

Freedom of Witham

The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009) enables Parish Councils the ability to award the status of honorary freeman on ‘persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services.’

The Council can grant the honour by passing a resolution with a two thirds majority.

Qualifications for freedom differ from town to town but generally fall into two categories ‘patrimony’ (inheritance) and ‘servitude’.

It will be important to keep record of those who have been granted the Freedom of Witham and Members might like to consider a framed scroll that names can be added to as and when necessary.

The following policy is therefore suggested –

The Town Council has the power to grant persons who have rendered eminent services, the freedom of the town. Careful consideration needs to be taken to ensure that this honour is not diluted. People to be considered need to have given exceptional voluntary service to the town over a long number of years.

A nomination for the Freedom of Witham will be considered by the Town Council and a two thirds majority is required to pass the motion.

Agreed by Town Council Minute 57 – 18.1.2016