

Policy Statement

From 12 January 2010, all local councils may exercise powers to confer the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman to persons of distinction and those who, in the council's opinion, have rendered eminent services to the council's area (section 249(5) and (6) of the 1972 Act)

From time to time, members of the community demonstrate outstanding commitment and contribution to the wellbeing of the Parish and it is recognised that their efforts should be acknowledged. The Council will do this, in special circumstances that meet the criteria of this policy, by awarding to an individual the title of 'Honorary Freeman (or Honorary Freewoman) of the Parish of Marwood'. This honour will be awarded only on rare and exceptional occasions.

Service

The nominee may have given extensive and eminent service to the Parish of Marwood and its local community (e.g. service to other organisations and voluntary and community groups) in a largely voluntary capacity. The nominee must have made an outstanding contribution to the Parish such that the nominee's contribution can be seen to stand above the contributions made by most other people.

Nomination Criteria

The following will be taken into account when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Freeman (or Honorary Freewoman) of the Parish:-

1. Preference will be given to a person who performs in a voluntary capacity, but this should not preclude the honour being awarded to a person whose dedication and contribution is significantly above that expected from their occupation.
2. All nominees should have carried out their largely voluntary roles for a period of at least 20 years.
3. Nominees need not necessarily be residents of Staindrop
4. The award will not be restricted to Parish Councillors or Parish Council staff.
5. Any nominated Parish Councillor should have retired from the post.
6. The contribution to the wellbeing of the community must involve one or more of the following factors:-
 - (a) A significant allocation of the person's time in serving members of the community for the improvement of their wellbeing.

- (b) The promotion, achievement and/or delivery of community services in which a real personal contribution has been made.
- (c) Whilst difficult to define, the contribution must be outstanding in that it can be seen to stand above the contributions of most other persons.

Nomination Procedure

1. Nominations must be made in the strictest confidence without the nominee's knowledge. Any resident or elector of the Parish of Marwood may make a nomination but it must be sponsored by a Parish Councillor.
2. Nominations must be made in writing to the Parish Clerk. The submission should be evidence-based by outlining the voluntary service provided by the individual to the community and any other examples of 'community spirit' to justify the honour. On receipt of a nomination, it will be circulated to all Councillors for confidential consideration.
3. Councillors' reasons for any objection to a nomination must be given. If the Councillors are in agreement that the nominee should be made an Honorary Freeman (or Freewoman) of the Parish, the nominee will be invited to accept the honour. If agreed, the nomination will then be put before Council and a formal vote taken, again in confidence.
4. No fewer than two-thirds of the Parish Councillors must agree the nomination.
5. The decisions of the Council on all nominations (whether affirmative or negative) are final.

Entitlements

Any person declared an Honorary Freeman (or Honorary Freewoman) of the Parish may designate himself/herself 'Honorary Freeman (or Freewoman) of the Parish of Marwood'.

The award shall be made at a small ceremony which may take place at a Council meeting. A scroll will be presented to the recipient.

Limitation on Holders of Award

At any one time, a maximum of three persons, unless otherwise decided by the Council, may hold the title 'Honorary Freeman (or Freewoman) of the Parish of Marwood'.