



**John Wright
Town Clerk**

Lyme Regis Town Council

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Notice is given of an **extraordinary meeting of Lyme Regis Town Council** to be held at the **Guildhall, Bridge Street, Lyme Regis** on Wednesday 2 October 2024 commencing at **7pm** when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
29.09.24

The open and transparent proceedings of Full Council and committee meetings will be audio recorded and recordings will be held for one year by the town council.

If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded.

If members of the public have any queries regarding audio recording of meetings, please contact the town clerk.

Members are reminded that in reaching decisions they should take into consideration the town council's decision to declare a climate emergency and ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and beyond.

AGENDA

1. Public Forum

Twenty minutes will be made available for public comment and response in relation to items on this agenda

Individuals will be permitted a maximum of three minutes each to address the committee

2. Apologies for absence

To receive and record any apologies and reasons for absence

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that if they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on their register of interests relating to any item on the agenda, they are prevented from participating in any discussion or voting on that matter at the meeting as to do so would amount to a criminal offence. Similarly, if you are or become aware of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter under consideration at this meeting which is not on your register of interests or is in the process of being added to your register you must disclose such interest at this meeting and register it within 28 days.

4. Dispensations

To note the grant of dispensations made by the town clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

5. Granting the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis to Joshua Denning

To allow members to consider granting Joshua Denning the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis

Committee: Extraordinary Full Council

Date: 2 October 2024

Title: Granting the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis to Joshua Denning

Purpose

To allow members to consider granting Joshua Denning the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis

Recommendation

Members grant Joshua Denning the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis

Background

1. The original concept of "Freeman" goes back to Saxon, Danish, and Norman Feudal systems of government and society. Freeman were the Burgesses of towns.
2. They may have got their title because they were town dwellers and, unlike villeins and serfs, they were not tied to landed plots in the feudal system. They were thus "free" from obligation to any feudal lord, other than the King.
3. As the feudal system broke down, qualification to be a Burgess Freeman became more exclusive as they sought to protect their commercial advantages. The first sons of Freeman would automatically qualify upon reaching their 21st birthday. Other persons could apply to be a Freeman after the completion of an apprenticeship of seven years. The Freeman qualification could also be purchased in certain circumstances. In other cases, it could be given as an honour. On being admitted, the Freeman took an oath and his name was inscribed on a roll.
4. By the 1820s, the Freeman's common land privilege had ceased to be a force for prosperity.
5. In 1835, the Municipal Reform Act abolished all the "close" charter corporations, thus ending the Freeman's monopoly of influence over town government.
6. The Honorary Freedom of Borough Act 1885 authorised the granting of status of Honorary Freeman to persons of distinction and persons who have rendered eminent service to a borough. Similar powers were preserved and extended by the Local Government Acts of 1933 and 1972, and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Report

7. I would like to propose to members the council formally recognises Joshua Denning's contribution to the town of Lyme Regis and its local organisations and charities by granting him the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis.

8. I am sure this proposal would be widely supported by the townspeople and organisations of Lyme Regis.
9. Granting the freedom of the town is the highest honour the council can bestow and would acknowledge the dedication and commitment Joshua has shown to the many local organisations he has volunteered for.
10. Joshua recently won the ITV Westcountry Pride of Britain Fundraiser of the Year Award for his dedication to fundraising for local organisations and events, including Regatta and Carnival Week, Lifeboat Week, the New Year's Day Duck Race, Lyme Lunge, Carols Round the Tree, the Christmas lights' switch-on, Lyme Folk Weekend, Lyme Morris Day, the Poppy Appeal, the annual fireworks' display and the Lyme Regis Town Band performances on the seafront.
12. He has collected an estimated £50,000 for local events and organisations.
13. Joshua and his mum Annette Denning will attend the Pride of Britain Awards at Grosvenor House in London on Monday 21 October 2024. He is one of 17 regional winners in this award category and will find out on the night if he has won the overall award.
14. At the age of 20, Joshua would be the youngest ever Freeman of the Town.
15. If granted, I would like to arrange a reception at the Guildhall for Joshua, his family and friends, members and staff to formally present him with his certificate.
16. In accordance with appropriate legislation to grant a honorary freedom, this proposal requires a two-thirds majority of the council.

Cllr Philip Evans MBE
Mayor
Lyme Regis Town Council