



CHARTER of 9th July 1604 (2 James I) at Westminster

NOTES

Grant of additional privileges.

1. The Mayor to be a Justice of the Peace for the Borough.
2. The Burgesses to be free from jury service.
3. The Corporation to have the return and execution of Writs.
4. The existing privileges confirmed.

JAMES BY THE GRACE OF GOD etc. to all whom these present shall come Greeting. Know ye that we of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion  
 1 GRANT to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, of the Borough and Parish of Higham Ferrers in our County of Northampton and their successors, that each Mayor for the time being

shall be a Justice of the Peace in the same Borough, its liberties and precincts, and shall also preserve the Statutes of Artisans and labourers, weights and measures and victuals within the same Borough, and that the said Mayor for the time being shall have full to inquire of any transgressions, misprisions, and other lesser crimes committed within the said Borough which by the laws and statutes of our Kingdom ought to and can be inquired of in any County of our Kingdom, and that he shall carry out and be able to carry out whatever belongs to the office of Justice of the Peace, provided that he does not proceed to the determination of any treason, murder, or felony, or any other matter touching loss of life or limb within the said Borough without special mandate.

- 2 WE also grant to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, and their successors, that none of them, living within the said Borough, shall be put on any Assizes, Juries, attaints, or Inquisitions which arise before our Justices or other ministers by reason of lands, transgressions or any other business being or arising without the said Borough, by reason of any lands which they hold within the said Borough, unless they hold lands without the
- 3 Borough for which they ought to serve. AND further we will and grant to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, that they shall have return both of Assize and of all our other writs, precepts, bills, and warrants arising within the said Borough and the execution of the same by the Mayor and his Officers as they were used to have in time past, so that no Sheriff, Bailiff, Constable or any foreign minister of ours shall enter the said Borough for the return or execution of the said writs, precepts, bills and warrants or summons, except in the default of the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, as has been used in the same Borough in time
- 4 past. AND further we ratify, confirm, and approve to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses all liberties, franchises, immunities, exemptions, quittances, and jurisdictions of every kind, and also all lands, tenements, hereditaments, customs, liberties, franchises, immunities, quittances, exemptions, and jurisdictions which the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses by any name, corporation, or pretext of corporation held or enjoyed before this, which were to them and their successors in perpetuity in hereditary fashion by reason or by pretext of any Charters or letters patent of any of our ancestors or predecessors in any way before this made, confirmed, or granted, or were in any other legal way used or accustomed before this, even though the same had not been used before this, or had been abused or misused, discontinued, forfeited or lost, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD and to enjoy to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses in perpetuity, Returning therefor to us yearly exactly the same rents, services, sums of money and demands as they have been used to and by law should. Wherefore we will and strictly enjoin that the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses should have, hold, use, and enjoy in perpetuity all liberties, authorities, jurisdictions, franchises, and quittance according to the tenor and effect of these our letters patent, without let or hindrance from us, our successors, Justices, Sheriffs, or other



bailiffs or ministers of us or our successors, Being unwilling that the said Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses should by any reason of the foregoing be hindered or in any way disturbed by us, our successors etc., Willing and by these presents commanding both the Treasurer, Chancellor and Barons of our Exchequer, and our other Justices and Officers, and also the Attorney- and Solicitor-General that they should not prosecute or continue any writ or summons of Quo Warranto or any other writ or process against the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses in any cause or matter arising before the making of these presents, Willing also that the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses should not be molested or impeded or compelled to answer by any of the said Justices or Officers in or for debt, use, claim, or abuse of liberties, franchises or Jurisdiction within the said Borough before the day of the making of these presents. We will also and by these presents grant to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, that they shall have these our letters patent made and sealed in due fashion under the Great Seal without fine or fee great or small to be paid to us in the Hanaper of our Chancery or elsewhere to our use. Notwithstanding that no express mention of the true annual value, or of any other value, or of the certainty of the premises, or of other gifts or grants made by us or any of our predecessors to the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses before this time, has been made in these presents, and notwithstanding any statute etc. to the contrary. In testimony of which we have made these our letters patent. WITNESS myself at Westminster the ninth day of July, the second year of our reign of England, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the thirty-seventh by writ of Privy Seal.

T. RAVENSCROFTE.