

CHARTER of Queen Victoria. 16 July, 1886

VICTORIA, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen Defender of the Faith. TO ALL TO WHOM these Presents shall come Greeting. WHEREAS by the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 it was enacted that if on the Petition to Us of the Inhabitant Householders of any Town or Towns or District in England or any of those Inhabitants praying for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation We by the advice of Our Privy Council should think fit by Charter to create such Town Towns or District or any part thereof specified in the Charter with or without any adjoining place a Municipal Borough and to incorporate the inhabitants thereof it should be lawful for Us by the Charter to extend to that Municipal Borough and the inhabitants thereof so incorporated the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Acts. And it was further enacted that every Petition for a Charter under the said Act should be referred to a Committee of the Lords of Our Privy Council (in the said Act called the Committee of Council) and that one month at least before the Petition should be taken into consideration, by the Committee in Council, notice thereof and of the time when it would be so taken into consideration should be published in the London Gazette, and otherwise in such manner as the Committee should direct for the purpose of making it known to all persons interested. And it was further enacted that where We by a Charter should extend the Municipal Corporations Acts to a Municipal Borough it should be lawful for Us by the Charter to do all or any of the following things:

- (a) To fix the number of Councillors and to fix the number and boundaries of the Wards (if any) and to assign the number of Councillors to each Ward, and
- (b) To fix the years days and times for the retirement of the first Alderman and Councillors; and
- (c) To fix such days times and places and nominate such persons to perform such duties and make such other temporary modifications of the Municipal Corporations Acts as might appear to Us to be necessary or proper for making those Acts applicable in the case of the first constitution of a Municipal Borough.

And that the years times and places fixed by the Charter and the persons nominated therein to perform any duties should as regarded the Borough named in the Charter be respectively substituted in the Municipal Corporations Acts for the years days

times places officers and persons therein mentioned and the persons so nominated should have the like powers and be subject to the like obligations and penalties as the officers and persons mentioned in those Acts for whom they would be respectively substituted. And that subject to the provisions of the Charter authorised thereby the Municipal Corporations Acts should on the Charter coming into effect apply to the Municipal Borough to which they should be extended by the Charter, and where the first Mayor Aldermen and Councillors or any of them should be named in the Charter should apply as if they were elected under the Municipal Corporations Acts and where they should not be so named should apply to their first election. AND WHEREAS certain inhabitants householders of the Parish of Higham Ferrers in the County of Northampton did in the month of February One thousand eight hundred and eighty four petition Us for the grant of a Charter of Incorporation to the said Parish AND WHEREAS such Petition was referred to a Committee of Our Privy Council and one month at least before the same was taken into consideration by the said Committee notice thereof and of the time when the same was so to be taken into consideration was duly published in The London Gazette and otherwise as directed by the Committee. AND WHEREAS Our Privy Council have recommended Us to grant this Charter of Incorporation WE therefore as well by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative as in pursuance of and in accordance with the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 or any other Act or Acts and of all other powers and authorities enabling Us in this behalf, by and with the advice of Our Privy Council DO hereby grant order and declare as follows:

- (A) THE Parish of Higham Ferrers is hereby created a Municipal borough by the name of the BOROUGH OF HIGHAM FERRERS.
- (B) THE inhabitants of the Parish of Higham Ferrers and their successors shall be, and are hereby declared to be one body politic and corporate by the name of the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Higham Ferrers with the perpetual succession and a Common Seal and may assume Armorial bearings (which shall be duly enrolled in the Heralds' College) and may take and hold any lands and hereditaments which may be transferred to them by any Scheme made under Part XI of the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 and such other lands and hereditaments as well without as within the Borough as do not exceed in value the amount of Five hundred pounds by the year.
- (C) THE Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of the said Borough shall have the powers authorities immunities and privileges usually vested by law in the Mayor Aldermen and Burgesses of a Municipal Borough and the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Acts shall extend to the said

Borough and the inhabitants thereof incorporated by this Charter.

- (D) THE number of Councillors of the Borough shall be twelve.
- (E) FOR the purpose of making the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 applicable in the case of the first constitution of the Borough We do hereby so far only as regards the first Burgess list, first Burgess roll and first election of Councillors, Mayor, Aldermen, Auditors, Assessors, Town Clerk and Treasurer for the Borough, fix and order as follows:

- (1) The Town Hall in the Town of Higham Ferrers shall be the place at which any list notice or document required to be affixed on or near the outer door of the Town Hall is to be affixed; and
- (2) Both in relation to the matters aforesaid and also in relation to any such election as aforesaid which it may be necessary to hold before a valid Election can be held under the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 William Hirst Simpson of Higham Ferrers aforesaid the present Town Clerk of the existing Borough of Higham Ferrers or in case of his death inability refusal or default Charles Herbert Simpson of Higham Ferrers aforesaid Solicitor shall perform the duties of the Town Clerk and John Crew of Higham Ferrers aforesaid the present Mayor of the said existing Borough or in case of his death inability refusal or default, Edward Brown Randall of Higham Ferrers aforesaid the present Deputy Mayor of the said existing Borough shall perform the duties of the Mayor and the assessors for revising the Burgess list and the separate list of persons qualified to be Councillors, and the said John Crew, or in case of his death inability refusal or default the said Edward Brown Randall shall perform the duties of the Mayor and Aldermen respectively as returning officer, and of the Mayor as Summoner of the first Meeting of the Council and of the Mayor or Chairman of the Meeting for the election of the Mayor, Aldermen, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

And the said persons shall be substituted in the Municipal Corporations Act 1882, for the said Town Clerk, Mayor, Assessors, Aldermen and Chairman respectively so far as relates to the matters aforesaid; and

- (3) The first Meeting of the Council of the Borough shall be held on the ninth day of November One thousand eight hundred and eighty six.

- (F) The years and days specified in the Schedule to these Presents shall be the years and days for the retirement of the first Aldermen and Councillors who shall retire in the manner and at the times therein designated.
- (G) SUBJECT to these Presents and the Schedule thereto the provisions of the Municipal Corporations Act 1882 shall apply to the determination of the qualifications of the first Burgesses, the making out, signing, delivering, inspection, completion, publication, commencement and continuance of the first Burgess Lists and Burgess rolls, the claims objections and determinations with regard to the first Burgess list or rolls, the holding adjournments and decisions of the first revision Courts, the nominations, elections, and continuance in office of the first Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, Auditors and Assessors, the appointment and continuance in office of the first Town Clerk and Treasurer, the first meeting and quarterly meeting of the Town Council and all matters and things touching and concerning the same and the dates and times in the said Act mentioned shall be the dates and times on at during or for which the matters aforesaid and the various acts and things in relation thereto shall take place, be done, be estimated or be calculated.

SCHEDULE

Persons to retire	Date of retirement
The one third of the Councillors who are elected by the smallest number of Votes shall go out of office on	1st November 1887
The one third of the Councillors who are elected by the next smallest number of Votes shall go out of office on	1st November 1888
The remaining one third of the Councillors shall go out of office on	1st November 1889
The one half of the Aldermen who first go out of office shall be those who are elected by the smallest number of Votes, and shall go out of office on	9th November 1889
The remaining one half of the Aldermen shall go out of office on ...	9th November 1892

If any Councillors or any Aldermen have obtained an equal number of Votes or have been elected without a Poll so that it cannot be determined which of them has the smallest number of Votes, the Council of the Borough shall at the first or second quarterly meeting and not later by a majority of Votes, or in case of an equality of Votes by the Casting Vote of the Chairman determine who are to go out of office at the times above specified respectively.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the sixteenth day of July in the fiftieth year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL.

MUIR MACKENZIE.

SEAL