Honorary Freedom of King's Sutton

INTRODUCTION

This document sets out recommendations relating to the selection and appointment process for Honorary Freemen* and 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 can bestow. Although it carries no privileges, those who receive the honour may use the title of Freeman.

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

CRITERIA

There is no statutory guidance that sets out any criteria for the appointment of Freemen. As 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 successful candidates would be expected to have are recommended.

COST

Section 249 (6) of Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to spend "such reasonable sum as they see fit" on presenting an address to Honorary Freemen. A commemorative 'scroll' will be provided.

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 of the place or area for which it is the authority:

a. Persons of distinction, and

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

A resolution must be passed:

a. At a meeting of the Parish Council that has been convened and where notice of the object of the meeting has been given; and

b. By not less than two-thirds of the members of the Council who vote on it.

c. With consideration of the nomination a specific agenda item.

PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING OF FREEDOM OF KING'S SUTTON

* The term "Freeman/Freemen" in this context means a person/s of any gender identify who has/have been given the Freedom of the Parish

King's Sutton Parish Council: Freedom of the Parish

1. All Councillors of King's Sutton Parish Council may nominate to the Council individuals who in their opinion, have rendered eminent services to the Parish of King's Sutton and who should be granted Freedom of the Parish. Nominations must be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for inclusion on the Agenda.

2. The Member of the Council making a nomination for the Honorary title needs to demonstrate to the Council that the criteria listed below have been met.

3. The roll of Honorary Freemen shall be maintained by the Parish Clerk.

CRITERIA

When considering candidates for Freedom of King's Sutton, the following should be considered:

Candidates should have a strong and continuing connection with and commitment to King's Sutton or have made a major contribution to village life and in doing, so have enhanced the reputation of the parish.

Awards should not be for a job "well done" or because someone has reached a particular level. They should be awarded because an individual has 'gone the extra mile' in the contribution they have made or stand out 'head and shoulders' above others in what has been achieved.

Signed:_____ Date:_____

Reviewed: 17th September 2019 **Minute No:** FGP: 43.19/20
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