

# HUNGERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

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**Draft MINUTES** of the **Extra Full Council Meeting** held on Monday 13th April 2026 at 6.30pm in the Library, Hungerford.

**Present:** Cllrs, Simpson, Cole, Mulholland, Alford, Day, Keates, Brunning, Armstrong and Terry.

**In attendance:** Town Clerk (TC)

**EFC2026001 Note apologies for absence** – Cllrs Hudson, Fyfe, Carlson, Reeves and Hall

**EFC2026002 Declarations of interest** – none

**EFC2026003 Council has already agreed in principle and now is invited to ratify its proposal to confer the status of Freedom of the Town on 6 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME. This is in recognition of its service, demonstrating sacrifice and commitment to the defence of the realm, and for dedicated support to the local community of Hungerford.**  
Please refer to details below.

Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a Council to bestow the Freedom of its area on persons it considers deserving of the honour. This requires a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting on it at a meeting of the Council, specially convened for the purpose. The honour can be conferred on anyone the Council considers to be:

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

6 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME, a battalion of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of the British Army, based in Tidworth, provides essential support to armoured brigades, ensuring tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other combat systems remain operational.

The Battalion endeavours to maintain a representation at many important ceremonial events. Hungerford Town Council marked its affiliation with REME in 2014 with a homecoming parade for the Battalion on their return from Afghanistan. This was organised by the mayor at the time Cllr Martin Crane and his colleague Cllr Roger Thompson. REME have supported Hungerford's Remembrance Day, and Armed Forces Day for over 10 years including other community events such as D-day 80. We now wish to build on that relationship with the granting of Freedom of the Town.

By granting the status of Honorary Freeman to a military unit, i.e. Freedom of the Town also known as Freedom of Entry, the unit has the privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of Hungerford on ceremonial occasions with drums beating, band playing, bayonets fixed and swords drawn.

On Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026, a parade of approx.250 REME soldiers and band are invited to march from the football club to the centre of Hungerford high street where a ceremony will be held. The conferment will entail the presentation of a framed scroll and shield. Afterwards a reception will be held in the town hall to celebrate the award.

**Proposed:** Cllr Keates

**Seconded:** Cllr Simpson

**Resolution:** To confer the status of Freedom of the Town on 6 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME in recognition of its service, demonstrating sacrifice and commitment to the defence of the realm, and for dedicated support to the local community of Hungerford. All in favour.

Details of the draft scroll and shield were presented to the meeting and agreed.

Meeting closed 6.50pm.