

HONORARY TITLE – FREEDOM OF THE DISTRICT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A change to the Local Government Act 1972 introduced by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 permits a District Council to admit to be an Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the area for which it is the authority –

- (a) persons of distinction; and
- (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.

1.2 The title has to date not been conferred by New Forest District Council.

2. DAME MARY FAGAN DCVO JP

2.1 The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Alexis McEvoy, has proposed that the title of Honorary Freewoman of the New Forest District be conferred on Dame Mary Fagan DCVO JP. Dame Mary has served as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire continuously since January 1994, and is due to retire from that position in 2014. Dame Mary has a long record of involvement in community projects, medical and charitable bodies, both as chairman and as a member of managing boards. She is currently president and/or patron of over 60 organisations in Hampshire, including the New Forest Trust, the Fortune Centre of Riding Therapy, and the Oakhaven Hospice. She has been instrumental in attracting a number of Royal visits to the District, most notably the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to the New Forest Show in 2012, during Her Majesty's diamond jubilee year.

2.2 A resolution to award the honour must be passed at a special meeting of the Council convened for the purpose. It is proposed that this special meeting be held at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 13 May 2013, and that the annual meeting of the Council take place at the conclusion of the special meeting. It is proposed that Dame Mary be presented with a scroll in a presentation casket made from New Forest oak by a local craftsman.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the items in 2.2, plus a register for maintaining the roll of freemen, will be in the region of £1,500 which can be met from the existing civic expenses budget.

4. RECOMMENDED:

- (a) That a special meeting of the Council be held at 6.30 p.m. on Monday 13 May 2013 for the purpose of admitting Dame Mary Fagan DCVO JP as an Honorary Freewoman of the District of New Forest; and
- (b) That the annual meeting of the Council commence at the conclusion of the special meeting referred to in (a) above.

Further Information:

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Background Papers:

None