

FREEDOM APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE
Monday, 9 October 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Freedom Applications Committee held at Committee Room 1 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 9 October 2017 at 9.30 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Simon Duckworth (*present from item 4 onwards*)
Sir Mark Boleat (Ex-Officio Member)
Wendy Mead (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Edward Gilbert	Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Buckingham	Town Clerk's Department
Peter Kane	The Chamberlain
Murray Craig	Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court
Michael Cogher	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double (<i>present from item 4 onwards</i>)	City Remembrancer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee) and Alderman Vincent Keaveny.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on Friday 9th June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

At this point of the agenda, the Chairman stated that the item '*Matters raised: Withdrawal of Freedoms and Freedoms given to groups or teams*' be considered before the other items on the agenda, and moved that the public be excluded for the discussion of the item.

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.

4. **MATTERS RAISED: WITHDRAWAL OF FREEDOM AND FREEDOMS TO GROUPS OR TEAMS**

In accordance with Standing Order 32 of the Court of Common Council (Access to Meetings), a resolution was passed to exclude the public from the discussion of this item as the information considered related to exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

At this point of the agenda the Chairman moved that the public be re-admitted to the meeting.

5. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

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

The Chairman advised the Committee that in respect to the second outstanding reference he would work with the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court to finalise a letter to be sent out 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.

RECEIVED.

6. **NOMINATING AMBASSADORS FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding a proposed process for nominating ambassadors (which also applied to High Commissioners, Heads of Missions or other equivalent posts) for the Freedom of the City.

Whilst the Committee agreed that there should be more consistency in the way in which ambassadors should be nominated for the Freedom of the City, it was agreed that the entirety of the proposal as set out in the report should not be adopted.

Instead, the following process was agreed by the Committee:

- That any proposal to nominate an ambassador for the Freedom of the City will first be considered by the Freedom Applications Committee. The Committee will make the ultimate decision as to who the formal nominators are and whether such a nomination should be put to the Court of Common Council for approval.
- Ambassadors will only be eligible to be nominated for a Freedom if they meet the criteria, which includes:
 - The individual has been an ambassador for at least six months;

- They are the ambassador to a country that the City of London has clear ties to, or relationship/dealings with;
 - They have made a significant contribution to the life of the Capital or in the field of diplomatic life;
 - The individual has just helped to host – or helping to facilitate – a state visit (or other significant visit) from the country or region they represent;
 - They are shortly due to retire from their position;
 - They have just supported the Chairman of Policy and/or the Lord Mayor on an overseas, or other significant, visit.
- That Members – including members of the Livery – may suggest to the Freedom Applications Committee an ambassador to be nominated for a Freedom but it is not their right to nominate an ambassador themselves.
 - That should the Clerk to the Chamberlain’s Court receive a request from a Member or a member of a Livery Company to nominate an ambassador for a Freedom then he will immediately refer the request to the Freedom Applications Committee for consideration.
 - That the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will only be consulted on any such nomination once the Committee has agreed for that nomination to proceed.
 - That this process should also apply to senior political figures.

The Chairman agreed that he would writes to the Livery and Members of the Court of Common Council to explain this new approach. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that this approach be put to the Policy and Resources Committee for information.

RESOLVED –

- The process for nominating ambassadors for the Freedom of the City, as set out above, be adopted;
- That the new process be put to the Policy and Resources Committee for information;
- That the Chairman of the Freedom Applications Committee writes to the Livery and Members of the Court of Common Council to explain this new approach.

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

There were none.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was none.

9. **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.

Part 2 – Non-Public Agenda

10. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

There were none to agree.

11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were none.

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

There was none.

Part 3 – Confidential Agenda

13. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

14. **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 11.02 am

Chairman

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