



NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Honorary Freedom of the Parish Policy

1) Policy Statement

Nettlestone and Seaview Parish Council recognises the ongoing efforts of members of the community who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the well-being of those within the parish and persons of distinction.

The Council has the option to recognise such commitment where individuals qualify and meet the criteria set out within this policy, by awarding to an individual the title of Honorary Freeman/Freewoman of the parish of Nettlestone and Seaview.

This honour will be awarded for exceptional or long standing / outstanding achievement within the parish or to persons of distinction.

Such awards are made using powers contained within the Local Government Act 1972, section 249(5), in which Councils were given the right to grant honorary Freedoms in their area of jurisdiction.

2) Nomination Criteria

The following will be considered when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Freeman/Freewoman of the Parish:

- 2.1 Preference will be given to a person, who performs in a voluntary capacity, but this should not preclude the honour being awarded to any person, whose dedication and contribution is significantly above that expected for their occupation, including uniformed services.
- 2.2 Preferably, nominees should have carried out their largely voluntary roles for a significant period.
- 2.3 Nominees must be or have been a resident within the Parish area.
- 2.4 Current or former elected Members will not usually be considered but will not be arbitrarily discounted; however, such Members could be considered for dedicated voluntary, or charity works within the parish.
- 2.5 Current or former staff members will not usually be considered but cannot be arbitrarily discounted.
- 2.6 The contribution to the community should involve **one or more** of the following:
 - a. A significant allocation of the person's time in serving members of the community for the improvement of their well-being.
 - b. The promotion, achievement and/or delivery of community services in which a real personal contribution has been made.
 - c. Sustained or continued involvement in voluntary or charitable works.
 - d. Bravery.
 - e. Outstanding acts that promote the Parish.
 - f. Outstanding sporting achievement.

3) Nomination Procedure

3.1 Nominations should be made in the strictest confidence **without** the nominee's knowledge.

Any resident or elector of the parish may make a nomination, but this must be supported by a statement of sponsorship by a **serving** Parish Councillor.

3.2 Nominations must be made in writing (letter or e-mail) to the Parish Clerk and supported by evidence of the contribution made by the individual to the community and any other examples of service which justifies the honour.

On receipt of a nomination, it will be circulated to members of the Parish Council for confidential consideration by a working group that will then recommend to the Council whether the application should be taken further.

3.3 Where elected Members agree that the nominee should be made an Honorary Freeman/Freewoman of the parish, the nominee will be contacted informally to discuss and invited to accept the honour.

Once agreed, the nomination will then be put before the Council and formalised by resolution of the full Council.

3.4 A two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting at this time will determine the award.

3.5 The decision of the Council on all nominations and awards is final.

3.6 Where a nominee has been declined, a re-application will not be accepted for a period of 12 calendar months.

4) Entitlement

4.1 Individuals cannot nominate themselves for the Honorary Freeman/Freewoman of the parish.

4.2 Awards can be made at any time as the Council see fit.

4.3 A scroll, will be presented (by a nominated Councillor) to the recipient and funded by the Parish Council.

5) Withdrawal

5.1 Any person nominated who is deemed by the Council to have brought the office or reputation of the Council into disrepute may have the designation withdrawn.

5.2 The majority vote of those present and voting at this time will determine any withdrawal under normal circumstances.

5.3 In the case of any legal issue, the Parish Clerk will obtain legal advice and the Council must receive, respect, and implement such advice without question.