

FREEDOM APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 26 July 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Freedom Applications Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Alderman Vincent Keaveny

Simon Duckworth (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Peter Kane	- Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Murray Craig	- Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Department
Joseph Anstee	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Jeremy Mayhew, Wendy Mead and John Scott (Chief Commoner).

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

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 14 June 2018 be agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

The Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court advised that a report on City Apprenticeships could be brought to the next meeting of the Committee in September.

4. **RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a resolution of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee (PRED) raising an idea to nominate 100 women connected to the City for the Freedom, as part of the celebrations marking the centenary of women's suffrage.

Committee Members were supportive of the idea and discussed how it could be implemented, with regards to logistics and the implications for the Chamberlain's Court. Members accepted that it may be difficult to complete all the Freedoms before the end of the year, but agreed that all invitations should be extended, and hopefully accepted, by that time. The gesture might also encourage those invited to stand for the Common Council in the future.

The Committee agreed that as the women would be invited to receive the Freedom, the usual fee should be waived as part of the gesture, and that a larger-scale hospitality event such as a tea party may be more appropriate in this case. The Committee considered suggestions from PRED to ease the logistical burden on the Chamberlain's Court, and agreed that the ability to nominate should be referred to Members, by ward on a proportional basis based on the numbers of Common Councilmen in each ward. Each ward could be given a number of suggestions and encouraged to nominate women based in their respective wards, which would hopefully achieve a more even geographical and cross-sectoral spread of nominations. However, Members were aware that many leading women connected to the City were not based within the Square Mile. Any shortfall in nominations, for example if a woman nominated was already Free, could be topped up by nominations from Committee Members or the Chairman of the policy & Resources Committee.

The Committee agreed that all Members should be contacted, setting out the motion to nominate 100 women for the Freedom and seeking nominations, with regard to women based in that Members wards and a cross-sectoral spread where possible. The Committee suggested that nominations should be communicated through each ward's Deputy and suggested that Deputies should also be contacted.

RESOLVED – That the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, should contact all Members of the Court of Common Council, and the Deputy of each ward separately, seeking nominations of women connected to the City for the Freedom, on a proportional basis according to the number of Councilmen serving each ward, giving a deadline for nominations in early September.

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

The Chairman asked the Chamberlain to update the Committee on the recent award of the Freedom by Special Nomination to Major Tim Peake. The Chamberlain advised the Committee that the ceremony had taken place on Wednesday 18 July 2018 and had been a great success. Major Peake had also engaged in a successful Q&A session with City Schools students before the ceremony. The day had been very positive and Major Peake had subsequently been very positive about the City of London Corporation on his social media channels.

A Member advised the Committee that he had been contacted for a response regarding the recent death of Geoffrey Wellum, previously the oldest living Spitfire pilot, who had received the Freedom five years ago.

The Chamberlain informed the Committee that Baroness Floella Benjamin had offered to give talks to City Schools students following her well-attended and successful recent Freedom ceremony. The Committee was also advised that anti-apartheid campaigner Andrew Mlangeni had also spoken positively about the City of London Corporation following his recent successful Freedom ceremony.

6. **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 of business 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 No.	Exempt Paragraphs
7	3
8 - 9	-
10 - 13	1
14	-

7. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting on 14 June 2018 be agreed as a correct record.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

10. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The Committee considered the confidential minutes of the previous meeting.

11. **RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE: CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX**

The Committee considered the appendix in conjunction with the resolution of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee at Item 4.

12. **LIST OF HEADS OF MISSIONS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk.

13. **FREEDOM BY SPECIAL NOMINATION - COMPOSITE LIST OF POTENTIAL RECIPIENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain.

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

There was one item of other business.

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm

Chairman

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