

COPY OF THE CHARTER OF KING JAMES I
TO THE BOROUGH OF BEWDLEY 1606
(The Third Year of his Reign)

THE KING to all sends greetings.

WHEREAS our Borough of Bewdley in the County of Worcester is an Ancient and Populous Borough and the Burgesses and Inhabit-ants of the same Borough have had used and enjoyed divers Liberties Franchises Immunities Fairs Markets and pre-eminces by divers Charters or Letters Patent of divers of our Progenitor or Predecessors Kings of England to them heretofore made granted and confirmed by the name of "the Burgesses of the Town of Bewdley and precincts of the same" And by the name of "the Bailiff Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town or Borough of Bewdley and by the name of "Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town of Bewdley" And also by divers other names as by the same Letters Patents it more fully and plainly appears. And whereas The Bridge of our Town or Borough of Bewdley aforesaid that crosseth the River of Severn and over which very many of our Leige People have been wont to and daily to pass with Horses Carriages Goods Chattels Cattle Merchandizes cannot as well by reason of the rapid current of the water there as by reason of the length of the said Bridge be repaired without great and continual Charged in and for the Reparation of which Bridge there hath been heretofore a certain custom of having taking and receiving sums of money and other things and profits. **AND** **WHEREAS** many doubts defects and inconveniences have appeared in the said Charters and Letters Patents heretofore made and granted to the said Burgesses and Inhabitants Wherefore our chosen subjects the Burgesses or Inhabitants of our Town or Borough of Bewdley aforesaid have most humbly besought us that we would so far extend and shew to them in this behalf our Royal Grace and Favour as to us should seem meet as well for rectifying and amending those defects doubts and inconveniences as for augmenting and adding some other Liberties and Privileges for their greater advantage and public benefit of the said Town or Borough and the Burgesses and Inhabitants of the same.

We therefore the Premises recollecting and considering that there is very frequent coming to and going through the Town or Borough aforesaid through over and beyond the Bridge aforesaid As well by the abiding and Residences of our Council of our Marches of Wales within the said Borough as by the commerce in the Fairs and Markets and other ways in the said Town or Borough used And being desirous that there may be for ever hereafter within the Town or Borough one certain and undoubted method of keeping the Peace thereof and for the good Ruler and Government of our People therein And the Town or Borough aforesaid may for ever hereafter be and remain a Town or Borough of Peace and Quiet to the Terror and Astonishment of the wicked and the reward of the good And that our Peace and other Acts of Justice may be maintained without any pretence for delay And also that a Free Grammar School may be perpetually maintained within the said Town or Borough and that the said Bridge may be sufficiently repaired and kept And hope that if the Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town and Borough aforesaid and their Successors should by one Grant enjoy greater Dignities Liberties and Privileges than they now can by the Services to be done to us our Heirs and Successors They will acknowledge themselves to be more specially and strongly obliged to us.

WE of our special grace and certain knowledge and meer motion will and have ordained constituted and granted and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do ordain constitute grant and declare that our Town or Borough of Bewdley aforesaid is and shall continue for ever hereafter a free Borough of itself and that the Burgesses of the Town of Bewdley and precincts of the same and the Burgesses and Inhabitants of the Town or Borough of Bewdley by whatsoever name or names they have been heretofore incorporated or not incorporated and their Successors are and shall be for ever hereafter by virtue of these presents one Body Corporate and Politic in Fact and Name by the name of "the Bailiff and Burgesses of the Borough of Bewdley in the "County of Worcester", And we have by these presents realy and fully for us our Heirs and Successors erected made created ordained constituted declared and confirmed them and their Successors one Body Corporate and Politic in fact and name by the name of "the Bailiff and Burgesses of the Borough of Bewdley in the County of Worcester" And that by the same name they may have perpetual Succession. And that they and their Successors by the name of the Bailiff and Burgesses of the Borough of Bewdley in the County of Worcester are and shall be in all future times persons able and in the Law capable to have demand perceive receive and possess to them and their Successors in fee and for ever or for life or lives or for a term of years or otherwise Sands Tenements Liberties Privileges Jurisdictions Franchises and Hereditaments As also Goods and Chattels and all other things of what nature or kind or species the same shall be And also by the same name to give grant let and assign the same Sand Tenements Hereditaments Gods and Chattels, And all and singular other Acts and Deeds whatsoever to do and execute by the name afore-said. And that they by the same name of "the Bailiff and Burgesses of the Borough of Bewdley in the County of Worces-ter" may and can plead and be impleaded answer and be answered defend and be defended in any Court or place and before any Judges Justices all other Persons the Officers of us our Heirs and Successors in all and singular Action or Actions Please Suits Plaints Causes Matters and Demands real personal or mixed as well spiritual as temporal of whatsoever kind condition quality or species the same may be in the same manner and form as other our Liege People of this our kingdom of England being Persons able and in the Law capable to have demand perceive receive possess give grant let and assign may or can plead or be impleaded answer and be answered defend and be defended And that the aforesaid Bailff and Burgess of the Borough aforesaid and their Successor for ever may have a Common Seal to be used by them and their Successors in their causes and business and that it may and shall be lawful for them the Bailiff and Burgesses and their Successors from time to time at their wills and Pleasure to break change and to make new their said Common Seal as to them shall seem most expedient.

AND WE further will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant constitute and declare that the said Borough of Bewdley and the Compass Circuit Limits and Precincts thereof and Jurisdiction of the same do extend and stretch out and may and shall be reckoned to extend and stretch out as well in length Breadth as in Circuit to such and the same Boundaries and Limits as the said Borough of Bewdley of the same have or hath been used to extend or stretch out unto And that it shall and may be lawful for them the Bailiff and Burgesses for the said Borough of Bewdley as often as they please or so shall judge necessary to make ambulations or processions for the true and better knowing of the same And further we will and by

these Presents for our Heirs and Successors have granted and ordained that for ever hereafter there may and shall be elected and appointed within the Borough aforesaid of the Rest of the Burgesses of the said Borough one of the best and most discreetest of the Burgesses aforesaid who shall be and shall be named the Bailiff of the said Borough and shall be elected with the manner and form as by these our Letters Patents is hereinafter specified.

And that there shall be from time to time hereafter within the Borough aforesaid twelve true honest and discreet Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid residing dwelling and inhabiting within the Borough aforesaid to be elected and chosen out of the rest of the Burgesses in the manner and form as in these our Letters Patents is hereinafter declared who shall be called Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid. Which said Bailiff and twelve capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid or the major part of them of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one from time to time for ever hereafter may elect and appoint and can and have power to elect and appoint such and so many other men Inhabitants or not Inhabitants of the Borough aforesaid who have not been retained with or Servants to any Noblemen or Gentlemen to be hereafter Burgesses of the said Borough as to them the Bailiff and twelve Capital Burgesses shall seem fit and convenient And everyone of them who shall hereafter be so elected and appointed Burgess of the said Borough shall take his Corporal Oath for the Faithfull execution of his Office before the Bailiff of the said Borough or his Deputy or in his absence before the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the said Borough and such of the Burgesses of the said Borough who shall be these present in the form and manner hereinafter directed. Everyone of which Burgesses Capital Burgesses or Inhabitants of the said Borough who hereafter shall serve with or be retained by any Nobleman or Gentleman is to be immediately and insofact removed and doth lose his Office of Burgess of the said Borough and his liberty of using any art or mystery within the Borough aforesaid.

And we further will and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant and ordain that the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough from time to time shall be Aiders and Assist-ers to the Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being in all matters causes and things touching or concerning the said Borough.

And we of our special Grace certain knowledge meer motion do will and grant for us our Heirs Successors to the Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and to their Successors that the Bailiff and Twelve Capital Burgesses for the time being their Successors or the Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one) being gathered together and assembled in the Guildhall of the said Borough or in any other convenient place within the said Borough shall and by these presents have full Waiver Authority and License to institute constitute ordain make and establish such Laws Statutes Rights Ordinances and Constitutions which to them or the Major part of them shall appear to them to be good wholesome useful honest and necessary for the good Rule and Government of the Bailiff and the Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid And all and singular the Officers Ministers Artificers Inhabitants and Residents of the Borough aforesaid for the time being and concerning the Free Grammar School aforesaid and the repairing the said Bridge and of the Ways Streets and Passages in the Borough aforesaid leading to the said Bridge And for declaring in what manner

and order the said Bailiff Burgesses all singular the rest of the Ministers Officers Artificers and Inhabitants of the said Borough for the time being shall govern and behave themselves in their Offices Functions Mysteries Workmanships and Businesses within the Borough aforesaid and Liberties of the same for the better Government and greater Advantage of the said town and for victualling thereof And for maintaining sustaining keeping the Free Grammar School Bridge aforesaid And also for the better preservation govern-ment disposition leting and seting the said Tenements or Possessions Revenues Hereditaments Goods and Chattels to the said Bailiff Burgesses to their Successors heretofore given granted and assigned or to be hereafter given granted or assigned or any other thing or cause whatsoever touching or any wise concerning the Borough aforesaid or the Statutes Rights or Interest thereof.

And that the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses aforesaid for the time being or the major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one) as often as the same Laws Statutes Rights Ordinances or Constitutions have been made ordained instituted or established in the Form aforesaid can have power to make ordain limit and provide such and so many pains punishments and penalties as well by imprisonment of the Body as by Fines or Amerciaments or by any of them against and upon all the Inhabitants Dwellers and Residents within the said Borough or the Liberties and Precincts of the same who shall offend against the said Laws Statutes Rights and Ordinances and Constitutions or any of them As to them the said Bailiff and Capital Burgesses for the time being or the Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being shall be one) shall seem most proper requisite necessary for the observation of the Laws Statutes Rights Ordinance and Constitutions aforesaid. And the said Fines and Amerciaments on the Goods Cattle and Chattels of such offenders or any of them to have and levy by Distress and Sale without any hindrance by us our Heirs Successors or by any other the Officers or Ministers of us our Heirs Successors All and singular which Laws Statutes Rights Ordinance and Constitutions so as aforesaid to be made. We will and command that the same from time to time shall inviolably be observed according to the tenure and effect of the same under the Pains in them to be contained So that the aforesaid Laws Statues Rights Ordinances and Constitutions so as aforesaid to be made And also the said Pains Penalties Imprisonments Fines and Amerciaments and very of them are reasonable and no way repugnant or contrary to the Laws Customs Rights or Statutes of this our Realm of England.

And for the better execution of the same We of our Will and Pleasure have assigned named constituted and made and by these Presents forus our Heirs and Successors do assign name constitute and make our well beloved Thomas Bulson Walter Hill Richard Whitcote Thomas Hayward John Bennett Richard Brown Richard Vicaris William Milton Edward Tomnes Humphrey Brassier and John Draper to be and hereafter to continue the Giocloe first and modern Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and that every one of them shall be and continue in the Office of Capital Burgesses so long as he or they shall live and continue within the said Borough If he or they shall not before that have been removed from the Office of Capital Burgess of the said Borough for we will that they and everyone of them may be removed for misbehaviour or being unfit person or persons at the Will and pleasure of the said Bailiff and the rest of the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them.

And we have assigned named constituted and made and by these presents for us our Heirs and Successors do assign name constitute and make the said Thomas Bulson one of the Capital Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid to be the first and present Bailiff of the said Borough And we will that the said Bulson shall be and continue in the said Office of Bailiff of the said Borough from the date of the Presents until the Thursday next before the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel next ensuing and from the same Thursday until another Burgess of the said Borough shall have been elected appointed and sworn into that Office according to the direction and Provisoos hereinafter specified and expressed of the said Thomas Bulson shall so long live and if he shall not before that time have been removed from his said Office fore we will that he be remove-able for ill behaviour by the Captial Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid or the Major part of them.

Which said Twelve Capital Burgesses shall take their Corporal Oaths for their well and faithful executing their Offices within forty days after the date of these presents before Sir Francis Clare Knight William Horton and George Blunt Esq. or before two of them to which three or two of them We by these presents give and grant full Power and Authority to give and Administer the said Oaths to the said Capital Burgesses And also the said Bailiff shall take his Corporal Oath for the due execution of the Office of Bailiff of the said Borough in all things touching and concerning the said office before the residue of the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them within fifty days after the date of these Presents.

And for filling up the full number of twelve Capital Burgesses of the said Borough during the time that the said Thomas Bulson shall be and continue in the said office of Bailiff We have assigned named constituted and made our trusty and well beloved John Brown to be hereafter and now to be one of the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough in the place and stead of the aforesaid Thomas Bulson to continue in the same office during the time the said Thomas Bulson shall be and remain in the office of Bailiff of the said Borough and from thence so long as any of the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough shall happen to be elected into the office of Bailiff of the said Borough and no longer which said John Brown shall before the Bailiff of the said Borough take his Corporal Oath for the true faithful execution of the office of Capital Burgess of the said Borough within Sixty days after the date of these Presents And that immediately after another Burgess of the said Borough shall have been elected preferred and sworn into the office of Bailiff of the said Borough according to the direction and provisoos in these presents directed and expressed The said Thomas Bulson shall be reinstated and recontinue in his office of one of the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough as is aforesaid and so in the same manner every Capital Burgess of the Borough aforesaid and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough hereafter to be elected who hath or have been elected into the office of Bailiff of the said Borough immediately after another Burgess of the said Borough shall have been elected into the Office of Bailiff of the said Borough from time to time is reinstated or shall recontinue in his office of one of the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough.

And we further will and for us our Heirs and Successors by these presents have granted to the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and to their Successors that the said

Bailiff and Burgesses of the aforesaid Borough for the time being or the Major part of them from time to time for ever hereafter have and shall have Power and Authority yearly and every year in the Month of September (that is to say) on Thursday next before the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel to assemble themselves together in the Guildhall of the said Borough or in any other convenient place within the said Borough and there to elect and name and they being so as aforesaid assembled and met together can there name for and elect one of the Burgesses of the said Borough to the office of Bailiff of the said Borough for one entire year then next ensuing And that he who shall be so as aforesaid elected and named to the office of Bailiff of the said Borough before he shall be admitted to execute his said Office shall within one month next after the said Nomination and Election take his Corporal Oath upon the most holy Evangelist of God for the true and faithfull execution of the office of Bailiff of the said Borough before the last Bailiff being his Predecessor or in his absence before the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the said Borough and before such of the Burgesses of the said Borough who shall be then present in the Guildhall of the said Borough or in such other convenient place within the said Borough according to their discretions to be appointed for doing thereof and that after he has taken the same Oath he can and hath power to execute the office of Bailiff of the said Borough until Thursday next before the Feast of St. Michal the Archangel then next following and from thence until another of the Burgesses of the said Borough shall have been elected appointed and duly sworn into the Office of Bailiff of the said Borough if he shall not in the meantime have been removed from his said Office for we will that he be remove-able for illbehaviour by the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them.

And we further will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and to their successors that if it shall happen that the present Bailiff or any other Bailiff of the said Borough hereafter to be elected after his Election Appointment and Swearing into the Office of Bailiff of the said Borough in manner as aforesaid shall die or be otherwise removed from his said office that then and so after it is and shall be lawful for the Burgesses of the said Borough for the time being or the Major part of them in a convenient time after the death or removal of such Bailiff to elect and appoint one other Person out of their own Body to be Bailiff of the said Borough and that he being so elected and appointed shall have and exercise the office of Bailiff of the said Borough during the residue of the same year if he shall so long live and having not been removed from his said Office in manner as aforesaid And to take his Corporal Oath for the true and faithful execution of this Office before the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the said Borough and such other Burgesses of the said Borough who shall be there present in manner before directed so in like manner often the case shall happen.

And we further will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and to their Successors that if anyone or more of the before named Capital Burgesses of the said Borough do happen to die before he or they shall have been sworn in the manner before directed or otherwise are absent when the rest of the Capital Burgesses shall take the said Oaths in manner as aforesaid or that any one or more of the Captital Burgesses of

the said Borough hereafter to be elected do die or dwell out of the said Borough or otherwise from his or their office or offices of Capital Burgesses of the said Borough shall be removed all and every of which we will to removeable for ill behaviour or being thought proper Persons to be removed in manner before directed That then and so often it is and shall be lawful for the Bailiff and the rest of the Capital Burgesses for the time being or the major part of them to elect another or others of the Burgesses aforesaid inhabiting within the said Borough within 15 days then next after such death or removal into the office or offices of Capital Burgess or Burgesses in the place or places of the Capital Burgess or Burgesses that shall happen to be dead absent or removed And that he or they after that he or they shall be so elected before that he or they shall be admitted to execute their Office or Offices shall take his or their Corporal Oath or Oaths for the faithful execution of this or their Office or Offices within 15 days next after such Election before the Bailiff of the said Borough and in his absence the Recorder or Deputy Recorder of the said Borough and before such of the Burgesses of the said Borough as shall be there

as shall be there present as is aforesaid. And that he or they being so elected and sworn shall have and exercise the office or offices of Capital Burgess or Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid so long as he or they shall live and inhabit withn the said Borough unless he or they in the meantime for ill-behaviour or as propoer and fit Person or Persons to be removed shall have been removed as is aforesaid. And we further will and by these presents for us our Heirs Successors do grant to the Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough their Successors that they and their Successors for ever hereafter have and can have an Officer within the said Borough who shall be called the Steward thereof And another Officer being a man honest discreet well grounded in the Laws of England who shall be called Recorder of the said Borough And another Officer a man also honest and discreet, well learned in the Laws of England who shall be called Deputy Recorder of the said Borough and these Officers to be from time to time named and elected by the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them to hold and enjoy the offices of Steward Recorder of the said Borough during the pleasure of the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough so often as it shall seem necessary to them the said Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough And that every Deputy Recorder of the said Borough so to be named and elected before he shall proceed or be admitted to execute the said Office shall take his Corporal Oath upon the most holy Evangelist of God before the Bailiff of the said Borough well and truly to execute the said Office of Deputy Recorder of the said Borough in all things relating thereto or to the same belonging And we have assigned ordained named constituted and appointe our Trusty and well beloved Sir Robert Steward Knight the first Steward of the said Borough.

And we further will and by these Presents do grant for us our Heirs and Successors to the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and to their Successors that they and their Successors for ever hereafter may have and hold and can and have power to have and hold in the Guildhall of the said Borough or in any other convenient place within the said Borough before the Bailiff of the said Borough or his Deputy and before the Recorder of the said Borough if he shall be present or before a sufficient Deputy Recorder (who shall first have taken his Corporal Oath for the true and faithful execution of that office before the Bailiff of the said Bor-

ough) oen Court of Record every second week or oftener at their pleasure. And that in the same Court they may and can have Power by Complaint to hold all and all manner of Pleas in all and all manner of Actions Suits and Demands both personal and mixt in all and all manner of Trespasses Or Armis Trespasses on the case Debt Account Covenant Deceit detaining of Writings Charters taking and detaining of Cattle Goods Chattels and all Contracts Defaults and Offences whatsoever of or concerning whatsoever personal things within the said Borough Limits Precincts or Liberties of the same, such Actions shall arise commence be moved or prosecuted so long as the said Actions of Trespass Debt Account Covenant or Contract do not exceed the sum or value of £100 and that the said Pleas Complaints and p;ersonal Actioons shall be there heard and determined before the Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being and before the Recorder of the said Borough or a sufficient Deputy by such and the like process and forms according to the customs of our Realm of England which have been agree-able to our Laws of England in such and the same manner form as is used or accustomed by or ought or can be done in any of our Courts of Record in any other Borough or Town Corporate within this Realm of England And that the said Bailiff and his Successors or their Deputies and the Recorder of the Borough aforesaid for the time being or his Deputy in all such Plaints Pleas Suits and Actions have and shall have full Power License and Authority by Summons Attachment and Distress And for want of Lands Tenerments Goods and Chattels within the said Borough the Limits Precincts and Boundaries of the same where or by which they may be summoned attached or distrained by Attachment or Arrest of their Bodies to oblige the Persons being defaulted against whom such Plaints or Actions shall happen to be brought to plead according to the Customs in any other Borough or Town Corporate within this Realm of England used And all and singular the Plaints and Pleas aforesaid to hear and determine and by the like Process to give Jugement and award execution of Judgements by which the like Pleas in any other Court in any other Borough or Town Corporate are proceded por determined taking reasonable Fees, Profits in the same Court.

And that there may and shall be from time to time in the said Court three or four Attorneys to be elected or named by the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one) which Attorneys may take reasonable Fees and Profits by the said Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them to be appointed.

And we further will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the said Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough and to their Successors that they their Successors for ever hereafter can and shall have within the said Borough two or three who shall be called Serjeants at Mace to attend on every? Court of the said Borough and for executing and making returns of Proclamations Distresses Attachments Processes Arrests ? Offices Inquisitions Executions Judgements Precepts Warrants and all other businesses within the said Borough Limits Precincts and Liberties of the same and in and upon the River of Severn aforesaid within the Precincts and Liberties of the said Borough and to do and execute all and whatever is belonging to the office of the Serjeants at Mace or necessary to be done according to the Laws and Customs of our Realms of England and as in other Council of Record in any other Borough or Town Corporation within this Kingdom of England is used or accustomed or ought to be done and performed

at the Will and Pleasure of every? Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough which Serjeants at Mace and every of them shall from time to time be named elected and appointed by the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one) as often as it shall seem to them the said Bailiff and Capital Burgesses to be expedient And from time to time he or they shall be attending upon the Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being And that they the said Serjeants at Mace being so elected and named as is aforesaid shall take their Corporal Oaths before the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one) will and faithfully to execute the Offices of Serjeants at Mace And ? after the taking of such Oath he or they can and hath or have power to execute the Office or Offices of Serjeants at Mace within the said Borough Precincts and Liberties thereof and upon the said River within the said Borough Precincts and Liberties of the same during the Will and Pleas-ure of the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them And we further will and ordain and have by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors granted to the aforesaid Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors that the said Serjeants at Mace so as is aforesaid to be elected and appointed shall carry or bear two or three Silver or Gold Maces with our Arms engraved thereon before the Bailiff of the said Borough where and when the Bailiff of the said Borough shall think fit and convenient so to be done.

And further of our Special Grace certain knowledge and meer motion We have for us our Heirs and Successors granted to the Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors a Court Sect of all and singular the Inhabitants and Residents within the Borough aforesaid and within the Limits Precincts and Boundaries of the samd and all things which to the said Court Sect are belonging and appertaining or which ought to belong or appertain thereunto be holden twice in every year in the Guildhall of the said Borough or in any other convenient place within the said Borough by the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one, to be by them limitted and appointed (that is to say) The one within one month after Easter and the other within one month after the feast of St. Michael the Archangel before the Bailiff of the said Borough or his Deputy and before the Recorder of the said Borough if he shall be present or before the Deputy Recorder of the said Borough or his sufficient Deputy for the time being And that the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors may have receive perceive and take all and all manner of Fines Issues Redemptions Amercia-ments and Profits whatsoever increasing issueing happening or growing of and in the said Court of Record and of and in the said Court Sect and either of them for the better supporting and maintaining for time to time the charges and expences of the said Borough Yielding and paying therefore yearly to us our Heirs and Successors Twenty shillings of lawful money of England The same to be yearly for ever paid at the receipt of the Exchequer of us our Heirs and Successors at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. Michael the Archangel by even and equal portions.

And further of our Special Grace certain knowledge and meer motion We will and ordain and by these Presents for us our Heirs Successors have granted to the aforesaid Bailiff and

Burgesses of the said Borough their Successors That the Bailiff and Capital Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors for ever hereafter in each year shall have Power within one month of Easter to elect name and appoint two Burgesses of the said Borough inhabiting within the said Borough Precincts or Liberties thereof to be Constables within the said Borough the Liberties of the same And to continue in the same Office for one entire year next ensuing which Constables and either of them can and have Power to do and execute all things which are appertaining or belonging to the office of a Constable within the said Borough. They or either of them having first taken their Corporal Oaths for his and their well and faithful execution of the said Office of Constable within the said Borough before the Bailiff Recorder or their sufficient Deputies and the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being, or his sufficient Deputy, to be one).

And further of our more Especial Grace certain knowledge and meet motion for the better Rule and Government of the said Borough and the Inhabitants Residents and ? of the same We have for us our Heirs and Successors by these Presents granted to the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors that for ever hereafter the Bailiff and Recorder of the said Borough and the last Predecessor of the Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being are and shall be and each of the is and shall be our Justice Justices for keeping our Peace and the Peace of our Heirs and Successors within the said Borough Liberties and Precincts of the same And also to execute the Statutes made concerning Vagabonds Artificers and Labourers Weights and Measures within the said Borough and Precincts of the same And that the Bailiff Recorder and last Predecessor of the Bailiff of the said Borough for time being or any two of them (of which the Bailiff of the time being to be one) for ever hereafter have and can and may have Power and Authority to enquire into hear and determine all and all manner of matters cause complaints and articles which to the office of Justices for keeping the Peace and executing the Statues of Labourers and Artificers are belonging or appertaining so that the said Bailiff Recorder and last Predecessor of the Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being nor any or either of them not without the Special License of us our Heirs our Successors proceed to the determin-ation of any Treason Murder or Felony or of any other matter within the said Borough or Liberties or Precincts of the same touching the loss of Life or of Limb nor give nor grant Licenses to any Person or Persons Inhabitants or Inhabitants within the said Borough to keep any Inns Alehouses or Tipling-houses or to sell or expose to Sale in their Houses Victuals or Meats or any drink beyond the number of Twelve of the In-habitants or Residents within the said Borough or the Limits Precincts or Liberties of the same at one and sametime But nevertheless the Bailiff Recorder and last Predecessor of the Bailiff of the said Borough for the time beinr or any two of them (of which the Bailiff for the time being to be one) can and may enquire hear and determine all and singular other inferior offences defaults and articles within the said Borough Liberties and Presincts of the same which to the office of Justices for keeping the Peace is belonging or appertaining as fully and entirely and in as ample manner and form as our Justices for keeping our Peace in any County of our Realm of England can and have Power to enquire hear and determine such offices And further we will and of our more abundant Grace certain knowledge and meer notion We grant to the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors that the

Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being for ever hereafter is and shall be Clerk of the Market within the Borough aforesaid and the Liberties and Precincts of the same and can and hath Power to do execute and perform and cause to be done executed and performed for ever all and singular such Acts Deeds and Things whatsoever as are belonging to the Office of Clerk of the Market within the said Borough Liberties and Precincts of the same to do execute and perform And that the Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors for ever can and may have the Assige and Assiges of Bread Wine and Meat and all and all manner of Victuals and Wood within the Borough aforesaid Liberties and Precincts of the same and the amending and altering the same Assiges And also the Punishment and Correction of all and singular the delinquents in the abuse of the measure of Bread Wine Victuals and Wood and all other things touching and concerning the office of Clerk of the Market and as well in the presence as in the absence of us our Heirs and Successors And we also will and for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the said Bailiff and Burgesses and to their Successors that the said Bailiff of the said Borough for the time being and every of his Successors during the time he shall continue in office of Bailiff of the said Borough is and shall be Escheator and Coroner for us our Heirs and Successors within the said Borough and the Precincts of the same and may do and execute and can and has Power to do and execute within the said Borough and the Precincts and Liberties of the same All and Singular the matters and things to the said offices of Escheator and Coroner or either of them belonging and there to be done And that the said Bailiff before that he is admitted to the executing of the said offices of Clerk of the Market Escheator or Coroner of the said Borough or either of them shall take his Corporal Oath before the last preceding Bailiff and the Capital Burgesses of the said Borough or the Major part of them well and faithfully to execute the offices of Clerk of the Market Escheator and Coroner And we further will and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to the Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors that they and their Successors may hold and possess in the Borough aforesaid in every week for ever hereafter one Market on Saturday as in the said Borough is used and three Fairs in each year for ever hereafter to be held as in the said Borough is likewise used and accustomed The first of the said three fairs beginning on the Feast of St. George the Martyr and to be continued for all that whole feast and the second of the said three Fairs to being on the Feast or Day of St. Ann the Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary and to be continued for all that feast or day and the third of the said three fairs to begin on the day or feast of St. Andrew the Apostle and to be continued for all that Feast or day together with a Court of Pypowder there to be held during the time of those fairs before the Bailiff of the said Borough or his Deputy and the Recorder of the said Borough if he shall be present And the Deputy Recorder of the said Borough together with all Liberties and free Customs to the said Court belonging together with accustomed exemptions from Tolls of other Fairs or places and also together with the Tolls of the said fairs and markets Stallage Pickages Fines Amerciaments and all and singular Profits Commodities and Emoluments whatsoever to the same markets fairs and Court of Pypowder belonging So the said Markets or Fairs are not to the prejudice of other neighbouring fairs or markets.

And we further of our Special Grace certain Grace and meer motion as will for the better Government Rule and public Good

of the said Borough and of the Bailiff Burgesses and Inhabitants of the same as for repairing and sustaining of the said Bridge and for the Erection and Sustentation of a Free Grammar School in the said Borough and Precincts of the same have also granted and given leave and for us our Heirs and Successors have granted and given as much as in us lies Special License leave and lawful power liberty and authority to the Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough and their Successors by these Presents to have receive and take to them and their Successors for ever for the better Sustentation and Maintenance of the said Borough Bridge and Free Grammer School afore-said as well of us and our Successors as also of any other Subjects or Liege People of ours our Heirs and Successors or of any other person or persons whatsoever Manors Messuages Lands Tenements Rectories Tythes Rents Reversions Services and other Possessions and Hereditaments whatsoever which are not held of us our Heirs or Successors immediately in capite nor by Knights Service So that the Manors Messuages Lands Tenements Rectories Tythes Rents Reversions Services and other Possions and Hereditaments do not exceed in the whole the clear yearly Rent or Value of twenty pounds per annum The Statute of Mortmain or any other Statue Act Ordinance or Provision in anywise notwithstanding We also give and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant to all and every the Subject and Leige People of us our Heirs and Successors and to all Persons and Bodies Corporate and Political whatsoever and to every of them full leave and license power faculty and authority to give grant sell bequeath assign or in any other manner to alienate devise or assure to the said Bailiff and Burgesses and their Successors for ever any Manner Messuages Laws Tenements and other Hereditaments what-soever so that the same Manors Messuages Lands Tenements and other Hereditamnets or any of them are not immediately held of us our Heirs and Successors in Capite or by Knights Service And so that the same Manors Messages Lands Tenements Rectories Tythes Rents Reversions Services or other Possions and Heredi-taments do not exceed the yearly value of twenty pounds The Statute of Mortmain or any other Statute Act Ordinance Provi-sion or Restriction to the contrary thereof in anywise not-withstanding.

Moreover we will and of our more abundance Grace certain knowledge and meer motion have granted and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors do grant and confirm All our singular such so many and the same Manors Messuages Lands Tenements Fairs Markets Exemption from Tolls of other places, customs stallage Pickage and Hereditaments Liberties free customs Privileges Franchises Immunities Exemp-tions and Jurisdictions whatsoever which the Burgesses of the Town of Bewdley and Precincts of the same or the Burgesse and Inhabitants of the Town or Borough of Bewdley or any of them or their Predecessors have heretofore lawfully had held or enjoyed by whatsover name or names of Incorporation or by reason of any Incorporation they ought to have had held and enjoyed the same or by reason or force of any Charter or Letter Patents by us or anyof our Ancestors or Progenitors in any manner heretofore made granted or confirmed or by any other lawful means customs or prescription use or title whatsoever heretofore lawfully used had or accustomed Although the same or any part thereof now are or heretofore have or hath been disused or misused or discontinued And although the same or any or either of them are or heretofore have been forfeited or lost To have hold and enjoy the same to the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the Borough aforesaid and to their Successors for ever Yielding and paying

yearly to us our Heirs and Successors such so many and the like yearly rents fee farms and sums of money of and for the same as and which have heretofore accustomed to be paid to us or to the Lady Elizabeth late Queen of England And that they may fully and entirely have hold use and enjoy and can and have Power to have hold and enjoy for ever All markets fairs tolls exemptions from tolls of other markets liberties free customs privileges and authorities aforesaid according to the presents of these Letters Patents without any disturbance interruption or denial of us our Heirs or Successors or any of them forbidding that the said Bailiff and Burgesses of the said Borough or any of said Borough Liberties and Precincts of the same for ever hereafter should be molested vexed or in any manner prejudiced by reason of the premises or any part of them by us our Heirs or Successors or by our Justices Sheriffs Escheators Coroners Bailiffs or any other Minister of us our Heirs or Successors