

Town Council – 26th June 2017

Freeman of the Town

Agenda Item 11

Raymond Crawford has achieved the requisite 6 signatures to become the next town freeman.

Roger Champion is, of course, our only current freeman and TTC policy is currently that we can appoint 5 over a 25-year period. We have 2 other very able nominees who have a couple of signatures to their names.

Roger was appointed Freeman in 2013 and if we were to appoint another in addition to Raymond Crawford we would have a very lean last 21 years!

It would be worth amending the resolution such that 1 Freemanship is awarded per council term (4 years). The advantage of this would be that the lean years would be avoided and that each council session (frequently different councillors, 8 new ones this time) would be able to choose their freeman. Roger Champion was appointed in the last council session. If Dr Crawford's appointment happens within this session, we would be able to appoint a further freeman in 2019.

Proposal: That Dr Crawford should be invited to become the next Town Freeman in addition to Roger Champion and that the regularity of awards should be re-considered.



Phil Burgess
Town Clerk

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General Power of Competence
Agenda Item 13

Councils are bound by duties they must perform and discretionary powers which they are able to perform.

In order to carry out tasks the council should normally use a specific power to enable them to do so. The general power of competence allows the council to operate as an individual would and removes the need for TTC to find a specific power to perform tasks. It is a power of first resort and gives the council far greater flexibility.

Activities that qualified councils can carry out include:

- Investing in local businesses and deriving a share income provided the purpose is to support the local economy.
- Running a shop (for instance with a tourist information centre)
- Charging for services (currently we are only able to break even on room hire etc)

TTC has now reached the qualifying conditions for attaining the general power of competence as follows:

- It has a Clerk qualified under the listed sections of the 2012 order (in our case my recent CILCA qualification).
- At least two thirds of vacancies must have been filled by elected members (rather than co-opted).

Note – at the time of writing my certificate had not arrived but I expect it before the meeting.

Proposal: That the council should resolve to adopt the general power of competence.



Phil Burgess
Town Clerk