

# CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

**Monday, 20 January 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 20 January 2025 at 11.00 am

## **Present**

### **Members:**

Munsur Ali (Chairman)	Wendy Mead OBE
John Griffiths (Deputy Chairman)	Deborah Oliver
Jason Groves	Deputy Alpa Raja
Jaspreet Hodgson	Anett Rideg
Wendy Hyde	Deputy Dawn Wright
Frances Leach	Alderwoman Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP
Antony Manchester	Brendan Barns

## **In Attendance**

### **Officers:**

Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Markiewicz	- London Metropolitan Archives
Omkar Chana	- Innovation and Growth
Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's
Laurie Miller-Zutshi	- Town Clerk's Department
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Caroline Haines, Ian Seaton, Andrew Mayer, David Sales, Amy Horscroft, Irem Yerdelem, John Foley, and Suzanne Ornsby KC.

The following Members observed the meeting online: Caroline Haines, Suzanne Ornsby KC, David Sales, and Irem Yerdelem.

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

There were no declarations.

## **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the meeting of 09 December 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings (subject to the amendment of one Member's attendance record).

#### 4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee discussed the Terms of Reference as set out in the agenda, noting the proposed changes. The following points were made, in response to Member queries:

- The City of London Police Museum does not currently have a home and options are being considered and to be presented to the Committee during 2025 (including a space at the London Museum), and those contents are currently in secure storage;
- Updates on the CoL Police Museum and the Lord Mayor's coaches would be welcome; and
- There are mechanisms by which the Committee can be sighted on the work of Destination City, including the Deputy Chair's membership of the Destination Advisory Board.

Members noted that the proposed phrase in brackets in (a) that includes the phrase "encompassing Destination City" and "relevant strategy" did not necessarily align with agreements made during 2024 on the governance and accountability around Destination City and could be ambiguous and potentially encroach on the territory of other Committees, and would benefit from being removed.

A Member commented on the benefits of the Committee being involved in Planning decisions where culture elements are proposed, referencing the Cultural Planning Framework in particular, and that the Committee would benefit from being one of the consultees in respect of any relevant planning application.

In response to a question on why the CoL Police Museum was not expecting to be sited at the Salisbury Square development, the meeting noted that there did not appear to be sufficient space for the Museum at the development.

**RESOLVED**, That a Forward Agenda be set out that covers updates on every element of the Terms of Reference (in its final agreed form), to be submitted to each meeting.

**RESOLVED**, That delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to fine-tune the wording in section (a) and make any other amendments as deemed to be relevant.

#### 5. **UPDATE ON MONUMENT**

The Committee received an update on the Monument that included the following information:

- A full update will be presented to the Committee's February meeting to include visitor figures and transition plan proposals; and
- A full transition plan is expected to be available from April 2025 (after the elections).

**6. UPDATE ON CULTURE STRATEGY**

The Committee received a verbal update on the Culture Strategy, noting the following points:

- Terms of Reference for Strategy proposals were approved in December 2024 and the consultation is currently ongoing;
- Audience analysis projects are also being commissioned; and
- A decision is expected to be reached by the end of January 2025.

The meeting noted the fruitful deliberations of the December 2024 strategy workshop, noting also the need to carefully map resource allocations to any sub-group to further the formulation and execution of the strategy.

The Committee reiterated its strong interest in being involved in the development of the culture strategy around clarification of the scope and remit of any consultation, including involvement in pre-contract discussions with consultants, that would potentially entail Member representation at the project clarification and scope stage.

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

A Member reiterated their disappointment at the absence of submitted documents in respect of updates on the Monument and the culture strategy that could be shared with constituents ahead of the meeting in order to get feedback and seek residents' views.

Members noted that a cross-sectorial Destination City (DC) public-private partnership held its first meeting in December 2024, whose actions included: aligning KPIs and metrics with each priority workstream; building a programme of activities and initiatives; launching a DC partnership fund in collaboration with central grants entities; evaluating the CoLC's online DC presence and consolidating the communications strategy; and identifying progress on external entity partnership activities.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

A Member shared information about upcoming events at the new London Museum site.

**9. 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.

10. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, That the non-public minutes of the meeting of 09 December 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

11. **BANKSY ARTWORK RELOCATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Profession for Culture.

Noting section 33 of the report, the Committee strongly endorsed a proposal that the artist Banksy be offered the opportunity to acquire a CoLP sentry box, noting the artist's willingness to collect the box at his own expense, his commitment to only using it for personal ends (in line with a usage agreement that could include copyright arrangements), and refraining from undertaking any activity that might be seen to negatively impact the reputation of the Corporation or the City of London Police. The Committee noted that it would generate good publicity and such a gesture could be leveraged to the benefit of both the artist and the Corporation.

Members noted that a range of options were being considered for disused sentry boxes.

Members agreed that the request be further explored, and agreed that the Clerk would explain the Committee's decision to City Surveyor's (the owners of the box) and the City of London Police (owners of the logo and graphics).

In recognition of the artist's intent that his work be freely available to the public, Members noted that the Banksy 'piranha' sentry box would be exhibited at the London Museum on West Poultry Avenue in a space that will be freely accessible to the public from 0700 to midnight daily (subject to finalisation), and that artist has endorsed its siting at the London Museum.

The Members noted that negotiations could be had (in response to Member requests for clarification) and that the London Museum was to be given the artwork in perpetuity in line with an acquisitions agreement that could encompass various conditions.

In response to Member questions on why the Corporation was agreeing to the Museum's acquisition of the artwork rather than agreeing to a long-term loan, the meeting noted that the process involves acquisition and full responsibility, but that the matter would be raised.

A member sought clarification that the signage around the artwork would make it clear that the artwork was given by the Corporation, and the meeting noted that the Corporation would be appropriately accredited.

Members sought confirmation that the Committee would be sighted on any final decision on ownership.

Members noted that the proposal would be brought back to the February meeting of the Committee.

12. **GUILDHALL LIBRARY CENTENARY FUND (206950)**

The Committee considered the report of the Acting Managing Director of the City Bridge Foundation.

Noting the updated (reduced) valuations, Members sought clarity on confidence in evaluations for insurance purposes. The meeting noted that valuations had been difficult to arrange, the meeting heard that insurance premiums were based on the entire collection.

A Member referenced the interest in one of the paintings expressed by the Worshipful Company of Weavers and suggested there was merit in the painting being transferred to that organisation.

**RESOLVED**, That the Committee:

1. agree, consistent with the previous decision of the Committee taken on 31 January 2022, to exercise the power in section 281 Charities Act 2011, being satisfied that the purposes of GLCF could be carried out more effectively if the capital of the fund and any assets (being the Harbinger Portraits) could be expended as well as income (rather than just the income) and that the fund and assets should be freed from the restrictions on expenditure which apply to them, and to resolve that those restrictions be released with immediate effect;
2. agree, consistent with the previous decision of the Committee taken on 31 January 2022, to transfer to the City Corporation in its corporate capacity at market value the two books which form part of the charity's general property without seeking Charity Commission authorisation, adopting a proportionate risk-based approach having regard to the books' nominal combined value of £65 (£20 + £45) (see paragraph 6) and, having made reasonable enquiries, there being no outside interest in them for transfer or sale;
3. having regard to the matters set out in the Report, approve the market value sale, and/or transfer to a compatible charity, of either all of the Harbinger Portraits or any of the individual paintings in the collection and delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Head of Gallery and Amphitheatre to agree the terms of a sale and/or transfer in the charity's best interests;
4. agree, consistent with the previous decision of the Committee taken on 31 January 2022, to spend out GLCF's funds in furtherance of the charitable purposes of the GLCF, being *to advance the education and training of the public, in particular but not exclusively by the provision of library, archives, museum and gallery services* by applying the funds to support education and training at the Guildhall Libraries, Guildhall Art

Gallery and the London Metropolitan Archives, and to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to agree the specific purposes/activities to which the charity's funds will be put in furthering the charity's purposes, and subject thereto to wind up the charity and remove it from the Register of Charities;

5. further to any decisions taken under delegated authority further to resolution 3 above, authorise the Comptroller & City Solicitor to settle terms of agreement for the sale and/or transfer of the Harbinger Portraits and to do anything otherwise necessary to give effect to decisions to dispose of the Harbinger Portraits and otherwise for the closure of the charity; and
6. authorise the Town Clerk in the exercise of delegated authority to undertake any actions, to take any decisions, and to sign the resolutions and any documents required to give effect to these resolutions, and to make such arrangements as may be required for the closure of the charity and its removal from the Register of Charities.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

**The meeting ended at 12.30 pm**

-----

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Jayne Moore**  
**[jayne.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jayne.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk)**