Honorary Freedom of the Parish of Atworth

Introduction by Chairman: I am extremely pleased and proud to nominate David for this prestigious award. He has always been a good friend of the Parish, and like me, has a love for Atworth and its people. He is always helpful, generous in spirit and modest about his accomplishments which are many. I think his contribution is exceptional and believe that David should receive this highest recognition from the Parish which he loves. There are no additional rights or privileges attached to this Honour. It is recognition of the work and dedication given by David to Atworth Parish, and a testament of the affection, respect and high esteem for him held by those that live here.

The Annual Parish Assembly was chosen as the best occasion for this, as it puts David in the heart of this community event. The certificate is fresh and modern and depicts the Atworth Clock Tower, a historic map of Atworth, and a rural scene looking towards the village church. It was designed by the same person who designed the weather vane on Churchfields, The Village School.

Town Crier: The moment has arrived when the ceremony of the conferring of the Honorary Freedom of the Parish will begin. I call upon David Webb and Sir James Fuller to join the Chairman and be seated at the front.

Chairman: As required by the law, Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 I summoned my councillors to an extraordinary meeting held on 26th March 2014. The purpose was to seek agreement that eminent service had been rendered by David Webb to the community of Atworth Parish, and that the Honorary Freedom of the Parish of Atworth be conferred upon him. All councillors were present and the agreement was unanimous. This was witnessed by the Parish Clerk. This Annual Parish Assembly was established as the date on which the award is to be presented.

Town Crier: I call upon Sir James Fuller to give testament of the exemplary service that David Webb has given to the Parish of Atworth

Sir James: Stands and gives a congratulatory speech in which the reasons for the eminent service are explained. These include:

- In 2007 David stepped down from Atworth Parish Council after serving for 52 years. He was chairman for 19 years.
- He was a Trustee of the Jane Brown Education Charity, Atworth, from 1997 to 2011
- David was a Friend of Atworth School and a school manager (governor) for 35 years. There is a tree planted there with the following sign "This tree is dedicated to Mr David Webb with thanks from the Friends of Atworth School".
- He was on the Atworth Institute, The Village Hall, and committee from 1955 to 1996 and was chairman twice.
- David was a founder member of the Atworth History Group in 1973. He was chairman for 14 years and is now an honorary life member.
- He is a supporter of Atworth Church and served on the PCC twice.
- He helped to set up the Museum in Atworth, situated at Poplar Farm, along with other members of the History Group. He donated farm implements, and also photos of old Atworth taken from his vast collection.
- From 1992 he organised the Parish Boundary Walks which cover several miles, before handing this over to others very recently.
- He is always on hand to take photographs of any village events which are kept as a record for the village archives, and is an expert on local history.

(Effie and David will stand. Sir James sits)

Chairman: David I ask if you accept the Honorary Freedom of the Parish of Atworth offered to you.

Recipient: I David Webb accept the Honorary Freedom of the Parish of Atworth. I will be good and true to our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second. I will honour this Country and this Parish and keep to its laws. I will continue to give respect to Atworth Parish Council and the Parishioners of Atworth.

Chairman: I greet you as Honorary Freeman. (*Shake hands) (Fetches the certificate from the stand and passes it to Chairman)* I give you this document with grateful thanks and in recognition of your long and outstanding service and commitment to this Parish. (*Certificate is presented*)

Town Crier: *I call upon Mrs Webb to come forward and join her husband at the front. (Fetches the flowers)*

Chairman: I am confident that it was your help, encouragement and support that enabled David to take such an active role for very many years in this Parish. This is a token of our thanks. *(Mrs Webb sits*)

Recipient: (*the recipient gives his own speech in reply)*

(At the end of the speech, the Chairman, Sir James, David and Mrs Webb all stand)

Town Crier: *Please be upstanding. Atworth Parish Council thanks everyone here for attending this historic occasion. Everyone present gives their congratulations on this happy event. Three cheers for David Webb, first Honorary Freeman of the Parish of Atworth. Hip hip.....*