

## The Election of Chief Commoner – to be considered in conjunction with Item 5

*To be presented on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021*

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### **To elect a Chief Commoner**

The job description of the Chief Commoner can be found on the City's website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/assets/About-us/chief-commoner-job-description.pdf>

Two candidates, Simon Duckworth and Ann Holmes, have been validly nominated in accordance with Standing Order no. 18. The candidates were invited to provide information in support of their nomination and the following submissions were received:-

#### **Simon Duckworth**

Elected in 2000, when in my mid 30s, recent years have transformed both the City and Corporation. The socio-economic impact of CV19 has reminded us of the City's fragile eco system.

During my time on the Court, I've been fortunate to serve across the range of Corporation activities. Chairing our Police Authority, Gresham and Guildhall Club were highlights, but represented very different relationships; Policing brought deep engagement with our Police Force, business and residential communities, Gresham focussed on property, educational outreach and the historic Mercers' partnership, and the Club allowed me to appreciate the lived experience of Members working in Guildhall.

Deputy Governorship of the Irish Society, three years as Deputy Chairman of Policy & Resources and my Army sabbatical last year evidenced the sheer breadth of Corporation activity and how the City's soft power helps the UK.

2022 will focus on rebuilding confidence in our businesses and residential communities. I have the energy, experience and connectivity to make a genuine contribution as Chief Commoner, representing the Corporation externally but also supporting Members as we work together to rebuild and sustain the City.

I value the diversity of the Court and if elected will encourage all Members to fully participate in our debates. I hope to support those whose opinions get less well aired, and act as honest broker when arguments occasionally get heated. Above all, I hope to be a Chief Commoner to whom Members can turn for advice and a friendly ear but who understands the scale of what we are trying to achieve in our work for this City and its communities.

I hope you feel that my commitment, energy and experience will be useful to the City in the Jubilee year, and that I will help represent and support all Members if elected as Chief Commoner.

**Ann Holmes**

The post of Chief for 2022/3 will be a challenging full time job, for which I'm well prepared. I would support members, and represent their interests, in what are likely to prove testing times.

I've served on ten grand committees, three of which I've chaired, and on many sub committees and working parties. I have an excellent record of attendance and input, hard work and diligence.

As well as familiarising me with the detail of policy making and implementation, my experience has made me aware of the high level of member potential. Continuous training and support are required to realise this potential. The Chief chairs the Member Development Steering Group, of which I've been a member since joining the Court, and where I've been able to draw on my significant professional experience in teaching, training and team development. I also serve on the Members' Privileges Sub Committee, which the Chief chairs.

Wise decisions require constructive debate between those holding differing views. I believe my chairing skills and the ways in which I work, and would communicate with members, would set an example of the collegiality which is so essential.

To best serve our electorate, we must ensure members' skill sets and networks are fully utilised. Ways of organising elections and tenure, to achieve this, have been discussed in the Lisvane consultations and giving attention to these issues will be key. I've participated in a very high proportion of these consultations and would involve myself in closely monitoring changes, and regularly discussing these with members.

I feel confident in promoting the City and the Corporation. I love the City, where I've lived for over twenty years. I'm a former member of the IoD City Branch and am currently a Court Assistant with the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers.