

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
FULL COUNCIL  
Monday 27 JUNE 2022**

**Officer:** Helen Ball – Town Clerk

**FREEDOMS**

**Purpose of Report**

To update the Council on current matters relating to Freedoms of the Town

**(i) HMS TALENT**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Mayor & Town Clerk were invited to attend the Decommissioning Ceremony of HMS Talent in the presence of HRH Princess Royal. Talent was sixth of seven Trafalgar Class Nuclear Submarines and was commissioned into service in May 1990. The company was granted freedom rights by the Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and since that time has maintained close links with the Town visiting twice a year for key military events. It has also maintained close links with Home House Hospice.

Talent is currenting in dry dock undertaking its final decommissioning and whilst a number of the crew have been reassigned to other boats, a number have been retained.

The Crew are keen to visit the town to exercise its freedom rights with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, colours flying, drums beating and bands playing before it officially returns the Freedom Scroll to the town. No official dates for a Freedom Parade have been set and the Town Clerk is liaison with the Commander to look at mutually convenient dates.

The Crew shall be presented with a Scroll depicting the Resolution below

**RECOMMENDED**

**That in light of the recent de-commissioning of HMS Talent from the Royal Navy, Shrewsbury Town Council confers upon the Commanding Officer and all Ranks its debt of thanks for their friendship and citizenship of Shrewsbury since it was granted Freedom Rights on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2002 and invites the boat's company to exercise its Freedom of Entry to the town one last time with swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating and bands playing.**

**(ii) SHROPSHIRE YEOMANRY**

The Shropshire Yeomanry has been a Yeomanry Regiment of the British Army since 1795. Once the Shropshire Yeomanry Squadron of the Queen's Own Mercian Regiment, then amalgamated into the Royal Mercian & Lancastrian Yeomanry and since 2014 part of the Royal Yeomanry. The Squadron was granted Freedom Rights of the Town on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1995. In 2025 it was keen to exercise its Freedom Rights to mark its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of being granted Freedom of the Town, but this was cancelled due to COVID. Since that time the regiment has led NATO operations in Eastern Europe, the first Reservist regiment to do so.

The Royal Yeomanry wishes to exercise the Freedom Rights granted to the Shropshire Yeomanry. The parade shall take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July starting from the Castle. The Town Clerk has been working with the Regiment's Adjutant to make the necessary arrangements. The Colonel of the Regiment shall seek permission of the Mayor to exercise those rights.

The Regiment shall be presented with a Scroll depicting the Resolution below

**RECOMMENDED**

**The Mayor & Councillors of Shrewsbury Town Council hereby confer upon the Royal Yeomanry the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Shrewsbury and all privileges, honours and distinction of marching through the streets of Shrewsbury on ceremonial occasions with bayonets fixed, standards flying and bands playing; in recognition of the long association and cordial relations which have existed between the town and the Regiment and the work of the British Army in helping to defend the interests of the United Kingdom.**