

FREEDOM APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, 9 February 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Freedom Applications Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 9 February 2016 at 3.15 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Mark Boleat (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Billy Dove (Ex-Officio Member)
Alderman Peter Hewitt
Hugh Morris (Ex-Officio Member)

In Attendance

Simon Duckworth
Edward Lord

Officers:

Peter Kane	- The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Murray Craig	- Chamberlain's Court
Angela Roach	- Principal Committee and Members Services Manager

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 were approved.

4. **FREEDOM OF THE CITY**

The Committee considered a resolution of the House Committee of Guildhall requesting that consideration be given to the introduction of a salary sacrifice scheme in order to assist staff with the fees for the Freedom.

Members were advised that the Establishment Committee had also considered the suggestion and it had concluded the cost of administering such a scheme would outweigh any benefit and therefore it was not supportive. The Freedom Applications Committee supported the Establishment Committee's view.

RESOLVED – that the House Committee of Guildhall be advised that as the cost of administering a salary sacrifice scheme would outweigh any benefit, this

Committee was not supportive of the introduction of a staff salary sacrifices scheme to assist staff with the fees for the Freedom.

5. GUIDANCE FOR NON-MEMBERS INCLUDING LIVERY COMPANIES

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning the circulation of guidance on the Freedom process for non-Members including the Livery.

Reference was made to ambassadorial Freedoms which emerge via the Livery and to the importance of the Remembrancer being consulted on nominations involving Ambassadors and senior politicians. It was therefore suggested that the Guidance be amended to include a reference to the City Corporation being consulted on nominations of this nature before the individual was approached.

RESOLVED – That:-

1. the Chamberlain be requested to amend the Guidance to include a reference to consulting with the City Corporation on more prominent nominations such as Ambassadors and senior politicians; and
2. the approval of the final wording of the Guidance be delegated to the Chairman prior to it being circulated to non-Members.

6. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act: -

Item Nos.	Paragraph(s) in Schedule 12A
9-10	1

Part 2 – Non-Public Agenda

9. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015 were approved.

10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman referred to a question he had received on the control mechanisms in place for Freedom nominations. Discussion ensued on the

vetting procedures and it was agreed that the Chamberlain be requested to submit a paper on the vetting procedures currently carried out by the Chamberlain's Court.

A Member, who was in attendance, also questioned whether the criteria for receipt of a FSN needed to be reviewed in light of the positive publicity which could be received by considering certain recipients. In addition he commented that freedoms for celebrities appeared to be discouraged even though they were often accompanied by significant publicity. The Committee acknowledged the good publicity received but did not feel it was necessary to review the criteria as a result.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items of urgent business for consideration whilst the public were excluded.

Part 3 – Non-Public Confidential Agenda

12. FREEDOM BY SPECIAL NOMINATION

The Committee considered and agreed a report of the Chamberlain submitting a composite list of potential recipients of a Freedom by Special Nomination (FSN).

The meeting ended at 3.55pm

Chairman

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