The promotion, achievement and/or delivery of community services in which a real personal contribution has been made;**

Freemen of the Parish will be entitled to:-

- i) Receive a badge and citation to mark the honour bestowed.
- ii) Attend all Civic Occasions with an escort as Official Guests.
- iii) Be commemorated on a Board in the Town Council Chamber

~~Those who were not made Honorary Freemen would receive a letter from the Mayor acknowledging the contribution that they had given to the community.~~

~~The Mayor will write to anyone nominated but not appointed on that occasion thanking them for the service they are giving to the Community.~~

Reminder – Public Sector Equality Duty

~~Section 149 of the 2010 Act, which came into force on 5th April 2011, imposes on public authorities (which as specified in Schedule 19 includes principal authorities, parish councils and parish meetings without a separate parish council and, in Wales community councils) in the exercise of their functions, a duty to take into account:~~

- ~~• the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the act;~~
- ~~• to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;~~
- ~~• foster good relations between those who share protected characteristics and those who do not.~~

~~The protected characteristics of marriage and civil partnership are not covered by the provisions of section 149.~~

Policy Title	Policy on Granting 'Honorary Freeman' Status in the Civil Parish of Verwood
Lead Officer	Town Clerk
Responsible Committee	Full Town Council
Version	V2
Date Adopted	24 th July 2014
Publication Level	Fully inc Web
Date Revised	14 th June 2022, 10 th May 2019, 13 th March 2018