

# STIRLING COUNCIL

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of STIRLING COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2012 at 12.45 pm**

## **Present:-**

Provost Fergus WOOD (in the Chair)

Councillor Neil BENNY  
Councillor Margaret BRISLEY  
Councillor Ian BROWN  
Councillor Callum CAMPBELL  
Councillor Scott FARMER  
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  
Councillor Violet WEIR

## **In Attendance:**

Bob Jack, Chief Executive  
Liz Duncan, Chief Governance Officer (Clerk)

## **Also present:**

Mrs Marjory McLachlan  
Lieutenant General Andrew Graham, CB, CBE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Neil Benny, Alistair Berrill, Tony Ffinch, Colin Finlay, David Goss and Alasdair MacPherson.

## **SC830 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 Provost, Bailies and Councillors of Stirling Council recognised the long historical association existing between the Army and the City of Stirling, formerly with the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. To maintain this link for the future, they resolved to confer upon the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Freedom of Entry into the City of Stirling, including the entitlement to march through the City on all ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, drums beating and colours flying.

Stirling had been granted City status in 2002 and the Freedom of the City was the greatest civic honour that the Council could confer. The Freedom of the City had only been granted on three previous occasions - to 43 (Fighter) Squadron on 4 June 2005, to Lieutenant Colonel Francis William Saunders MBE, ERD on 11 July 2008, and to Mr Irwin Iffla on 3 April 2009.

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Provost asked everyone to observe one minute's silence in memory of those who had given their lives in recent conflicts.

The Provost welcomed those present to the meeting, with a special mention to existing Freemen and their representatives. He also welcomed representatives of the seven battalions of the Royal Regiment of Scotland before inviting the Leader of the Council to move the Motion.

### **Motion**

"That, in recognition of the distinguished services rendered by the Regiment on behalf of the nation, their gallantry and devotion to duty, and the courage and endurance displayed on the field of battle, the Council resolved to convey the Freedom of the City of Stirling on the Royal Regiment of Scotland."

Moved by Councillor Graham Houston, Leader of Stirling Council, seconded by Councillor Corrie McChord, Leader of the Opposition.

### **Decision**

The Motion was carried unanimously and accordingly the Council agreed to confer the Freedom of the City on the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Provost addressed the meeting and invited Lieutenant General Graham to accept the Scroll on behalf of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. He invited the representatives of the seven battalions to receive a presentation to each battalion. Upon receiving the Scroll, Lieutenant General Graham thanked the Council for the honour that it had bestowed on the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

The Provost declared the Meeting closed at 1.05pm.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Provost invited Members of the Council and invited guests to a luncheon reception, which took place in the Drummond Room, Old Viewforth.