

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 21 September 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held virtually on Monday, 21 September 2020 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Wendy Hyde (Chair)	Alderman Robert Howard
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chair)	Vivienne Littlechild
Munsur Ali	Deputy Edward Lord
Matthew Bell	Andrew Mayer
Deputy John Bennett	Jeremy Mayhew
Peter Bennett	Wendy Mead
Deputy David Bradshaw	Graham Packham
Mary Durcan	John Petrie
Deputy Kevin Everett	Judith Pleasance
Tracey Graham	Deputy Tom Sleigh (Ex-Officio Member)
Caroline Haines	James Tumbridge
The Revd Stephen Haines	Mark Wheatley
Deputy Tom Hoffman	Dawn Wright
Ann Holmes	

In Attendance:

Officers:

Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
Peter Lisle	- Assistant Town Clerk/ Director of Major Projects
Nick Bodger	- Town Clerk's Department
Tim Fletcher	- Town Clerk's Department
Alex Leader	- Town Clerk's Department
Geoff Pick	- Town Clerk's Department
Elizabeth Scott	- Town Clerk's Department
Nancy Wade	- Town Clerk's Department
Julie Smith	- Chamberlain's Department
Richard Chamberlain	- City Surveyor's Department
Christopher Earlie	- Open Spaces Department

Also in attendance:

Hannah Starkey	- Guildhall Artist in Residence
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1. APOLOGIES

It was proposed by Deputy Kevin Everett and seconded by Deputy Tom Hoffman that Alderman Robert Howard takes the chair.

Apologies were received from Barbara Newman.

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

There were none.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT**

Members received the Order of the Court dated 16 July 2020 appointing the Committee and setting its Terms of Reference.

4. **ELECTION OF A CHAIR**

Members elected a Chair in accordance with Standing Order 29.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member willing to serve, Deputy Wendy Hyde be elected as Chair for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF A DEPUTY CHAIR**

Members elected a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order 30.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member willing to serve, Jeremy Simons be elected as Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

7. **APPOINTMENT TO SUB-COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES AND CITY ARTS INITIATIVE**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive relative to the appointments to the Benefices Sub-Committee, Keats House Consultative Committee and City Arts Initiative.

Benefices Sub-Committee:

In addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair, the following Members were appointed to the Benefices Sub-Committee for the ensuing year:

1. Simon Duckworth (confirmed subsequent to the meeting)
2. Deputy Kevin Everett
3. Caroline Haines
4. Rev Stephen Haines
5. Ann Holmes
6. Alderman Gregory Jones (confirmed subsequent to the meeting)
7. Deputy Edward Lord
8. Stephen Quilter
9. James De Sausmarez
10. Ian Seaton

Keats House Consultative Committee:

In addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair, the following Members were appointed to the Keats House Consultative Committee for the ensuing year:

1. Vivienne Littlechild
2. Dawn Wright

City Arts Initiative:

In addition to the Chair and Deputy Chair, the following Members were appointed to the City Arts Initiative for the ensuing year:

1. Judith Pleasance
2. Deputy Tom Sleigh

8. **FORWARD PLAN**

Members received the Committee's forward plan.

9. **PRESENTATION: TOURISM IN THE CITY OF LONDON - STATUS UPDATE**

Members received a presentation of the Culture and Visitor Development Director relative to culture and tourism in the City. It was noted the City's cultural offering gave the City a competitive advantage, however COVID-19 and Brexit continued to pose challenges to the City's culture sector. A Culture and Commerce Task Force had been created to address the impact on culture, and numerous campaigns were promoting the City as a safe and open place to visit.

RESOLVED, that – the presentation be received and its contents noted.

10. **PRESENTATIONS: WOMEN OF THE GUILDHALL ART GALLERY**

a. La Ghirlandata: Conservation of a City Treasure

Members received a presentation of the Guildhall Art Gallery Paintings Conservator relative to the restoration and conservation works for La Ghirlandata. The painting will be on display in the Guildhall Art Gallery for five years, after which time it could be put on loan.

RESOLVED, that – the presentation be received and its contents noted.

b. Celebrating City Women

Members received a presentation of the Guildhall Artist in Residence relative to the Celebrating City Women photography exhibition which focused on women in the City of London. It was noted that the next artist in residence had been postponed due to the pandemic.

RESOLVED, that – the presentation be received and its contents noted.

11. **CITY BUSINESS LIBRARY FUTURE STRATEGY 2020-2023**

Members received a report of the Director of Major Projects relative to the City Business Library Future Strategy 2020-2023.

RESOLVED, that – Members:

1. approve the strategic direction for the City Business Library as detailed in paragraphs 6-8 of the report;
2. agree in principle the proposal to change the name, however Members requested further consideration be made for a new name, as there was concern that the proposed name 'Business Research and Enterprise Centre' was not agreed by all Members.

12. LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES AND GUILDHALL LIBRARY CONSOLIDATION

Members received a report of the Director of Major Projects relative to the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Consolidation. Members decided that they did not wish to agree the proposals at this time in their current form, but were supportive of officers continuing to look at the option and asked officers to consult widely and work up more detailed plans to be brought back to Committee at a future date.

RESOLVED, that – the recommendations not be agreed and the matter would be further considered by the Committee at a future meeting.

13. PRESENTATION: TOWER BRIDGE UPDATE

Members received a presentation of the Head of Tower Bridge relative to the performance of Tower Bridge during the first two months since reopening, as the first City visitor attractions to reopen. There had been a significant increase in visitors comparing the first week since reopening in July and the last week of August. Tower Bridge continued to operate following Covid-secure guidelines operating at 14% capacity at reopening week which then increased to 30% capacity.

RESOLVED, that – the presentation be received and its contents noted.

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

There were none.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

16. 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.

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

18. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS REGARDING PRESENTATIONS FROM THE CULTURAL AND VISITOR DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR AND THE HEAD OF TOWER BRIDGE**

There were none.

19. **GATEWAY 6: BRIDGEMASTERS HOUSE - PHASE 1**

Members received a Gateway 6 report of the City Surveyor relative to building works for the Bridgemasters House Phase 1.

RESOLVED, that – the recommendations be agreed.

20. **GATEWAY 6: BRIDGEMASTERS HOUSE - PHASE 2**

Members received a Gateway 6 report of the City Surveyor relative to building works for the Bridgemasters House Phase 2.

RESOLVED, that – the recommendations be agreed.

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

There were none.

22. **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 1.30 pm

Chair

**Contact Officer: Chloe Rew
tel. no.: 020 7332 1427
chloe.rew@cityoflondon.gov.uk**