



Summons and Agenda for the
Council Meeting

to be held on

Tuesday, 21 March 2023

at

5.00 pm





To: All District Councillors

cc: Chief Officers

You are hereby summoned to a **SPECIAL** meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Doncaster Road, Selby, YO8 9FT on **TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2023** starting at **5.00 pm**. The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

Janet Waggott

Janet Waggott
Chief Executive

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public, subject to:- (i) the recording being conducted under the direction of the Chairman of the meeting; and (ii) compliance with the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at meetings, a copy of which is available on request. Anyone wishing to record must contact, prior to the start of the meeting, Democratic Services via democraticservices@selby.gov.uk - any recording must be clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and be non-disruptive.

AGENDA

Opening Prayers.

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Disclosures of Interest

A copy of the Register of Interest for each Selby District Councillor is available for inspection at www.selby.gov.uk.

Councillors should declare to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item of business on this agenda which is not already entered in their Register of Interests.

Councillors should leave the meeting and take no part in the consideration, discussion or vote on any matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillors should also declare any other interests. Having made the declaration, provided the other interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest, the Councillor may stay in the meeting, speak and vote on that item of business.

If in doubt, Councillors are advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

3. Appointment of Honorary Freeman to Selby District (C/22/13) (Pages 1 - 4)

The Council is asked to consider report C/22/13 and decide whether to award the Honorary Freedom of the District to Number 51 Squadron of the Royal Air Force and the Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army.

Both Number 51 Squadron of the Royal Air Force and the Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army have been nominated by Ye Fraternitie of Olde Selebians. Mr Bryan Wilcockson will attend the meeting to say a few words.

Subject to Council's agreement, representatives from Number 51 Squadron of the Royal Air Force and the Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army will be in attendance at the meeting to accept the appointment of Honorary Freeman.

In attendance on behalf of Number 51 Squadron of the Royal Air Force will be Squadron Leader Angela Hemlin, and from the Yorkshire Regiment of the British Army Lt. Col. Richard Hill.

Agenda Item 3



Report Reference Number: C/22/13

To: Special Meeting of Council
Date: 21 March 2023
Author: Gina Mulderrig, Democratic Services Officer
Lead Officer: Janet Waggott, Chief Executive

Title: Appointment of Honorary Freeman to Selby District

Summary:

Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Selby District Council to award the Honorary Freeman of the District to individuals or groups who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the District.

This report asks the Council to consider awarding the Honorary Freedom of the District to Number 51 Squadron of The Royal Airforce and The Yorkshire Regiment of The British Army in gratitude for their service during World War 2 and their continued connection to the town of Selby and ongoing ceremonial role in the Armistice Day Ceremony in Selby Cemetery and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Selby Abbey.

Recommendations:

To consider and decide whether to award the Honorary Freedom of the District to Number 51 Squadron of The Royal Airforce and The Yorkshire Regiment of The British Army.

Reasons for recommendation:

To ensure Council recognises persons and groups of distinction and persons and groups who have rendered eminent services to the district.

1. Introduction and background

1.1 Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 outlines that an authority can award the freedom of the district to persons of distinction and persons who in the opinion of the Council have rendered eminent services to the District.

1.2 Council is asked to consider awarding the Honorary Freedom of the District to Number 51 Squadron of The Royal Airforce and The Yorkshire Regiment of The British Army in gratitude for their service during World War 2 and their continued connection to the town of Selby and ongoing ceremonial role in the Armistice Day Ceremony in Selby Cemetery and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Selby Abbey.

2. Proposed Freeman

2.1 Number 51 Squadron of the Royal Airforce was formed in Thetford in 1916 and is currently based at RAF Waddingham. Number 51 Squadron defended the United Kingdom against German Zeppelin raids in World War 1 before disbanding in 1919. The unit reconvened in 1937 and was active in World War 2 from the day war was declared on 1 September 1939 and remains active to this day.

2.2 During World War 2, Number 51 Squadron carried out leaflet drops, raids on radar sites and patrolled against U-Boats in the Bay of Biscay. In January 1944 Number 51 Squadron flew as part of No. 4 Group RAF in RAF Bomber Command's strategic bombing offensive programme operating from RAF Snaith in East Yorkshire. It flew primarily against the German V-Weapon sites and was based at Snaith for the remainder of the war. In 1944 'C' Flight of Number 51 Squadron moved to form 578 Squadron at Burn Airfield in the Selby District and were based there for the remainder of the war. 51 Squadron remains active at the hub of the RAF's Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance fleet.

2.3 Number 51 Squadron has been nominated by Ye Fraternitie of Olde Selebians, a local interest group, due to its connection to the Selby District. As well as being based in Burn during World War 2, many crew trained at RAF Riccall, a former Royal Airforce airfield located in the Selby District used as a satellite to RAF Marston Moor between 1942 and 1945. Multiple Selby residents were members of the unit, including recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Ken Dean of Riccall and seven veterans are interred in the War Graves section of Selby Cemetery.

2.4 Number 51 squadron veterans and serving personnel return to Selby each year to support both the Armistice Day Ceremony in Selby Cemetery and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Selby Abbey. The service of Number 51 Squadron and its importance to Selby has been recognised with their battle flag displayed above the altar at Selby Abbey and a memorial in the grounds by the West Door.

2.5 The Yorkshire Regiment is an infantry regiment of the British Army, created by the amalgamation of three historic regiments in 2006 with a recruitment area covering the ceremonial counties of the Ridings of Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

2.6 The Yorkshire Regiment has been nominated by Ye Fraternitie of Olde Selbians, a interest history group, due to its connection to the Selby District. Veterans of the historic regiments making up the Yorkshire Regiment include past residents of Selby District with their names recorded on war memorials at Selby Abbey and throughout the Selby District.

2.7 Ye Fraternitie of Olde Selbians and Yorkshire Regiment veterans went on to start the Armistice Day ceremony in Selby Cemetery and the Yorkshire Regiment sends

veterans and serving personnel each year to support both the Armistice Day Ceremony in Selby Cemetery and the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Selby Abbey.

- 2.8** In recognition of their service and connection to the Selby District, Council is asked to consider awarding the groups, the Honorary Freedom of the District.

3. Alternative Options Considered

Not appointing Honorary Freeman status would fail to recognise the eminent service of the groups.

4. Implications

4.1 Legal Implications

Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 outlines the requirements and the process for granting the freedom of the district. For the honour to be approved, Council will have to vote with a two thirds majority at the meeting for a resolution to that effect. If the honour is granted, Number 51 Squadron of The Royal Airforce and The Yorkshire Regiment of The British Army will be able to use the title of Honorary Freemen of the District. Under section 33 of The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 a group who, before the reorganisation date has been admitted as an honorary freeman of a local government area that is abolished by a section 7 order, shall, on that date, be treated as having been admitted as an honorary freeman of the area which, on the reorganisation date, comprises or includes the abolished area, and for which, on and after that date, there is a single tier of local government. This means that from 1 April 2023, should the groups be conferred the title, they would become Honorary Freeman of the area covered by the incoming local authority, North Yorkshire Council.

4.2 Financial Implications

There are costs associated with purchasing a certificate to be given to a representative of each group and of catering a reception following any conferral. These costs will be met from the Democratic Services budget.

4.3 Policy and Risk Implications

Not applicable.

4.4 Corporate Plan Implications

Not applicable.

4.5 Resource Implications

Not applicable.

4.6 Other Implications

Not applicable.

4.7 Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1** The Council can consider whether to confer the title of Honorary Freeman upon the Number 51 Squadron of The Royal Airforce and The Yorkshire Regiment of The British Army in the recommendation in recognition of the eminent service to the District Council that they have rendered. For the honours to be approved Councillors will have to vote with a two thirds majority at the meeting for a resolution to that effect.

6. Background Documents

None.

7. Appendices

None.

Contact Officer:

Gina Mulderrig, Democratic Services Officer

gmulderrig@Selby.gov.uk

01757 292116