

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of STIRLING COUNCIL held in the GREAT HALL, STIRLING CASTLE, STIRLING on FRIDAY 11 JULY 2008 at 8.15pm.

Present:

Provost Fergus WOOD (in the Chair)

Councillor Neil BENNY
Bailie Ian BROWN
Councillor Scott FARMER
Bailie Tony FFINCH
Councillor Colin FINLAY
Councillor John HENDRY
Councillor Graham HOUSTON
Bailie Graham LAMBIE

Councillor Corrie McCHORD
Bailie Colin O'BRIEN
Councillor Paul OWENS
Councillor Steven PATERSON
Councillor Graham REED
Councillor Andrew SIMPSON
Depute Convenor Jim THOMSON

In Attendance:

Claire Dunbar, Committee Officer, Corporate Services
Fiona Macleod, Head of Governance, Corporate Services (Clerk)
Keith Yates, Chief Executive

Also Present:

Lieutenant Colonel Francis William Saunders

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Alistair Berrill, Margaret Brisley, Callum Campbell, David Goss, Alasdair MacPherson and Gerard O'Brien.

SC226 MOTION TO CONVEY THE 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 the City had evolved and, although carrying no privileges or rights on the recipients, was the greatest civic honour that the Council could confer.

Under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, 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 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 Freedom of the City had only been granted once since Stirling was granted City status in 2002 - to the 43 (Fighter) Squadron on 4 June 2005. As with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (who had previously been granted the Freedom of the Burgh), the 43 (Fighter) Squadron were entitled to march through the City with 'drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed'. This was a most prized honour, for it recognised over time the honourable record of these units, and demonstrated the affection and esteem with which they were held by the community.

The Council had convened today to consider conferring Freedom of the City on Lieutenant Colonel Francis William Saunders MBE, ERD. Lieutenant Colonel Saunders had been born in 1906. He came to Stirling in 1930 as Assistant Civil Roads Engineer with Stirling County Council. In 1936 he was commissioned from the Officers Training Corps and posted to the Royal Engineers with whom he served his country throughout World War II in campaigns in France, North Africa, Italy and Greece. Lieutenant Colonel Saunders returned to Stirling in 1947 and took up an interest in local politics. He served as a Councillor on Stirling Town Council and Central Regional Council for 38 consecutive years from 1956-1994. Throughout that period he made an enormous contribution in all aspects of public life in Stirling and to this day he continued to be actively involved on various bodies including the Smith Art Gallery and Museum and Kings Park Community Council. He was currently President of the Royal Engineers Association, Forth Valley branch.

Motion

"That, in recognition of his long standing commitment and contribution to the public life of the City of Stirling as Soldier, Politician and Citizen, the Council resolves to convey the Freedom of the City of Stirling on Lieutenant Colonel Francis William Saunders, MBE, ERD."

Moved by Councillor Graham Houston, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Corrie McChord, Leader of the Main Opposition Group

On the roll being called, the Members present voted as follows:-

For the Motion (16)

Councillor Neil Benny
Councillor Ian Brown
Councillor Scott Farmer
Councillor Tony Ffinch
Councillor Colin Finlay
Councillor John Hendry
Councillor Graham Houston
Councillor Graham Lambie
Councillor Corrie McChord
Councillor Colin O'Brien
Councillor Paul Owens
Councillor Steven Paterson
Councillor Graham Reed
Councillor Andrew Simpson
Depute Convenor Jim Thomson
Provost Fergus Wood

The Motion was carried unanimously and accordingly the Council agreed to confer the Freedom of the City on Lieutenant Colonel Francis William Saunders, MBE, ERD.

The Provost addressed the meeting and invited Lieutenant Colonel Saunders to accept the Scroll. Upon receiving the Scroll, Lieutenant Colonel Saunders thanked the Council for the honour which it had bestowed on him.

The Provost declared the Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Lieutenant Colonel John McLennan of the Royal Engineers Association presented Lieutenant Colonel Saunders with a gift and certificate on behalf of the Royal Engineers, in recognition of his long and devoted service.

Members, Lieutenant Colonel Saunders and Lieutenant Colonel McLennan then rejoined the Civic Reception to mark the Pipers' Trail, Stirling Veteran's Day and the Granting of the Freedom of the City.

