



Much Wenlock Town Council

Town Crier

Job Description and Terms and Conditions

The ceremonial post of Much Wenlock Town Crier is initially for a trial period of one year, after which there will be the option for renewal on an annual basis, subject to the Town Council being satisfied with the performance of the incumbent. The role should be seen as supporting the Mayor who is Much Wenlock's civic leader and takes precedence when undertaking any duties. A good working relationship is needed and encouraged and advice and instruction by the Town Clerk must be heeded.

Responsibility

The Town Crier represents Much Wenlock and its residents and is expected to maintain a high standard of behaviour and courtesy at all times when carrying out relevant duties and at any competitions. During performance of their duties the Town Crier is required to be clean, smart, sober, polite and good humoured.

Skills

Much Wenlock Town Crier is required to write a relevant cry for each event for which they are engaged. Approval will be required by the Town Clerk prior to performance. The maximum length of cries should be 200 words.

All cries must commence with 'Oyez, Oyez, Oyez' and must conclude with 'God Save The King'.

All cries must be non-political and non-religious and must be in good taste and in the spirit of the role.

The Town Crier will be expected to have and develop a good local knowledge, with an understanding of the Town and its history, as the post holder will be seen as an ambassador for the town.

Duties

In the first year of operation all appointments will be made through Much Wenlock Town Council. It is anticipated that the Town Crier will attend some Much Wenlock civic events and major town events. The Town Crier will liaise with the Town Clerk, who will be the line manager, regarding all matters concerning the role.

The Town Council reserves the right to refuse permission for any activity which they may consider inappropriate or contrary to the policies of the Town Council.

Costume

The appointee will receive items of clothing to wear when performing their duties. These will remain the property of Much Wenlock Town Council and must be returned at the end of the appointment. Much Wenlock Town Council will reimburse necessary dry-cleaning costs for the costume. The costume will only be worn for official Much Wenlock Town Council duties.

Voluntary position

The post of Town Crier is voluntary and unpaid.

Expenses

Expenses agreed in advance, for example, occasional travel out of the area, will be paid to the Town Crier. The Town Clerk will be responsible for approving expenses, which must be agreed in advance.

Insurance

The Council will include the position of Town Crier within its Public Liability Insurance.

Membership

The Town Crier is encouraged to join the nationwide Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers and the annual membership fee will be reimbursed by the Town Council.

Attendance at competitions, unless at the expense of the Town Crier, must be agreed in advance by the Town Council.

Please note:

Any person found to be in serious breach of any of the above conditions, or otherwise be considered by the Town Council's HR Committee to have brought the position into disrepute, will be immediately removed from the role of Much Wenlock Town Crier. There will be a right of appeal to the Town Council's Discipline & Grievance Panel.

Any person who has been dismissed by the Town Council from the post of Much Wenlock Town Crier for bringing the position into disrepute will not be eligible to hold the post at any other time in the future.

The Council reserves the right, subject to formal decision of the Council, to withdraw the role of Town Crier.