

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 Keaveny
Alderman Ian Luder
Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman & Sheriff Nicholas Lyons
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
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley (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 Gettleston	- 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 any 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 be 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

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**

10.1 **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.

10.2 **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

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