

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON
FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 12.30 PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Joan Baird

Members Present : Alderman Sam Cole
Alderman William King
Alderman Tom McKeown
Alderman Sharon McKillop

Councillor Aaron Callan
Councillor Trevor Clarke
Councillor Boyd Douglas
Councillor George Duddy
Councillor Mark Fielding
Councillor Sandra Hunter
Councillor Michelle Knight-McQuillan
Councillor James McCorkell
Councillor Stephanie Quigley
Councillor Ian Stevenson
Councillor Margaret Ann McKillop
Councillor Angela Mulholland
Councillor Richard Holmes

Present : Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Sir Denis Desmond,
KCVO, CBE
Chief Executive and Town Clerk
Reverend John Stanbridge
Mr Mervyn Whyte MBE
Director of Corporate Services
Democratic and Central Services Manager
Corporate Communications Manager
Civic Support Officer
Committee & Member Services Officers
Guests
Press (1)

1. **CONFERMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH ON MR MERVYN WHYTE, MBE**

The meeting commenced with the arrival of the Lieutenant for Co Londonderry and Members of Council. The Mayor, the Clerk and Chief Executive, Mr Mervyn Whyte, MBE and the Mayor's Chaplain entered the Council Chamber, preceded by the Mace Bearer.

The Mayor welcomed those present to the Special Meeting of Council to confer the Freedom of the Borough on Mr Mervyn Whyte.

The Mayor invited the Clerk and Chief Executive to read the summons convening the meeting.

The Chief Executive stated that notice was given to Members of the Council on 26 January 2018 of a special meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to be held in The Council Chamber, Civic Headquarters on Friday 2 February 2018 at 11:30 pm for the purposes of conferring the Freedom of the Borough on Mr Mervyn Whyte.

The Mayor invited her Chaplain, Reverend John Stanbridge to offer prayer. The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

The Mayor invited the Chief Executive to read the Resolution of the Council conferring the Freedom of the Borough on Mr Mervyn Whyte.

The Chief Executive advised that Council resolved on 23 May 2017, proposed by Councillor McCorkell and seconded by Councillor Clarke:

"That this Council bestows the Freedom of the Borough upon Mr Mervyn Whyte MBE, Race Director of the International NW200 in recognition of his services to the NW200 race and motorsport in Northern Ireland"

He continued stating that, "The Honorary Freedom of Boroughs Act 1885 was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom that gave the councils of municipal boroughs the power to award the title of honorary freeman to "persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the borough".

Prior to the reform of town and city government in the 1800s, the rank of "freeman" existed in all boroughs. Freemen enjoyed exemption from tolls and other special privileges, and in most cases were the only persons eligible to vote at parliamentary elections. The 1885 Act stated that:

..the council of every borough may from time to time, at a meeting of the council specially called for the purpose with notice of the object, admit to be honorary freeman of the borough persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the borough...

The award is symbolic and sadly, grazing rights are not part of the modern freeman's privileges. It is effectively the only way that a local authority can confer honours. It is primarily "civic pride".

In summary, the Freedom of the Borough is simply highest accolade that Council can make to a group or individual, and acknowledges their work and contribution to the Borough."

The Mayor, on behalf of Council, presented Mr Mervyn Whyte, MBE with the Freedom Certificate to mark the conferment of the Freedom of the Borough remarking that he was fully deserving of this honour.

The Mayor, Mr Mervyn Whyte and the Clerk and Chief Executive signed the Council's Freedom Register. On signing the Register and accepting the Certificate, Mr Mervyn Whyte was invited to address the Council. Mr Whyte thanked the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors for the great honour bestowed.

Following the addresses by the new Freemen, the Mayor declared proceedings complete and the meeting closed.

The Mayor, the new Freeman, the Clerk and Chief Executive and the Mayor's Chaplain left the Chamber led by the Mace Bearer.

The meeting closed at 12:10 pm.

Mayor