

DISPENSATIONS SUB (STANDARDS) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Dispensations Sub (Standards) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 2.30 pm

Present

Members:

Caroline Addy (Chairman)	Mary Durcan
Judith Barnes (Independent Person)	Vivienne Littlechild

Officers:

Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Antoinette Duhaney	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence were received.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. DISPENSATION REQUESTS

The Sub Committee proceeded to consider the dispensation requests submitted by Mark Bostock, Susan Pearson, Jason Pritchard, Brian Mooney and Joyce Nash. The Chairman drew the Sub-Committee's attention to the agenda supplement which included the correct version of Mark Bostock's dispensation request. The Sub-Committee also noted that with the exception of Joyce Nash, all of the above requests were previously considered by the Sub-Committee on 03.07.19. However, all four applicants had resubmitted their requests.

The Sub-Committee considered the merits of each application in turn and in respect of the applications from Mark Bostock, Susan Pearson, Jason Pritchard and Brian Mooney, the Sub-Committee considered the reasons given by the Sub-Committee when these four applications were previously considered on 03.07.19 Appendix 6 (pages 35-41). The Sub-Committee also had due regard to Appendix 3 (pages 21-22) of the officer report - Factors to be taken into consideration.

Mark Bostock, Susan Pearson, Jason Pritchard, Brian Mooney

Members had mixed views on whether the Sub-Committee's earlier decision in respect of the above four applicants should be overturned. However, in view of the current review of the implementation of the new dispensations policy and process for considering dispensations, Members were unanimous in their view

that these applications should be deferred pending the outcome of the review and decisions taken by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 4th October 2019.

RESOLVED – That the applications from Mark Bostock, Susan Pearson, Jason Pritchard and Brian Mooney be deferred pending the outcome of the current review and decisions taken by the Standards Committee on 4th October 2019. (a meeting of the Sub-committee will then be convened at the earliest opportunity thereafter to consider these applications).

Joyce Nash

Details of dispensation sought

To speak and vote on matters relating to the expansion of the City of London School for Girls onto the Grade II listed areas of the Barbican Estate at the request of resident electors for the period up to the final decisions made by the Planning & Transportation Committee (as discussion could take place on some of the Committees of which Ms Nash is a Member).

Details of dispensation granted

A dispensation was granted to speak and vote on matters relating to the expansion of the City of London School for Girls for the period until final decisions are made by the Planning & Transportation Committee or for the remainder of the current term of office ending in March 2021, whichever is sooner.

Reasons

Under the Localism Act 2011 the Sub-Committee may grant a dispensation only if, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, it considers that one of the statutory grounds is satisfied.

Members were of the unanimous view that the application from Joyce Nash could be determined as it related to a request to speak on matter which affected Barbican residents equally. Members felt that Ms Nash was no more affected than any other Barbican estate residents in respect of proposals to expand the City of London School for Girls. Furthermore, Ms Nash had no beneficial interest in land and was not a serving Member of the Planning & Transportation Committee, Barbican Residents Committee or the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls.

Referring to Appendix 3 - Factors to be taken into account (page 21), Members were satisfied that Ms Nash had a widely held interest which was common to a significant number of Barbican residents and that Ms Nash was less affected than many other Barbican residents who lived closer to the City of London School for Girls. However, the Sub-Committee felt that a time restriction should be placed on the dispensation so that it was not open ended; it was felt that a dispensation until period until final decisions are made by the Planning & Transportation Committee or for the remainder of the current term of office ending in March 2021, whichever is sooner, was appropriate.

The Sub-Committee noted the guiding principle in paragraph 5 of the dispensations policy, that Members should generally be granted a dispensation to speak (but not vote) on all matters concerning their Ward where they have an engaged disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), other than when that interest would be directly and materially impacted. Members were satisfied that Ms Nash did not have an engaged DPI.

4. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no further matters raised.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 3.48 pm

Chairman

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