

GRESHAM (CITY SIDE) COMMITTEE

Friday, 3 November 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Gresham (City Side) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Dr Giles Shilson (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman Ian Luder
Nicholas Bensted-Smith	Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Christopher Hayward	Wendy Mead (Chief Commoner)
Deputy Tom Hoffman	John Scott

Officers:

Gregory Moore	-	Town Clerk's Department
Sacha Than	-	Town Clerk's Department
Steven Reynolds	-	Chamberlain's Department
Kirpal Kaur	-	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Tom Leathart	-	City Surveyor's Department
Jacqueline Whitmore	-	Community & Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Alderman Andrew Parmley and Deputy John Bennett.

The Chairman welcomed Gregory Moore and Sacha Than to the Committee, noting that they would be assuming clerking responsibilities going forward. The Chairman bade farewell to the previous clerk, Julie Cornelius, and thanked former committee clerk Philippa Sewell for her kind assistance with regard to the production of the minutes of the previous meeting.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 2 June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising:

Noting the Vote of Thanks delivered to the outgoing Chairman, a number of Members queried the status of their Votes of Thanks from service on other committees or outside bodies. The Town Clerk agreed to follow this up outside the meeting.

4. **GRESHAM COLLEGE COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appointment of City Corporation Members to Gresham College Council.

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman spoke to summarise the discussions at the previous meeting and the subsequent debate which had taken place at the Outside Bodies Sub-Committee meeting in October. Whilst reiterating the importance of removing the potential for perceived conflicts of interest with regard to Members serving both on the College Council and also negotiating the funding agreement with the College, there had been a recognition that the proposals needed to be re-examined. This was particularly with a view to ensuring that those who enjoyed strong links with the College and wished to serve on the Council could continue to do so, without coming into potential conflict through involvement in funding negotiations.

Consequently, it was proposed that a division be made between membership of the Gresham Working Party, which negotiated the funding arrangements, and membership of the College Council. Committee Members would then have the opportunity to determine for themselves which body they might wish to serve on, whilst still ensuring a separation of responsibilities and thereby mitigating the potential for conflict.

A secondary proposal was also made in respect of the pool of Members able to serve on the College's interview panels, with it suggested that the opportunity to serve should be opened more widely to the full City-Side Committee membership, rather than remain limited to those City-side Members who were appointed to the College Council itself. This would provide the opportunity for more Members to become involved with the College's activities whilst also increasing the likelihood of the College being able to establish a panel on a wider range of dates.

During the course of debating the proposals, it was confirmed that the Committee retained the ability to make appointments to the College Council from amongst the wider Court if desired. It was also noted that such appointments had to be from within the Court and there was no proposal to extend this beyond the Court's membership.

In response to queries concerning the extent of the perceived conflict Members noted that, whilst there had not been this division of responsibilities during previous funding negotiations, the principles of modern governance had changed and it was incumbent on the Committee to act according to the highest possible standards.

Whilst supportive of the proposals, Members suggested that there would also be benefit in specifying that there should be an aspiration for one of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman should serve on the Council. It was, however, noted that this could not be made obligatory as the terms and conditions of certain individuals' employment in future might prevent them from taking up a Directorship at the College.

Further, it was agreed that the City Side representatives on the Council should be asked to provide an annual update to the City Side Committee, thereby introducing a mechanism to provide greater accountability and cognisance amongst the full City-Side Committee of the breadth of the College's activities.

With the Committee agreeing these new proposed arrangements, Members proceeded to make amendments to the appointments to both the Gresham Working Party and the College Council, so as to comply with the new measures.

Appointments were confirmed as follows:

Gresham Working Party

- Simon Duckworth (to Chair the Working Party)
- Christopher Hayward, in the room of Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
- Deputy Edward Lord
- Alderman Ian Luder, in the room of John Scott

Gresham College Council (City-Side appointments)

- Nicholas Bensted-Smith, in the room of Simon Duckworth
- Deputy Tom Hoffman
- John Scott
- Deputy Dr Giles Shilson

RESOLVED – That approval be given to:-

- The introduction of a protocol such that Members could not serve on both the Gresham Working Party and the Gresham College Council;
- The widening of eligibility to serve on the College's appointment and interview panels, such that all City-Side Committee Members were eligible; and,
- Appointments to the Gresham Working Party and Gresham College Council being confirmed as follows:

Gresham Working Party

- Simon Duckworth (to Chair the Working Party)
- Christopher Hayward, in the room of Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
- Deputy Edward Lord
- Alderman Ian Luder, in the room of John Scott

Gresham College Council (City-Side appointments)

- Nicholas Bensted-Smith, in the room of Simon Duckworth
- Deputy Tom Hoffman
- John Scott
- Deputy Dr Giles Shilson

5. **THE SIR THOMAS GRESHAM CHARITY - RISK REGISTER**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk, Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services which detailed the key risks

for the Sir Thomas Gresham Charity. The report outlined the current risks and highlighted that there had been no new risks or changes to existing risks or scores since the previous annual review on 21 October 2016.

Members noted that a former Member of the Court of Common Council had queried whether the Committee had been fulfilling its obligation in assisting poor persons in debtors' prisons. The Chairman advised that the Debtors' Act, which came into effect in 1869, rendered this element of the bequest and the Committee's responsibility in this area redundant. The Town Clerk was asked to confirm this with the Comptroller following the meeting to provide absolute surety.

RESOLVED – That the register be agreed as an accurate record of the risks faced by the charity and that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate those risks.

6. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017 OF THE SIR THOMAS GRESHAM CHARITY

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain providing the Draft Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2017. It was noted that total funds had decreased by £1,371 to £148,965 and that the City of London Corporation had provided £95,056 in charitable funds.

It was noted that City Corporation expenditure on the College and Almshouses exceeded the current revenue income from its share of the Gresham Estate. Acknowledging this, the Chairman observed that the Committee had a moral obligation to ensure those in the Almshouses and at the College were provided for.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. REVENUE OUTTURN - 2016/17

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services on the 2016/17 revenue outturn for the Gresham (City Side) Committee. The report noted that there was a 33.5% decrease in expenditure and an improved position which was principally attributable to an increased rent income from lettings at the Royal Exchange.

RESOLVED – That the revenue outturn for 2016/17 be noted.

8. REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 AND 2018/19

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Community and Children's Services on the 2017/18 latest revenue budget and the provisional revenue budget for 2018/19. The report highlighted that the latest 2017/18 budget represented a net increase of £5,000 totalling £218,000.

The report explained that this increase was primarily caused by an increase in employee costs arising from a marginal increase in Rents Officer hours, coupled with an increase in employers' national insurance and pension fund contributions. In addition, it was noted that the 2018/19 provisional revenue

budget displays a net increase of £19,000, totalling £232,000, which was principally due to an increase of £12,000 in the City Grant to the Gresham College and an £5,000 increase in employee.

Members queried which Chief Officer held responsibility for the Committee, noting that the Almshouses themselves came within the remit of the Department of Community and Children's Services. Following discussion, the Chairman undertook to give this further consideration.

RESOLVED – That:

- the latest 2017/18 revenue budget be approved and submitted to the Finance Committee on the 21st of November; and
- the provisional 2018/19 revenue budget be approved and submitted to the Finance Committee.

9. **GRESHAM ALMSHOUSES UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on the Gresham Almshouses in Lambeth and City of London Almshouses on the estate.

Members noted that the Christmas Hamper Delivery to the Almshouses would be taking place on the morning of 1 December 2017. The Chairman encouraged all Members of the Committee to attend, explaining that both he and the Deputy Chairman had other commitments on this date.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

11. **ANY BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

There was no other business.

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item Nos.
13-14

Exempt Paragraph(s)
3

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 be approved as a correct record.

14. JOINT GRAND GRESHAM COMMITTEE MATTERS - CITY SIDE CONSIDERATION

The Committee considered the various items on the agenda for the meeting of the Joint Grand Gresham Committee that day.

15. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 11.00 am

Chairman

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