

**FREEDOM APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, 24 November 2016**

Minutes of the meeting of the Freedom Applications Committee held at Committee Room 3 on Thursday, 24 November 2016 at 10.00 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)  
Mark Boleat (Ex-Officio Member)  
Hugh Morris (Ex-Officio Member)  
Alderman Peter Hewitt  
Michael Welbank (Chief Commoner)

**Officers:**

Paul Double	-	City Remembrancer
Murray Craig	-	Chamberlain's Department
Angela Roach	-	Town Clerk's Department
Charlotte Taffel	-	Town Clerk's Department
Deborah Cluett	-	Comptroller and City Solicitors Department

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received for Deputy Simon Duckworth.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2016 were approved.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

**6. GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain on Guidance for Members and Non-Members regarding the Freedom of the City of London.

Detailed discussion ensued on both sets of proposed guidance. It was agreed to amend the wording of paragraph 4 of the Guidance for Members, as follows:-

'If Members wish to nominate an Ambassador, a Member of Parliament, a significant figure from the City of London or some other prominent public figure *in the UK or overseas*, then they should consult first with the Freedom Applications Committee to ascertain whether the City of London has an existing agenda which can be enhanced by the freedom ceremony or to enable the Remembrancer to carry out *appropriate consultations, for example* with the Foreign and Commonwealth office regarding Ambassadorial, diplomatic and prominent nominations. *In these cases, it would be normal* for the Lord Mayor, Chairman of Policy and Resources *and* the Chief Commoner to be the nominators.'

With regard to the wording of the Guidance for Non-Members amendments were agreed as follows:-

- Title – to be amended to read 'Guidance for *Livery Companies* – The Freedom';
- Paragraph 2, second sentence – 'The Purpose of this note is to provide *Livery Companies* with some....'
- Paragraph 4 - 'Freedom granted by the Court of Alderman via a Livery Company. It is appreciated that Livery Companies carry out their own extensive vetting procedures and often interview candidates personally through a membership committee. *However, if the Company is nominating an Ambassador, a Member of Parliament, a prominent public figure it should* consult first with the Freedom Applications Committee.....'
- Paragraph 8 - All applications under any of the categories above, *but not those submitted to Livery Companies*, will be subject to some basic checks by the Chamberlain's Court to ensure that they are people that....'.

The Committee also agreed that paragraph 5 in both sets of Guidance should be amended to reflect the most recent Honorary Freedom i.e. Sir Tim Berners-Lee in September 2014, and the date be changed to 2016.

It was noted that the Guidance for Members would be amongst a number of other governance documents available on a web page being created specifically for the use of Members.

RESOLVED – That the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court be requested to amend wording of guidance for both Members and Livery Companies (formerly Non-Members) as set out above and that the revised versions be circulated accordingly by the Chairman of the Committee.

## 7. **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.

8. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2016 were approved.

9. **LIMITING THE NUMBER OF FREEDOMS AN INDIVIDUAL COULD NOMINATE IN ONE YEAR**

The Committee noted a report of the Chamberlain which investigated the number of Freedoms an individual could nominate in one year.

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

There were no non-public questions.

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

There was no non-public urgent business.

12. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2016 were approved.

13. **VETTING OF CANDIDATES AND POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE REPUTATIONAL IMAGE OF THE CITY OF LONDON**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain on the vetting of candidates.

RECEIVED.

14. **APPLICATION FOR THE FREEDOM**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain on an application for the Freedom.

RECEIVED.

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

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain regarding recipients of the Freedom by Special Nomination.

RECEIVED.

**The meeting ended at 11.00 am**

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Chairman

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