

FREEDOM APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Friday, 9 June 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Freedom Applications Committee held at Committee Room 1 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 9 June 2017 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Simon Duckworth
Mark Boleat (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Charlotte Taffel	Town Clerk's Department
Edward Gilbert	Town Clerk's Department
Peter Kane	The Chamberlain
Murray Craig	Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court
Michael Cogher	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	City Remembrancer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from The Chief Commoner – Wendy Mead, OBE – and Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee – Deputy Catherine McGuinness.

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

There were none.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLVED – That the Order of Common Council, 28 April 2017, appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference be noted.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee noted that this item – Election of Chairman – had been excluded from the agenda by error.

An Election of Chairman was held in accordance with Standing Order 29. Sir David Wootton, being the only Member willing to stand, was declared Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

6. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk detailing the outstanding references from the previous meeting and action taken to date.

Matters Arising

In respect to the outstanding reference 1 – an Application for the Freedom – the Chairman stated that he had spoken to the nominator (GP) and has been given assurance over the application. The Committee subsequently agreed to endorse the application of IM, as originally outlined at item 14 of the meeting held on 24/11/2016.

RESOLVED – That the application for Freedom be approved.

In respect to outstanding references 5 and 6 – matters relating to Freedom Applications and Convictions – the Committee requested that a) typos at the bottom of the first page of the application form be corrected and b) that on the second page of the application form the words '*being a Freeman of the City of London*' be inserted after '*We, the undersigned*'. The Committee approved to the revisions of the application form, subject to those additional amendments being made as specified above.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court amends the application form as detailed above.

RECEIVED.

7. **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AND THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY**

The Committee noted that the report had been provided as a late supplementary paper. Hard copies were made available for Members at the meeting.

The Chamberlain introduced the report, which focused on how diversity can be improved in respect to those applying for the Freedom of the City. He noted that in relation to paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the report – suggestions regarding Chief Officer nominations – there had been a very positive response, with over 30 responses having been received already. He stated that the summit group of Chief Officers had endorsed the approach as a valuable way of increasing diversity.

A Member stated that the recommendations in the report do not go far enough, and that without bolder actions the City, and the Freedom of the City, may be open to challenge in the future. He further stated that the question of patrimony

on the application form was out of date, and does not aid the drive to improve the diversity of recipients.

The Chairman acknowledged the points raised, although stated that there is a limit to what the Committee can do. He further stated that the Livery has a vital role in increasing diversity.

A Member commented that education is a good area to target, and that the visibility of an improvement of diversity is key to ensuring the success of the Freedom of the City Award.

The Committee discussed that in respect to the allocation of a £5,000 budget to pay fees for potential candidates from schools and academies (for a pilot period of 12 months), the emphasis should be on those receiving bursaries from local independent schools, City of London family schools, and City of London Academies. The Committee further commented that the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court should write to cadets organisations, their chief executives and clerks (namely the RFCA and the Greater London Lieutenancy) to encourage outstanding cadets to apply – or be nominated for – the Freedom of the City Award. The Committee stated that they would be in favour of organising a suitable celebration for those who receive the Freedom having been recipients through the pilot programme.

The Committee requested that consideration is given to ongoing communication for those who receive the Freedom of the City Award, such as social media groups, so as to keep them involved with the honour and the process.

The Chairman stated that he would write to Members of Common Council to encourage them to consider the matter of diversity when nominating for the Freedom Award.

The Chamberlain informed the Committee that he would draft a paper to the Livery Committee capturing the action points from the discussion of this item. A Member commented that liveries should be told to address the matter of diversity when nominating individuals for the Freedom.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Committee noted the wider set of options listed in the report to promote diversity;
2. That the Committee endorsed the provision of a budget of £5,000 to pay fees for candidates to increase diversity for a pilot period of 12 months, with a focus on those receiving bursaries from local independent schools, City of London family schools, City of London Academies, and outstanding cadets from relevant organisations.
3. That the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court be instructed to write to cadets organisations, their chief executives and clerks (namely the

RFCA and the Greater London Lieutenancy) to encourage outstanding cadets to apply – or be nominated for – the Freedom of the City Award.

4. That the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court should organise a suitable celebration for those who receive the Freedom having been recipients through the pilot programme.
5. That the Chairman should write to Members of Common Council to encourage them to consider the matter of diversity when nominating for the Freedom Award.

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

There were none.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Members placed on record their thanks for the support Charlotte Taffel (Town Clerk's Department) had given to the Committee, and wished her luck as she leaves the Corporation for a new role.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – 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.

11. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

There were none to agree.

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

There were none.

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

There was none.

14. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

15. FREEDOM BY SPECIAL NOMINATION - COMPOSITE LIST OF POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain which set out a composite list of recipients of the Freedom by Special Nomination and the progress of existing candidates.

RECEIVED.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm

Chairman

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