



**Causeway  
Coast & Glens  
Borough Council**

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL HELD IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON  
FRIDAY 27 APRIL 2018 AT 11.30 PM**

**In the Chair** : The Mayor, Councillor Joan Baird

**Members Present** : Alderman Sam Cole  
Alderman Tom McKeown  
Alderman Sharon McKillop  
Alderman Alan Robinson  
Alderman Norman Hillis  
  
Councillor William Blair  
Councillor Aaron Callan  
Councillor Boyd Douglas  
Councillor George Duddy  
Councillor Barney Fitzpatrick  
Councillor Richard Holmes  
Councillor Sandra Hunter  
Councillor Michelle Knight-McQuillan  
Councillor James McCorkell  
Councillor Stephanie Quigley  
Councillor Ian Stevenson  
Councillor Russell Watton

**Present** : Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Sir Denis Desmond,  
KCVO, CBE  
Chief Executive and Town Clerk  
Reverend John Stanbridge  
Reverend David Ferguson  
Director of Corporate Services  
Democratic and Central Services Manager  
Corporate Communications Manager  
Civic Support Officer  
Guests  
Press (1)

## **1. CONFERMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH ON SIR DENIS DESMOND, KCVO, CBE**

The meeting commenced with the arrival of Elected Members of Council. The Mayor, the Clerk and Chief Executive, Sir Denis Desmond 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 Sir Denis Desmond. .

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 20 April 2018 of a special meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to be held in The Council Chamber, Civic Headquarters on Friday 27 April 2018 at 11:30 pm for the purposes of conferring the Freedom of the Borough on Sir Denis Desmond.

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 Sir Denis Desmond.

The Chief Executive advised that Council resolved on 11 January 2018, proposed by Councillor Hunter and seconded by Alderman Hillis, King and McKeown, Councillors Baird, Holmes, McCandless and Wilson:

"That this Council awards Freedom of the Borough to Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE, MBE Lord Lieutenant of County Antrim and to Sir Denis Desmond CBE, KCVO, Lord Lieutenant of County Londonderry, in recognition of their dedicated and outstanding service during their tenure of Lieutenancy, which has brought clear pride and satisfaction to the citizens of this Borough'.

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 Sir Denis Desmond, CBE, KCVO 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, Sir Denis Desmond and the Clerk and Chief Executive signed the Council's Freedom Register. On signing the Register and accepting the Certificate, Sir Denis Desmond was invited to address the Council. Sir Denis Desmond 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**.

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Mayor