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General Purposes Committee of Aldermen

Date: **TUESDAY, 10 MAY 2022**

Time: **11.00 am**

Venue: **HYBRID PUBLIC MEETING (ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY)**

Members:
Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Alderman Sir William Russell (Deputy Chairman)
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Alderman Ian Luder
Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley
Alderman Nick Anstee
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman & Sheriff Nicholas Lyons (SABTAC)
Alderman & Sheriff Alison Gowman
Alderman David Graves
Alderman John Garbutt
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Alderman Baroness Scotland
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Alastair King DL
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman Susan Langley
Alderman Bronek Masojada

Enquiries: **Gemma Stokley**
gemma.stokley@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Accessing the virtual public meeting
Members of the public can observe this hybrid public meeting at the below link:
https://youtu.be/3Pkd8jtFU_Y

A recording of the public element of the meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting and will be accessible for up to one municipal year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting: minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public

1. APOLOGIES

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

3. MINUTES

To approve the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 30 March 2022.

For Decision
(Pages 7 - 12)

4. GUIDANCE FOR LIVERIES AND GUILDS - CONDUCT OF VIRTUAL BUSINESS - FUTURE POSITION

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 13 - 14)

5. APPOINTMENT OF SECOND ALDERMAN TO CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Chairman to be heard.

For Discussion

6. ALDERMANIC ELECTIONS AND RELATED DATES OF COA MEETINGS

The Chairman to be heard.

For Discussion

7. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST

To note the outstanding actions in respect of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen's work programme.

For Information
(Pages 15 - 16)

8. FUTURE WORK AHEAD OF SEPTEMBER STRATEGY MORNING

The Chairman to be heard.

For Discussion

9. FUTURE GENERAL PURPOSES, NOMINATIONS AND COURT OF ALDERMEN MEETING DATES

The Chairman to be heard.

For Discussion

10. COL COMMITTEES FOLLOWING THE APRIL COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

The Chairman to be heard.

For Decision

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

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

To approve the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 30 March .

For Decision
(Pages 17 - 22)

15. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

To note the lists of forthcoming events and hospitality to be managed by the Events Teams at Mansion House and Guildhall (Remembrancer's Department).

For Information
(Pages 23 - 28)

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

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

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GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Wednesday, 30 March 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at Aldermen's Court Room, Mezzanine Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 30 March 2022 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:
Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Alderman Sir William Russell (Deputy Chairman)
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Alderman Ian Luder
Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin (Virtually)
Alderman & Sheriff Nicholas Lyons (Virtually)
Alderman & Sheriff Alison Gowman
Alderman David Graves
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Alderman Baroness Scotland
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Alastair King DL
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman Susan Langley (Virtually)
Alderman Bronek Masojada

Officers:

John Barradell	-	Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Rhiannon Leary	-	Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Gemma Stokley	-	Town Clerk's Department
Caroline Jack	-	Executive Director Private Secretary to Lord Mayor
Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	-	City Remembrancer
Bob Roberts	-	Director of Communications
Mark Gettleson	-	Election Engagement Manager
Sonia Virdee	-	Chamberlain’s Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Nicholas Anstee and Alderman John Garbutt.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 8 February 2022.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 8 February 2022 be approved as an accurate record
of the meeting.

The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate Alderman Prem Goyal on his appointment as an advisor to the Hinduja Group. He also reported that a senior figure from the Hinduja Group would now be joining the Aldermen for lunch after their next meeting on 10 May 2022.

An Alderman raised an issue regarding those Common Councillors who had not been returned to Court following last week's all-out elections. He recognised that those who had chosen not to stand for a further term were given advance notice that their Corporation IT facilities would be disconnected on the day before the election and that this email did also refer to the fact that similar action would be taken for those who were not re-elected. However, the Alderman made the point that a number of those who had lost their seats last week had done so unexpectedly and that the individuals concerned had not therefore made preparations or circulated their personal email/telephone details to those contacts that they intended to stay in touch with. Some had also been in the middle of undertaking work on behalf of their constituents and had found themselves unable to access previous correspondence, even to simply pass this on to one of their Ward colleagues. The Alderman went on to express his disappointment at this approach towards Councillors who had served in senior positions and those who may have served for many decades. He suggested that those who lost their seats unexpectedly should be given until the end of the election week to continue to access their City of London correspondence and email accounts so that they were able to adequately conclude or pass on nay official business.

The Town Clerk clarified that this action had been taken in accordance with the policy approved by Members and that the IT team had made every possible effort to transfer all of the relevant emails and files for individual Members onto memory sticks which were then issued to them. Specific arrangements were made for those Members who had difficulty in accessing and configuring their own information and information was given to all Members to warn that this would be actioned, but that assistance would be made available to them should they require this. The Town Clerk concluded by stating that if Members wished

to review this approach it would be appropriate to raise the matter with the Policy and Resources Committee to suggest that they look again at this.

Another Alderman commented that it was his understanding that, at midnight the night before the Wardmote was held, Members ceased to hold elected office and he was of the view that it was therefore inappropriate for them to continue to send emails from their City of London accounts beyond this time. He stated that he was, however, in favour of introducing some sort of transitional arrangement going forward whereby Members could continue to access their accounts.

The Alderman commented that, in every other local authority, Members continued to hold office until the Sunday following the poll which allowed those not re-elected to make appropriate arrangements in terms of any outstanding issues. He mentioned that there would also be some Aldermen surrendering office under the 6-year convention but seeking re-election and that this therefore remained a live issue.

Another Alderman asked that consideration be given to the introduction of a sort of alumni community for former Members, perhaps overseen by the Chief Commoner, so that the wealth of institutional knowledge and talent was not lost going forward and to ensure that former Members continued to have a sense of belonging as far as the City Corporation was concerned.

4. **ALDERMANIC RESIGNATIONS UNDER THE 70 YEAR CONVENTION**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive, the Remembrancer and the Comptroller and City Solicitor regarding Aldermanic resignations under the 70-year convention.

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen formally agree that:

i) For the reasons set out within this report, the long-standing convention around the need to surrender office at the age of 70 e increased to age 75 with immediate effect and that the Aldermanic Undertakings be updated accordingly; and
ii) The Town Clerk be instructed to establish a dedicated Working Party to consider future issues concerning Aldermanic Terms of Office/Tenure.

5. **ALDERMANIC ELECTIONS AND MEETING DATES IN 2022**

The Chairman reported that the Court of Aldermen would be invited, later this morning, to commence the process for three Aldermanic elections to be held on 25th/26th May 2022 – these would be for the Wards of Cordwainer, Aldersgate and Cornhill.

Following the decision just taken regarding the 70-year convention, this would leave a remaining four Aldermanic elections to take place in 2022. It would now be for the four individuals concerned to consider their positions and to submit letters announcing their surrender of office to the Court of Aldermen in due course. The Chairman reported that all were, however, mindful of the collective wish of this Committee that all of these elections were concluded ahead of the

July Summer recess period. It was anticipated that the next scheduled meeting of the Court of Aldermen on 10 May 2022 would commence the process for at least one other Aldermanic election. If others did wish to commence the process for elections to be held in July, a further, special, meeting of the Court of Aldermen would need to be convened within the appropriate time frame.

In response to a question, the Chairman clarified that it was not necessary for Aldermen to be present at the election of their successors nor was it necessary for them to attend the Wardmotes for this purpose.

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

There were no questions.

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

Motion on Traffic Access – Court of Common Council, 21 April 2022

An Alderman commented that, as many of the Committee were already aware, it was his intention to submit a Motion on traffic access to Bank and the City generally to the next meeting of the Court of Common Council to be held on 21 April 2022. He reported that he had now drafted the terms of the motion and was seeking advice from the Comptroller and City Solicitor on the matter. Once this had been received, it was his intention to circulate the Motion to all Aldermen and he underlined that he would appreciate their support on the matter.

Alderman Alastair King – Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London

It was reported that Alderman Alastair King had been appointed as Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London in February, the Committee took the opportunity to congratulate him on this appointment.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 8 February 2022 and approved them as a correct record.

10. **MINUTES OF THE MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB (GENERAL PURPOSES) COMMITTEE**

10a) **2 March 2022**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Magistracy and Livery Sub (General Purposes) Committee held on 2 March 2022.

10b) **9 March 2022**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Magistracy and Livery Sub (General Purposes) Committee held on 9 March 2022.

11. **NON-PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST**
The Committee considered the Non-Public Outstanding Actions List which had been updated since the last meeting on 8 February 2022.

12. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
Questions relating to diary events and guests joining the Court of Aldermen for lunch were raised.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
The Committee took the opportunity to reflect upon the recent City-wide Common Council elections. The use of the Aldermen's Court Room for future meetings of the Court of Aldermen was also discussed.

The meeting ended at 12.22 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Gemma Stokley
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Committee General Purposes Committee of Aldermen	**Date:** 10 May 2022
Subject: Guidance for Liveries and Guilds – Conduct of Virtual Business	**Public**
Report of: Town Clerk	**For Decision**
Report author: Rhiannon Leary, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

1. This report sets out the current practice in respect of the decision-making processes of Livery Companies and Guilds, specifically in relation to the conduct of virtual meetings. Members are asked to consider whether certain aspects of the waiver should be made permanent.

Main Report

2. Prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the general expectation of the Court of Aldermen, as outlined in the guidance issued on the formation of new guilds or companies, would have been that all Guild or Company business should be conducted within the City boundaries. However, given the pandemic and the government's consequent advice on social distancing and the introduction of periods of national lockdown, refreshed guidance for the Livery and Guilds regarding the conduct of company business (including court meetings and the binding of apprentices) was agreed by the General Purposes Committee and the Court of Aldermen in late March 2020. That guidance confirmed that Livery and Guild business could be conducted virtually and would be valid. Furthermore, it was proposed and agreed on 28 April 2021, by the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and the Court of Aldermen, that the guidance in place in relation to the conduct of Guild and Livery Company business should be extended.

3. This matter was further considered under the Court of Aldermen's urgency procedures (Standing Order 42) in November, on the basis that further clarification had been requested by the Livery about the Court of Aldermen's expectations and that the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen would not meet before 7 December 2021. It was subsequently agreed on 8 November 2021, by the Town Clerk following consultation with the Chairmen of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and the Court of Aldermen, that the guidance in place in relation to the conduct of Guild and Livery Company business would be extended until 31 March 2022. A further extension, until 31 October 2022, was subsequently agreed by the General Purposes Committee and the Court of Aldermen on 8 February 2022.

Current position

4. Feedback received from the Livery has been overwhelmingly positive about the benefits of conducting business virtually, including increased recruitment and retention of members as well as greater participation in the Company's activities: both those of a business nature and social events. Clarity has been sought by the Livery, consequently, in relation to the possible continuation of virtual meetings. The General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, in light of more flexible ways of working being now incorporated into most business practices, is asked to consider whether certain aspects Guild or Livery business may take place on a permanent basis, as the Guild or Livery Company sees fit, including physically, in hybrid form or virtually.

Recommendations

i) that, insofar as the Ordinances or By-Laws of any Company with Livery, Company without Livery or Guild contain restrictive or prescriptive provisions as to the location and timing of:
   a) committee meetings;
   b) social and charitable events;
   c) the binding of apprentices (*subject to the requirement for the indentures to be entered within six months of the decision being taken in the Books of the Chamberlain of London*)

   the Court of Aldermen agrees to allow such provisions to be determined by the Guild or Livery company concerned.

ii) that it be agreed that ceremonial business, election, installation or admission of any members or officers conducted by Guild and Livery Companies take place only on a physical basis.

Contact

Rhiannon Leary
Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Town Clerk's Department
rhiannon.leary@cityoflondon.gov.uk

NB: Relevant background papers are available upon request.

General Purposes Committee of Aldermen – Outstanding Actions: 10 May 2022

No.	Date	Action	Officer responsible	To be completed/ progressed to next stage	Progress Update
1	20/10/20 & 18/12/20 - Future of the Mayoralty	The "Wootton Review" (*see also items 2, 3, 4 and 9*). A detailed review of all relevant matters to be undertaken, in consultation with all Members of the Committee, including options to better utilise talent and expertise amongst Members of COA and scope to enhance support to the Lord Mayor by individual Aldermen.	Town Clerk	TBC	*On-going.*
2	20/10/20 Away-Day actions	Clarification and discussion about the Aldermanic customs and conventions	Sir David Wootton	TBC	*To be addressed in the Wootton Review*
3	20/10/20 Away-Day actions	Internal protocols (City of London) training and diplomatic protocols training	Town Clerk	TBC	*To be addressed in the Wootton Review*
4	20/10/20 Away-Day actions	Decision on the series of action plans Richard Burge presented to the GP COA	Sir David Wootton / Mr Remembrancer	TBC	*To be addressed in the Wootton Review*

No.	Date	Action	Officer responsible	To be completed/ progressed to next stage	Progress Update
5.	14/09/21	Aldermanic Allowance - further consideration and possible review of the clothing allowance provision at a future meeting, given the new financial scheme accessible by all Common Councillors.	Sir David Wootton / Caroline Jack	TBC	
6.	19/10/21	Future of the Mayoralty Working Party to resume with Sir Charles Bowman as the Group's new Chairman. The Committee to consider what work will be progressed by the group, and within what timescales.	Sir David Wootton/ Sir Charles Bowman/ Town Clerk	TBC	Sir Charles Bowman confirmed as Chairman; group to meet post Easter recess.
7.	30/03/22	Request for a rolling 12-month programme of all events relevant to Aldermen to be circulated alongside each GP agenda	Sir David Wootton/ Remembrancer/Caroline Jack/ Town Clerk	TBC	

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