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Dornoch

Grant of Arms — When Dingwall Pursuivant of Arms presents Dornoch Area Community Council with the Grant of Arms at Dornoch Cathedral on July 5, not only will history be made in Highland community council affairs, but it will also serve as a reminder of the long and distinguished history of civic responsibility in Sutherland's Royal Burgh.

It is through the interest and considerable generosity of two important families in the Dornoch area that this historic occasion is able to take place.

Mr and Mrs Carey Randall have generously defrayed the cost, not only of the Grant of Arms, but also have gifted a Ceremonial Banner and a Flag displaying the Arms. They have also been of immense help with the procedures

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and arrangements from the outset.

Mr and Mrs Derek Holt of Skibo Castle have also been most generous in gifting a Chairman's Badge of Office, bearing the Arms, to the Community Council. **(BELOW RIGHT).**

What is so interesting about the Dornoch Grant of Arms is that not only does it make Dornoch one of only a dozen or so Community Councils in Scotland to have thus far recorded arms, but it has the very unusual distinction of having been granted arms which are virtually a differenced version of the Arms of the former Royal Burgh of Dornoch.

This honour serves to remind local people that the rôle of the new council — to represent and safeguard the interests of the people of Dornoch and its environs — is a privilege it has inherited from a long and historic rôle fulfilled over centuries by the Town Council.

Furthermore, in having the presentation take place immediately at the close of the morning service of the Cathedral, the vital and historic link in the Burgh, between church and council is fittingly maintained.

The ceremony on July 5 — during the busy part of the tourist season — will, it is hoped, provide a dignified, colourful and attractive occasion which will be a focus of interest during the early part of Dornoch Festival Week.

