

Report of the Town Clerk to be considered in conjunction with Item 8 –

The Election of Chief Commoner

To be presented on Thursday, 13th October 2022

*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, Deputy Peter Dunphy and Deputy 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:-

Deputy Peter Dunphy

I have served on the Court since 2009 becoming Ward Deputy in 2019 and have served as Deputy Governor and Finance Chair of the Irish Society (the senior role for Common Councillors within the organisation) and as Chair of the Licensing Committee and numerous Licensing panels. I have served as a senior member of a number of other committees including Port Health & Environmental services and Planning & Transportation and have served on State banquet hosting committees.

I believe that as Chief Commoner I would be an independent, collegiate, and unifying figure. I have a strong understanding of the protocols, processes, and conventions of the Court of Common council.

I am a staunch supporter of the City of London Corporation both internally and externally including organising an initiative to educate members of the House of Lords in our work and advocating for the corporation at many events and conferences. I have taken an active and constructive interest in improving practical member support and in modernising some of our processes in the recent governance review.

I see the role of the Chief Commoner as representing the interests of all members, assisting where appropriate with training, support, and mediation, and representing the Common Council primarily to our close partners in the livery movement and ward clubs. I am an active member of my own (Lime Street and Cornhill) ward club and an active Liveryman of the Drapers and member of the Company of Communicators.

It had been my intention to seek election as Chief Commoner for some time and would like to thank those members who have encouraged me to stand this year.

Deputy Ann Holmes

The Chief represents members, seeking to ensure their well-being and engagement in the policy making process. I would be available to members on a full-time basis, operating an open door policy and holding regular get togethers. I would offer individual support, strengthen training and work for greater collegiality. Post Lisvane, I continue to seek ways to make our system of governance clear, fair, and transparent. I am a skilled trainer, facilitator, and team builder, with a background in teaching, research, and management.

My experience as a member is extensive. I have served as a governor on the boards of five of our family of schools, two of which I've chaired, and on a further ten grand committees, three of which I've chaired. I serve on the Finance and Port Health and Environmental Services Committees and the Boards of the Barbican Centre and the Girls' School. I have served on many subcommittees and working parties, including eight years on the Member Development Steering Group, which the Chief chairs. I am, therefore, familiar not only with our policies, procedures and protocols but with resolving day-to-day issues. My record demonstrates my independence and ability to make decisions on the merits of the case.

As part of the Civic team, I would bring considerable experience of the City. I am a Deputy for Farringdon Within, a large mixed ward, in which I have lived for almost 23 years. I am a Court Assistant with The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers and a former member of the IoD City Branch.

I seek election on the basis of my abilities and experience but, in the light of our commitment to diversity, feel it relevant to note our having had only one woman Chief since the post became subject to election in 2011.