

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **STIRLING COUNCIL** held in the **MUNICIPAL CHAMBERS, STIRLING** on **SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2005** at **11.30 am**.

Present:-

Provost Colin O'BRIEN (in the Chair)

Councillor Alasdair BEATON	Councillor Tom HAZEL
Councillor Alistair BERRILL	Councillor John HENDRY
Depute Provost Margaret BRISLEY	Councillor John HOLLIDAY
Councillor Tom COLL	Councillor David LONSDALE
Councillor Ann DICKSON	Councillor Corrie McCHORD
Councillor Tony FFINCH	Councillor Charles MCKEAN
Councillor Colin FINLAY	Councillor Paul NELSON
Councillor Pat GREENHILL	Councillor Gerard O'BRIEN
Councillor Anne HARDING	Councillor John PATERSON

In Attendance:

Brian Devlin, Director of Regeneration Services
Bob Jack, Director of Corporate Services
Helen Munro, Director of Community Services
Arthur Nicholls, Director of Environment Services
Keith Yates, Chief Executive
Fiona MacLeod, Clerk to the Council & Head of Strategy and Governance

Also present:

Wing Commandor Phil Beach, 43 (Fighter) Squadron
Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshall Anthony Bagnall

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Pat Kelly, Gerry Power and Gillie Thomson.

SC224 MOTION TO CONFER FREEDOM OF THE CITY

The institution of burgesses or freemen dated from the early beginnings of municipal corporations in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Over time, the conferring of the Freedom of a City had evolved to become more of a civic tribute in that carried with it no privileges or rights on the recipients however it was the greatest civic honour that the Council could confer under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

Under the provisions of the 1973 Act, to admit a person as a freeman, the Council had to approve a resolution to that effect by a vote in which not less than two thirds of those present and voting had voted in favour. Nominees had to be 'persons of distinction or persons who (*had*) rendered eminent service to the City' and the Council had to keep a roll of those admitted as honorary freemen.

The 43 (Fighter) Squadron, known as 'The Fighting Cocks' because of their black gamecock emblem, had been formed at Stirling in 1916 when it was based at a field near Falleninch Farm to the west of the City. The Squadron had seen action in the First World War before moving to Germany in 1919. It was reformed at Hendon, near London, in 1925 and flew Hurricanes in the Battle of Britain. Disbanded in 1947, it was reformed again in 1949, moving to RAF Leuchars a year later. Since then, the Squadron had seen active service in many parts of Europe and the Middle East and would celebrate its 90th birthday in 2006

On Friday June 3, the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff had unveiled a commemorative cairn in Raploch, near to where the squadron was first established.

Stirling was granted City status in 2002 and so previously all such awards had been for the Freedom of the Burgh. This would be the first time that the Council would consider conferring the Freedom of the City of Stirling which was, of itself, a historic occasion for Scotland's newest city.

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting which was also attended by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces RT Hon. Adam Ingram MP, and Anne McGuire Member of Parliament for the Stirling Constituency before inviting the Leader of the Council to move the Motion.

Motion

"That, in recognition of the long maintained friendship and links with the 43 (Fighter) Squadron since its establishment near Falleninch Farm, Stirling in 1916, and to record appreciation of the Squadron's gallantry and loyal service by citizens of the City of Stirling, the Council resolves to convey Freedom of the City of Stirling on the 43 (Fighter) Squadron."

Moved by Councillor Corrie McChord, Leader of Stirling Council, seconded by Councillor Pat Greenhill, Leader of the Opposition.

Decision

The Motion was carried unanimously and accordingly the Council agreed to confer the Freedom of the City on the 43 (Fighter) Squadron.

The Provost addressed the meeting and invited Wing Commander Phil Beach to accept the Scroll. Upon receiving the Scroll, Wing Commander Beach thanked the Council for the honour, which it had bestowed on the 43 (Fighter) Squadron.

The Provost declared the Meeting closed at 12 noon.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Provost, Members of the Council and invited guests took up position on Corn Exchange for a Parade of two Units of the 43 (Fighter) Squadron. The Colours of the Royal Air Force and the 43 (Fighter) Squadron were on Parade. The Scroll, conferring the Freedom of the City of Stirling on the 43 (Fighter) Squadron was also paraded. Wing Commander Phil Beach commanded the Parade which was inspected by the Provost and the Vice-Chief of Defence Staff. The Parade then marched off the parade ground down King Street, along Port Street, onto Dumbarton Road, along Victoria Place and Queen's Road to King's Park with 'bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying'.

An evening reception took place in the Council Chambers, Viewforth and a service at the Church of the Holy Rude, Stirling.