

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK
AT 3.30 P.M., WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER, 2012

PART 1

PRESENT: Councillors:

Todd, R. (Chairman)
Grice, Mrs. D. (Vice Chairman)

Adamson, G.	Gamble, B.
Alcott, G.	Johnson, J.
Allen, F.W.C.	Jones, Ms. J.L.
Allt, Mrs. A.	Kraujalis, J.T.
Anslow, C.	Lovell, A.
Ball, G.D.	Mitchell, Mrs. C.
Bennett, C.	Molineux, G.N.
Bernard, Mrs. A.F.	Morgan, C.W.J.
Bernard, J.D.	Pearson, A.
Bottomer, B.	Rowley, J.
Cartwright, Mrs. S.	Snape, P.A.
Davies, D.N.	Sutherland, M.
Davis, Mrs. M.A.	Sutton, Mrs. H.
Dixon, D.I.	Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Dudson, A.	Toth, J.
Fisher, P.A.	Whitehouse, Mrs. L.
Freeman, Miss M.	

53. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Gilbert; M.R. Grocott; M.J. Holder; R. Jones; Mrs. A. Spicer; and Mrs. Z. Stretton.

54. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

55. Granting the Freedom of Entry to the Mercian Regiment

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Item 3.1 – 3.16 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED (by a unanimous vote):

That:

- (A) The Freedom of the Entry into the District on Ceremonial occasions be conferred upon the Mercian Regiment in the following form and the same be illuminated in scroll form and present to the Mercian Regiment.

“To the Commanding Officer, Officers and Men of Mercian Regiment

We the Chairman and Councillors of the District of Cannock Chase in the County of Staffordshire, in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, being desirous of recognising the association between the Army and the District and wishing to foster and enhance the close ties and relations with the District,
Do by these presents Confer upon the Mercian Regiment the Freedom of Entry into the District on Ceremonial Occasions.

The Common Seal of the Council of the District of Cannock Chase was hereunto Affixed the day of two thousand and twelve”.

- (B) The Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Freedom Scroll.
- (C) Subject to a review of the associated potential costs, Option C (a large ceremony), as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report be the preferred celebratory event for granting the Freedom of the District to the Staffordshire Regiment.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 1972, a Principal Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose, confer the award of the Honorary Freedom of the District on current serving uniformed organisations (usually, but not exclusively, the military) which have rendered conspicuous service and which are associated with the District.

Freedom of Entry traditionally grants organisations the “freedom to march through the streets of the District with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying. This does not carry any rights or responsibilities but is the most honourable distinction that a District Council can bestow.

A request for Council to consider bestowing the District's first Freedom of Entry had been received for the Mercian Regiment which has a long history of service to our country and our local communities. A detailed history of The Mercian Regiment (previously Staffordshire Regiment) was included as an Appendix to the report.

Council was requested to consider granting the Freedom to the "Mercian Regiment" as a whole (1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions) as the 3rd Battalion, The Mercian Regiment (Staffords) are to be withdrawn from the British Army's Order of Battle in 2014. This request is made as Civic protocol would necessitate that the new service unit notify the Council of such changes, following which a decision would be required of Council to consider whether the new unit may continue to exercise the privileges granted to the old unit. In granting it to the "Mercian Regiment" this would eliminate the need for this, but would still recognise the appreciation of the District of the tremendous and proud service the Staffords have given Cannock Chase and the nation.

56. Granting the Freedom of Entry to the Staffordshire Regimental Association

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive (Item 4.1 – 4.6 of the Official Minutes of the Council).

RESOLVED (by a unanimous vote):

That:

- (A) The Freedom of Entry into the District on Ceremonial occasions be conferred upon the Staffordshire Regimental Association in the following form and the same be illuminated in scroll form and present to the Staffordshire Regimental Association.

"To the Deputy Colonel of 3 Mercian (Staffords), Colonel JK Tanner OBE, Chairman of The Staffordshire Regimental Association

We the Chairman and Councillors of the District of Cannock Chase in the County of Staffordshire, in pursuance of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, being desirous of recognising the association between the Army and the District and wishing to foster and enhance the close ties and relations with the District,

Do by these presents confer upon the Staffordshire Regimental Association the Freedom of Entry into the District on Ceremonial Occasions.

The Common Seal of the Council of the District of Cannock Chase was hereunto Affixed the day of two thousand and twelve".

- (B) The Common Seal of the Council be affixed to the Freedom Scroll.

- (C) Having determined the nature of the celebratory event for granting the Freedom of the District to the Mercian Regiment, that the celebratory event, be a joint reception with both the Regimental Association and Mercian Regiment in attendance.

Reason(s) for the Decision

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 a Principal Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose, confer the award of the Honorary Freedom of Entry on current serving uniformed organisations (usually, but not exclusively, the military) which have rendered conspicuous service and which are associated with the District.

Freedom of Entry traditionally grants organisations the “freedom to march through the streets of the District with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying”. This does not carry any rights or responsibilities but is the most honourable distinction that a District Council can bestow.

A request for Council to consider bestowing the Freedom of Entry had been received for the Staffordshire Regimental Association which comprises both serving and veterans of the Staffordshire Regiment (Staffords) and their close family and friends and has a long history of service to our country and our local communities.

(The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN