



# KEAVENY, MAYOR

## COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

12th September 2022  
MEMBERS PRESENT

### ALDERMEN

Professor Emma Edhem  
Alison Gowman  
Prem Goyal  
David Andrew Graves  
Robert Picton Seymour Howard

Robert Charles Hughes-Penney  
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny  
Susan Langley  
Tim Levene  
Ian David Luder

Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons  
Christopher Makin  
Broniek Masojada  
Sir Andrew Charles Parmley  
Sir David Hugh Wootton

### COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams  
John David Absalom, Deputy  
Rehana Banu Ameer, Deputy  
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy  
Shahnan Bakth  
Jamel Banda  
Brendan Barns  
The Honourable Emily Sophia  
Wedgwood Benn  
Ian Bishop-Laggett  
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy  
Mark Bostock, Deputy  
Tijs Broeke  
James Bromiley-Davis  
Timothy Richard Butcher  
Michael John Cassidy, Deputy  
Dominic Gerard Christian  
Henry Nicholas Almroth  
Colthurst, Deputy

Simon D'Olier Duckworth, Deputy  
Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy  
Mary Durcan  
John Ernest Edwards  
Helen Lesley Fentimen  
Anthony David Fitzpatrick  
John William Fletcher, Deputy  
John Foley  
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks,  
Deputy  
Martha Grekos  
John Griffiths  
Jason Groves  
Madush Gupta, Deputy  
Caroline Wilma Haines  
Christopher Michael Hayward,  
Deputy  
Jaspreet Hodgson

Ann Holmes, Deputy  
Wendy Hyde  
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi,  
Deputy  
Florence Keelson-Anfu  
Elizabeth Anne King  
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP,  
Deputy  
Antony Geoffrey Manchester  
Andrew Paul Mayer  
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie  
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers,  
Deputy  
Brian Desmond Francis Mooney,  
Deputy  
Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy  
Eamonn James Mullally  
Benjamin Daniel Murphy  
Susan Jane Pearson, Deputy

Judith Pleasance  
Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest  
David Sales  
Ruby Sayed  
Ian Christopher Norman Seaton  
Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson,  
Deputy  
Tom Sleigh  
Sir Michael Snyder  
Mandeep Thandi  
James Michael Douglas  
Thomson, Deputy  
Luis Felipe Tilleria  
Shailendra Kumar Kantilal  
Umradia  
Ceri Edith Wilkins  
Dawn Linsey Wright  
Irem Yerdelen

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations Deputy Susan Pearson and Deputy Tom Sleigh declared non-pecuniary interests in the item to be considered at this meeting as a candidate and an electoral agent, respectively, for two of the affected elections.
3. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)**

9 September 2022

**Bill for Act of Court of Common Council to postpone ward elections during a period of national mourning, following the demise of Her Majesty Queen**

**Elizabeth II**

Following the death of Her Majesty, Elizabeth II, on 8 September 2022, the nation had entered a period of national mourning.

There were two Aldermanic elections in the wards of Bishopsgate and Cripplegate, as well as a Common Council by-election in the Ward of Cordwainer, currently scheduled for Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 September. These elections would fall within the national mourning period. In light of this, the Policy and Resources Committee had considered as a matter of urgency that the Court should be invited to determine whether these elections should be postponed or kept as scheduled. A Bill for an Act of Common Council, which would have the effect of postponing these Ward elections until after the period of mourning has ended, was presented accordingly for this Honourable Court's review, so as to facilitate any decision.

Introducing the item, the Chairman observed the wide range of disparate, yet equally legitimate, views on the question of whether or not the elections should be postponed. In view of the extremely tight timescales available to work through understanding any legal obligations and to prepare for the potential options, it was clear that the only fair and reasonable way of progressing was to prepare for all eventualities. Further, the only fair way to determine our course of action was to provide the Court with the opportunity to consider its options democratically and come to an informed, rational, collective position.

The Chairman emphasised that there was no legal barrier to the elections remaining as scheduled and added that, should they be rescheduled, then it would not be possible for further postal votes or proxy votes to be applied for – so anyone who would be away for the new election date would not be able to register for a postal vote, for instance. He expressed his personal view that to postpone the elections at this late stage would be unfair to the candidates and electors, as well as presenting additional challenges to our staff during a busy period, but indicated his respect for and acknowledgement of both sides of the argument and their respective merits. He would, therefore, be voting to oppose this proposal.

During the course of debate, several Members spoke to argue for the postponement of the elections, expressing their view that it would be inappropriate to proceed during a period of national mourning. The views of some electors and candidates were relayed in relation to their discomfort at continuing to canvas or be canvassed at such a time, with the ten day delay felt to be sufficiently minimal in the circumstances and a pragmatic solution.

A number of Members also spoke to oppose any potential postponement, reflecting on the character of Her Late Majesty and expressing the belief that she would not wish for the business of democratic engagement to cease. The continued operation of the business City, investment markets, and magistrates' courts was highlighted, with it felt it would be out-of-kilter for elections to be treated differently. It was observed that local authorities across the country with elections scheduled within the national mourning period had no choice but to proceed as planned and, again, it would appear unusual for the City to be out of step. The potential detrimental impact on voters who had not registered for postal votes but would be absent on any revised polling day was also referenced, together with the need to make a

distinction between the day of the funeral and the general period of mourning itself.

*Luder, I.D., J.P.,  
Ald.; Lord, C.E.,  
O.B.E., J.P., Deputy*

*Motion* – That the Question be now put.

The Lord Mayor declared the Motion to be carried.

Upon the Question being put, the Lord Mayor declared the report to fall.

*Resolved* – That the proposed Bill for Act of Common Council be rejected.

**The meeting commenced at 12.03 pm and ended at 12.51 pm**

**BARRADELL.**