



**PARMLEY, MAYOR**  
**YARROW, LOCUM TENENS**  
**COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

**8th May 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**ALDERMEN**

Nicholas Anstee  
Sir Michael David Bear  
Sheriff Peter Estlin  
John Garbutt

Sir Roger Gifford  
Alison Gowman  
David Andrew Graves  
Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli

The Lord Mountevans, Jeffrey Evans  
Matthew Richardson  
Sir David Hugh Wootton  
Sir Alan Colin Drake Yarrow

**COMMONERS**

Randall Keith Anderson  
Alexander Robertson Martin Barr  
Matthew Bell  
Peter Gordon Bennett  
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith, JP  
Christopher Paul Boden  
Mark Bostock  
Michael John Cassidy, CBE, Deputy  
Simon D'Olier Duckworth, OBE DL

Peter Gerard Dunphy  
Emma Edhem  
John William Fletcher  
Prem Babu Goyal  
Caroline Wilma Haines  
Christopher Michael Hayward  
Christopher Hill  
Ann Holmes  
Michael Hudson

Wendy Hyde, Deputy  
Jamie Ingham Clark, Deputy  
Angus Knowles-Cutler  
Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge  
Andrew Paul Mayer  
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers  
Sylvia Doreen Moys  
James Henry George Pollard,  
Deputy

John George Stewart Scott, JP  
Jeremy Lewis Simons  
Graeme Martyn Smith  
Michael Welbank, MBE  
Mark Raymond Peter Henry  
Delano Wheatley  
Philip Woodhouse, Deputy

Locum Tenens

The Town Clerk reported that the Lord Mayor was unable to preside over this meeting of the Court as he was engaged overseas on an official visit. Accordingly, this day was produced and read in Court a Warrant, signed by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, appointing Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow as Locum Tenens to transact all the business appertaining to the Office of Mayoralty of this City during his absence.

*Ingham Clark,  
R.J., Deputy;  
Anstee, N.J.,  
Alderman*

**Resolved Unanimously** – That in accordance with the resolution of the Court of Common Council of 27 April last, the Honorary Freedom of the City of London be presented to Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her non-violent struggle over many years for democracy and her steadfast dedication to create a society where people can live in peace, security and freedom.

The Court proceeded to confer the Freedom upon Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with all due ceremony.

Ingham Clark,  
R.J., Deputy;  
Anstee, N.J.,  
Alderman

*Resolved Unanimously – That the Address of the Chamberlain and the reply of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi be entered on the journal of this Court and printed in the minutes of the proceedings sent to every Member*

The Chamberlain delivered an Address as follows:-

*“My Lord Mayor, State Counsellor, Your Excellencies, My Lords, Aldermen, Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*We meet today to confer the highest accolade that the City of London can give; the Honorary Freedom.*

*It is one which is awarded only infrequently because it is reserved for those who have made an exceptional contribution, rendered outstanding service and provided exceptional leadership and inspiration on the world stage.*

*It has been conferred on national leaders such as President Mandela who received the honorary freedom here at Guildhall in 1996. Other recipients such as Sir Tim Berners Lee, father of the internet, reflect ground-breaking innovation that has been of global benefit to humanity.*

*Today the award is being made to you, Your Excellency, in recognition of your unswerving campaign for democracy in Burma over many years.*

*You have shown through your outstanding courage and resilience how, using only peaceful means, it is possible to overcome tyranny and reshape history.*

*Following the untimely early loss of your father, you lived with your mother for a period in India and then came to England to study at Oxford University. It was there you met your husband, the historian and expert on Tibet, Michael Aris and it was here in England that you raised your two children.*

*You returned to Burma in 1988 to look after your ill mother and became involved in the widespread protests demanding democratic reform. Inspired by the non-violent campaigns of Martin Luther King and Mahatma Gandhi, you organised rallies calling for peaceful democratic reform and free elections. These were suppressed and you were placed under house arrest, to begin with in solitary confinement. From then on, despite winning elections in 1990, you remained under house arrest for much of the next two decades. You were not able to see your two sons or your husband, who sadly died in 1999.*

*Your fortitude under house arrest for almost 15 of the 21 years from your arrest in July 1989 until your release in November 2010 was an inspiration to your people and to supporters around the world.*

*You were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 but you were not able to accept the award in person until 2012. As the Chairman of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee declared, you have been "an outstanding example of the power of the powerless".*

*In February 2015, Sir Alan Yarrow as Lord Mayor was able to visit you in Burma to invite you to come to London and receive the Freedom of the City in person.*

*Later that year you led your party to a majority win in the country's first openly contested election in 25 years.*

*The historic links between the United Kingdom and Burma now offer a fruitful platform on which to build a growing cultural and commercial relationship between our two countries. On your visit to the United Kingdom in 2012, you spoke about the importance to Burma of foreign investment and economic growth. Natural resources, a young labour force and proximity to Asia's dynamic economies provide the basis for a burgeoning economy with increased foreign investment, including by the United Kingdom.*

*Your Excellency, we look forward to a future for Burma rooted in stable, democratic, constitutional government. These values are fundamental. Yet, they are hard to achieve and can be fragile.*

*As you have said, "The struggle for democracy and human rights in Burma is a struggle for life and dignity. It is a struggle that encompasses our political, social and economic aspirations." We are here at Guildhall today in recognition of your passionate defence of these values shown over many years. It is our profound hope that, with your leadership, conflicts can be peacefully resolved and harmony attained throughout Burma.*

*With this in mind, I now invite you to accept the City's highest honour in recognition of your remarkable courage in championing non-violent struggle for democracy and your steadfast dedication to create a society where people can live in peace, security and freedom.*

*Thank you.*

*Daw Aung San Suu Kyi – may I now invite you to sign the Roll of Fame.*

*On behalf of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London in Common Council assembled, I ask you to accept this resolution.*

*They trust you will regard it as evidence of their recognition of your outstanding contribution to democracy in your country and as a symbol of freedom throughout the world.*

*I now have the privilege and honour as Chamberlain of this great and ancient City to offer you the right hand of fellowship, and greet you as a Citizen of London."*

*Reply by Her Excellency Daw Aung San Suu Kyi:*

*"My Lord Mayor, Your Excellencies, Lords, Aldermen, Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen.*

*For me to receive the Freedom of the City of London today is not just a great*

*honour, but also a very happy omen, at this time when we are working very hard for peace, stability and progress in my country. We would like to be strong in our achievements and vibrant with hopes for the future.*

*My first awareness of the City of London was affected by Dick Whittington and his inimitable cat. My memories go back to a time when my perceptions of London were shaped by an image of a young man shouldering a wooden stick from which dangled a cloth bundle with all his worldly possessions. He was setting out to seek his fortune in that city of which the streets were paved with golden opportunities. The next image that comes back to memory is that same young man sitting by the roadside, all his optimism and strength almost gone, but still with the sturdy cat by his side and suddenly he heard the bells of London ring out, turn again to be thrice Lord Mayor of London.*

*The bells were ringing out a very simple, a very true message: with hard work, perseverance, and courage, we can realise our aspirations, but we cannot escape the hard work, perseverance, and courage necessary to build a new society.*

*In my country, we are trying to change a system that was entrenched for more than half a century and to make the legacies of the system beneficial to our country as a whole. Because the task is hard, we need to work hard, but the City of London inspires us by making us believe that there is truth that hard work, perseverance and courage will reap its reward in the end.*

*We hope very much that the end is not that far off. We are still in the process of democratisation in my country; people say easily that we have achieved democracy but we have not yet achieved full democracy - that is yet to come. There are many challenges still to be met and many hopes to be fulfilled; perhaps too many hopes to be fulfilled as quickly as we might wish to.*

*As we go forward along the path of peace and unity, which we have to achieve first in order that we may be able to achieve prosperity, we believe that we have friends in the City of London because the spirit of the City is open, is generous and is courageous, and recognises that the challenges we have to meet are not such as can be overcome immediately and that we will still need not just time but understanding and support from our friends, to go forward along this path and to achieve success.*

*When I thank you for this great honour that you have bestowed on me, I believe it is really an honour bestowed on all of us who have worked for and are continuing to work for democracy, human rights, peace and stability in our country.*

*I would like to think that we will never be without friends along the way. We chose the path of non-violence because we believe that it was the most just and most true path through the kind of nation that we would like to build. As we go along that path, we hope to have with us our friends, I would like to invite you while I am here, to come to my country, to come to Burma or Myanmar (whichever you would like to call it – we are open-minded!) and we would like you to come to see for yourself what we have been trying to achieve and what we have achieved so far in our one year in office as the first democratic government. I hesitated to say democratic*

*government because, as you know, our constitution is not wholly democratic yet - but as the first government that is truly aspiring to be fully democratic in many decades, I would like you to come to see what we are doing, what we are trying to do, to see for yourselves and not just to listen to hear-say or to other people's opinions. I would like to invite you to see why peace is so necessary, why national reconciliation is so crucial, why we believe that the future of our country is bright because our people are dedicated to peace and stability.*

*As you have been told, I have very very strong and friendly links to your country and to your City. I came here at a time when Chelsea and Carnaby Street were the wonders of the world; I was lucky enough to spend much time in Chelsea and this was my first and the best possible introduction to this country. For this I thank you, I thank not just you who are present in this room, but I thank all Londoners, all people not just living in the City, but living across the world with the spirit of Londoners in their hearts, the belief that everybody has a right to try to seek his or her fortune in the right sort of way, that we would like to make this world, a world paved with golden opportunities for those who are prepared to work hard and to strive for all the positive qualities of human existence.*

*My Lord Mayor, your Excellencies, my Lords, Aldermen, Sheriff, Ladies and Gentlemen. Once again, thank you very much for this great honour that you have conferred on me and on my fellow countrymen and all those around the world who have been helping us consistently and with full sympathy in our efforts to build up a truly peaceful and united and democratic nation.*

*Thank you."*

**The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 1.20pm.**

**BARRADELL.**