



Report of the Town Clerk to be considered in conjunction with Item 6 – The Election of Chief Commoner

To be presented on Thursday, 15th October 2015

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of
the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

To elect a Chief Commoner

The job description of the Chief Commoner can be found on the City's website:
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-the-city/how-we-make-decisions/Documents/Chief-Commoner-Job-Description.pdf>

Two candidates, Tom Hoffman and Michael Welbank, have been validly nominated in accordance with Standing Order no. 18. The candidates were invited to provide information in support of their nomination and the following submissions were received:-

Tom Hoffman

I was elected to Common Council in 2002 to represent Vintry Ward, having been General Manager for the UK and Ireland branch of a Portuguese bank with offices in Vintry Ward. Since then I have thrown myself wholeheartedly into the work of the City of London Corporation, serving on many committees. My particular interests are finance, the arts, and education. I am or have been a Member of Finance, Investment, Culture Heritage & Libraries, Gresham, Museum of London, Barbican Centre, City Arts Trust, CLSG, GSMD, Planning, Port Health, and Livery Committees and an Almoner of Christ's Hospital and a Governor of Birkbeck.

I have been privileged to serve as Chairman of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, Gresham Committee, City of London School for Girls, as Deputy Governor of the Honourable the Irish Society, and as Master of the Tylers & Bricklayers' Company, and throughout have demonstrated total commitment, giving unreservedly

of my time, knowledge, experience, energy and resources to ensure that the expectations of all stakeholders were fulfilled.

The Chief Commoner's job is a demanding one. After 13 years' service I have a deep awareness of the protocols and procedures affecting the City of London Corporation, and a knowledge and understanding of the principal issues facing it. I have an easy manner, and believe that I have the inter-personal and diplomatic skills required to represent positively the aims, values, and responsibilities of the City of London Corporation, as well as the respect required to represent and champion the rights, needs and privileges of all the Members of Common Council.

Although now aged 70, I believe I have the energy required to match my enthusiasm and to fulfil the expectations of Members. I would consider it a great privilege and honour to serve the Court as Chief Commoner.

Michael Welbank, M.B.E.

The primary responsibility of the Chief Commoner is to protect and promote the interests of Members. I promise to make that my top priority – first, last and always.

I will seek to further improve the information flow to all Members. Colleagues should be able to have easy access to information about the many events taking place around them. The "Members' Briefing" should be as much about future events as a record of past ones.

In recent years the role of supporting the Lord Mayor in representing the Corporation externally has grown considerably. To be able to undertake this effectively requires a sound appreciation of the work of the Corporation and also of the wide range of activities in our City's communities and in wider society.

I have gained the first through having served on all Ward Committees and on many others including Policy and Resources. Currently I am Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee where my priority has been to reduce casualty numbers on City streets, having previously been Chairman of Hampstead Heath Management Committee. In these roles I have had experience of press, radio and TV interviews.

The second comes from my varied professional career as a planning consultant, at home and overseas, undertaking assignments for UK Government, public bodies, infrastructure providers, voluntary organisations, international bodies such as UNESCO and the World Bank. I have undertaken pro bono work for community groups and served as Visiting Professor at Oxford Brookes University and President of the Royal Town Planning Institute.

I am keen, as Chief Commoner, to engage fully with all Members. It is a time consuming position with long days, weekend engagements and few holidays. I am ready to commit to that.