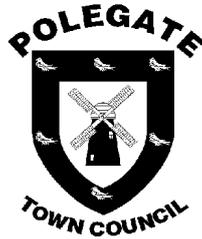


Polegate Town Council



'HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE TOWN' POLICY

Policy Number 30		
Issue No.	Date completed	Details of amendments
1	03/02/2016	First draft
2	29/02/2016	Minor emendations made by Town Clerk
3	11/03/2016	Approved by Finance & Policy Committee
4	23.05.16	For adoption at Annual Stat Meeting
5	22.05.17	Adopted at Annual Stat Meeting

By virtue of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980 Part XIX and the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the Council can award a 'Title of Dignity' to a person in recognition of significant contributions being made to the local community. Polegate Town Council may award an 'Honorary Freeman of the Town' or 'Honorary Freewoman of the Town'.

Nominations, by motion, must be made by a serving Town Councillor but the honour is **open to anyone who has served the Town as a current Councillor** and who meets the following nomination criteria:

- (i) The nominee is a Town Councillor or Officer.
- (ii) The nominee has made an outstanding contribution to, or rendered eminent service to, the Council during their term of office.
- (iii) The nominee has made an exceptional and outstanding contribution to the local community in many ways over a period of 20 years or more.
- (iv) If a serving Councillor is to be honoured, the end of the current serving term may be used in calculating the 20 years of service.

There is no limit to the number of nominations or holders of the title, but the nature of the nomination criteria means it is unlikely that the honour will be frequently awarded and will therefore remain distinctive.

Once a nomination has been received it will be considered by a Special Meeting of the Full Council. Members may conduct enquiries to verify the merits of a nomination. The motion must be approved by no less than two-thirds of members of the Council present and voting.

Following a resolution by Full Council that an award is justified, the title of 'Honorary Freeman of the Town' will be granted by the Town Mayor and the title holder presented with a certificate citing the grounds for the award. The presentation will be made by the Town Mayor at an appropriate event. The event may be held immediately after the conclusion of the Special Full Council meeting, or on another suitable date determined by the Council.