



**John Wright
Town Clerk**

Lyme Regis Town Council

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Notice is hereby given of a **special meeting** of the **Lyme Regis Town Council** to be held at the **Pine Hall, Lyme Regis Baptist Church, Sherborne Lane, Lyme Regis** on Wednesday 26 May 2021 commencing at 7pm when the following business is proposed to be transacted:

John Wright
Town Clerk
21.05.21

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 Cllr Stan Williams

To allow members to consider granting Cllr Stan Williams the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis

Committee: Special Full Council

Date: 26 May 2021

Title: Granting the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis to Cllr Stan Williams

Purpose

To allow members to consider granting Cllr Stan Williams the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Lyme Regis

Recommendation

Members grant Cllr Stan Williams 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 was recently contacted by a resident, Philip Evans, about formally recognising Cllr Stan Williams' contribution to the town council and the town of Lyme Regis.
8. I subsequently spoke to every councillor about granting Cllr Stan Williams the Honorary Freedom of the town and I am pleased to say every councillor supported this proposal.
9. The wholehearted support of fellow councillors is testimony to the eminent service rendered by Cllr Williams to Lyme Regis. I am equally sure this proposal would be widely supported by the townspeople of Lyme Regis.

10. Granting the freedom of the town is the highest honour the council can bestow and would acknowledge the exceptional service Cllr Williams has given to this council; he was first elected in 1969!
11. During Cllr Williams' time on the council, he was mayor 1997-99. He has also served as deputy mayor and chairman of several council's committees.
12. Much of the financial independence enjoyed by the town council today is down to Cllr Williams' efforts as chairman of the Recreation Committee in the early-1970s; as chairman of this committee, he fought long and hard to retain income-generating assets.
13. Outside of the council chamber, Cllr Williams has also played a significant part in our community. From the early-1980s, he was strongly associated with the development of Woodmead Halls.
14. In his younger days, he played for Lyme Regis Football Club, he's a member of the sailing club, a member of the Royal British Legion, and a staunch supporter of the local Citizens' Advice Bureau and Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service.
15. To add to the significance to this appointment, I have invited HM Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, Angus Campbell, to present Cllr Williams with a Certificate of Administration to grant him the Honorary Freedom of the town. I hope to receive confirmation of his availability, shortly.
16. If all goes to plan, the event will take place at 2pm on Saturday 3 July in the Guildhall. Present and former councillors, along with Cllr Williams' family and guests will be invited to the event. Kerry Weekly, administrative assistant, will be in touch with the details, shortly.
17. In accordance with appropriate legislation to grant a honorary freedom, this proposal requires a two-thirds majority of the council.

Brian Larcombe MBE
Mayor
Lyme Regis Town Council