

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
COUNCIL HELD IN CIVIC HEADQUARTERS, COLERAINE ON  
FRIDAY 11 MAY 2018 AT 11.30 PM**

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

**Members Present** : Alderman Frank Campbell  
Alderman Sharon McKillop  
Alderman Norman Hillis

Councillor Trevor Clarke  
Councillor Mark Fielding  
Councillor Richard Holmes  
Councillor Sandra Hunter  
Councillor Angela Mulholland  
Councillor Michelle Knight-McQuillan  
Councillor William McCandless  
Councillor Stephanie Quigley  
Councillor Ian Stevenson

**Present** : Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Joan Christie, CVO,  
OBE  
Chief Executive and Town Clerk  
The Very Reverend Dr Godfrey Brown  
Director of Corporate Services  
Corporate Communications Manager  
Civic Support Officer (2no.)  
Guests  
Press (1)

## **1. CONFERMENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH ON MRS JOAN CHRISTIE, CVO OBE**

The meeting commenced with the arrival of Elected Members of Council. The Mayor, the Clerk and Chief Executive, Mrs Joan Christie 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 Mrs Joan Christie.

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 4 May 2018 of a special meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to be held in The Council Chamber, Civic Headquarters on Friday 11 May 2018 at 11:30 am for the purposes of conferring the Freedom of the Borough on Mrs Joan Christie. The Mayor invited her Chaplain, The Very Reverend Dr Godfrey Brown 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 Mrs Joan Christie.

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 Mrs Joan Christie, CVO OBE with the Freedom Certificate to mark the conferment of the Freedom of the Borough remarking that she was fully deserving of this honour.

The Mayor, Mrs Joan Christie and the Clerk and Chief Executive signed the Council's Freedom Register. On signing the Register and accepting the Certificate, Mrs Christie was invited to address the Council. Mrs Christie 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 **11:55am**.

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Mayor