



## Catterall Parish Council

### Freedom of the Parish Scheme

#### Introduction

There are occasions when the parish council wishes to recognise a resident's exceptional or outstanding contribution to either the parish council or the parish over a prolonged period of time. However, parish councils have limited powers to demonstrate that recognition.

One power that parish councils do have is that to award the Freedom of the Parish<sup>1</sup>. Granting the Freedom of the Parish is the highest honour that the Parish Council can bestow. Although it carries no powers, rights or privileges, those who receive the honour are able to use the title of Freeman or Freewoman.

As this is the highest honour that the Parish Council can grant it should be used sparingly and should not be given too often to preserve its status and value.

#### Nominations

Members of the public and Councillors are both eligible to submit nominations. Anyone wishing to make a nomination must do so on the application form and ensure the application shows how the nominee meets the criteria.

As this an award based on merit and any nomination will only be considered if it meets the selection criteria.

#### Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The nominee has brought distinction to the Parish of Catterall and enhanced its reputation as a direct result of his/her actions
- The work of the nominee is considered exceptional as a direct result of their sustained actions
- The work of the nominee has made a significant difference to the life of others – such service may be continuous over a period of time or through one significant single action or initiative
- The nominee exemplifies selflessness and sustained commitment to voluntary service in the community

The nominee's contribution may be in one or more of the following categories:

- Charitable
- Community
- Culture
- Business, Innovation and Science
- Education
- Health and Environment

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<sup>1</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, Parish Councils have the power to award the Freedom of the Parish.



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- Military
- Miscellaneous other

#### Decision Process

All decisions will be made by Full Council in private. All applications will be assessed against the selection criteria. Council will not enter discussions during or following a decision on an application and its decision will be final. The parish council will have absolute discretion regarding who receives an award.

Any award is solely in the gift of the Council and confers no material honours or special privileges nor does it entitle the person to participate in the proceedings of the Council meetings or in any ceremonial events. It is purely and simply awarded for merit.

#### The Award

The award itself is in the form of a framed certificate, presented to the nominee at a meeting of the parish council and publicity about the resident's achievements recognised by the award.

Version Number	Purpose/Change	Author	Date
V1.0	Policy adopted – minute 3918	J. Finch, Councillor	09/01/2024