

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Tuesday, 11 July 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at
Aldermen's Court Room, Mezzanine Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 11
July 2023 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chairman)
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (Deputy Chairman)
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Nicholas Lyons
Alderman Ian David Luder
Alderman Sir David Wootton
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Alderman Alison Gowman
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman and Sheriff Alastair King DL
Alderman Gregory Jones KC
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley, DBE
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Christopher Makin
Alderman Tim Levene
Alderwoman Jennette Newman
Alderman Kawsar Zaman
Alderwoman Susan Pearson

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Gemma Stokley	- Town Clerk's Department
Rhiannon Leary	- Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Caroline Jack	- Executive Director, Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Prem Goyal.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Orders No.11 and 12, the Committee elected its Chairman for 2023/24.

RESOLVED – that, as the only Alderman in nomination, Alderman Sir William Russell be elected as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen for the ensuing year (2023/24).

[Alderman Sir William Russell thanked The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor and moved into the Chair.]

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Orders No.14 and 16, the Committee elected its Deputy Chairman for 2023/24.

RESOLVED – that, as the only Alderman in nomination, Alderman Sir Charles Bowman be elected as Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen for the ensuing year (2023/24).

[Alderman Sir Charles Bowman thanked the Committee for its support.]

5. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 15 May 2023.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 15 May 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman's Congratulatory Remarks

The Chairman, on behalf of the Court of Aldermen, wished to formally recognise the two Aldermen honoured in His Majesty's Birthday Honours. He offered his sincere congratulations to both Alderman Keaveny and Alderwoman Langley in this respect.

The Chairman went on to congratulate Alderman Christopher Makin who had recently become a proud Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Glovers.

Congratulations were also offered to Alderman Prem Goyal who was to be made an honorary liveryman of the Constructors' Company during their installation dinner in October.

The Chairman went on to mention that Alderman Sir Charles Bowman would be installed as the Master of the Grocers' Company at a ceremony taking place tomorrow.

The Chairman encouraged all to continue to keep him informed of any future successes to report to the Committee.

Finally, the Chairman wished to place on record that this would be the last General Purposes Committee meeting for the Court of Aldermen's Senior Alderman, Ian Luder. The Chairman recognised that this afternoon's Court of Aldermen meeting would allow all to formally record their thanks to Alderman Luder but added that it would be remiss of him to not also say here how grateful the Court of Aldermen were for Ian's service as Alderman for the Ward of Castle Baynard over the past 18 years. The Chairman stated that Alderman Luder's very valid contributions would be much missed in this Committee and wished both him and Mrs Luder all the very best for a long and happy retirement.

6. LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed Caroline Wright, Chief Executive of the Lord Mayor's Appeal. He underlined that the Appeal was a vital part of the Lord Mayor's role and also urged all Aldermen to continue to support the Appeal via attendance at events such as the Sheriffs' Ball and other charitable events.

Ms Wright spoke on the Appeals 'four pillars' – inclusive, healthy, skilled and fair and its mission to create a better City for all. The Committee were provided with a brief update as to the initiatives run underneath each pillar as follows:

- Power of Inclusion – the focus here was around Social Mobility and this would continue to be the case in the coming years. The aim here was to increase opportunities for those from diverse social and economic backgrounds to start, develop and progress their careers in the City of London. The Lord Mayor's Appeal had engaged with over 64 companies this year in its first two workshops and had discussed topics such as the cost of living crisis and building effective social mobility networks. A further workshop as well as a Senior Leader Roundtable event was also planned for later in the year.
- This is Me – the aim here was to end the stigma around mental health in the workplace across the UK. This was delivered via storytelling, the Green Ribbon Campaign and the Well-being in the Workplace e-learning tool. Engagement for This is Me continued to grow across the country and also in Asia. Conversations around establishing another regional This is Me group in the South West were also underway – this would add to the offerings already established in Scotland, Yorkshire and the West Midlands. During this year, one workshop had taken place to launch the event and a Mental Health Awareness Week Roadshow had taken place to celebrate all that was happening in City businesses and beyond. It was reported that a total of 26,300 Green Ribbons had been sold this year to date.

- We Can Be – an initiative to build the skills and confidence of the most disadvantaged young women and provide access to opportunities within the City of London. The first We Can Be in-person event in a number of years had taken place earlier this year and was attended by 190 young women hosted by businesses across the City. Some attendees would go on to be mentored across the year and some would attend skills workshops – taking We Can Be beyond just a one day intervention – something that would continue to be built upon in coming years.
- City Giving Day – a well-established initiative familiar to the Aldermen and a means of uniting businesses in the City and beyond by celebrating their positive impact on charities and local communities through philanthropy and volunteering. It was reported that this year's offering had already surpasses last year's number of registrations with 535 registrations to date and a target of 694. Ms Wright spoke of the Lord Mayor's Appeal events taking place this year including a treasure hunt, City walk and quiz night. The Committee were also informed that an online auction was being held where companies were donating as well as bidding for various items. Other events this year included the Tour de City and Music in Offices Singing for City Giving Day.

Ms Wright went on to highlight the three charities currently being supported and explained that there were three charities championed each year and that each charity was supported for a three-year period. Current partnerships were with National Numeracy, MQ Mental Health Research and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. At the end of this Mayoralty, the Duke of Edinburgh Award would rotate off of the programme and a new charity would be brought online. Ms Wright went on to highlight the work of each of the three charities currently supported undertaken in partnership with the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Ms Wright explained that, although the funds from the Lord Mayor's Appeal were incredibly valuable to these charities, they all found that the profile, connections, link with other partner charities and exposure that they gained through their partnership with the Lord Mayor's Appeal went way beyond any financial benefits.

In terms of Lord Mayor's Appeal events held to date, Ms Wright reported on the Lord Mayor's recent abseil, the Lady Mayoress' Sleep Out, a Golf Day and a 'Call My Wine Bluff' evening. The Sheriffs' Ball and the Grand Finale were still to come.

Ms Wright spoke of the Appeal's Corporate Partners which remained a key focus and was the biggest arm of fundraising. It was reported that there were four different levels of partnership, all at different levels of funding. She added that any help that the Aldermen were able to offer in terms of future Corporate Partnerships would be much appreciated. She also encouraged all to further support the Appeal by wearing the badge, encouraging companies in their Wards to register for City Giving Day and making introductions to those contacts who may have an interest in the Appeal's areas of work.

Ms Wright concluded by flagging the Impact Reception to be held on 21st November 2023 at the Mansion House and extended an open invitation to all to

attend. The reception would showcase the impact made by the charities supported and their initiatives.

The Chairman thanked Ms Wright for an excellent overview of the work of the Lord Mayor's Appeal. He stressed the importance of continuing to build upon Corporate Partners.

The Deputy Chairman congratulated Ms Wright and her team on their hard work in turning this into a real success and an enduring appeal with significant national influence which it was important to continue to invest in and nurture. He stressed that City Giving Day went well beyond just raising money for charity and was very much about taking pride in the City and celebrating its wider purpose.

An Alderman echoed the congratulations to Ms Wright and the team and stated that it was difficult to estimate the national impact of initiatives such as 'This is Me' and the GALENOS project. He reported that the Appeal were continuing to undertake much work in the background and were exploring opportunities around a volunteering platform for the City as well as the option of introducing a Payroll Giving service for the City's SMEs.

7. BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES PRESENTATION

The Chairman welcomed David Farnsworth, Managing Director of Bridge House Estates.

Mr Farnsworth began by speaking briefly on the history of Bridge House Estates under the City Corporation's stewardship. He went on to underline the charity's continuing relevance to modern London. He reported that in 1994 it was evident that the money required for the maintenance of the five bridges across the River Thames was surplus. This led to a conversation with the Charity Commission which enabled the surplus monies to be distributed through a grant making function. To date, approximately half a billion had been distributed to charities in Greater London, bringing about important change for many communities. The Committee were informed that this was one of the oldest and largest charities in the country and one that was not celebrated or known about widely enough. Much work had therefore been undertaken in recent years to help address this, with the City Corporation's trusteeship remaining front and centre. The governance of the charity had been revisited under the Lisvane Review, such that its work had now been consolidated into one single Board operating under and with delegation from the Court of Common Council. This had made it more akin to a modern charity and the sector that Bridge House Estates was working within and compared against. It had also allowed, for the first time, a single strategy and single leadership team to be established.

Mr Farnsworth went on to speak of Tower Bridge and its profound 'reach' as a global ambassador for both the City Corporation and the charity. It was well recognised as the gateway to London by both local communities and international visitors. Visitor levels here were now almost back to pre-Covid levels with the Bridge having won accolades for green tourism and various

awards from Heritage England. There were attempts to make the Bridge's educational outreach piece link in more effectively with some of the charities supported by the Lord Mayor's Appeal – particularly those concerning Mental Health.

Mr Farnsworth spoke also on the importance of branding and visibility for the charity. Whilst Bridge House Estates would remain as the charity's legal working title for its grant-giving function, a new, single, working name across the Charity would be introduced later this year.

The Committee were informed that the charity's asset base was approximately £1.7 billion at present and a new Investment Strategy Statement setting out how these assets could be used to support the charity's mission was also now being developed alongside the Corporation's Finance and Charities Team.

Mr Farnsworth concluded that he and the Chairman of the Board had recently been to collect the Royal Charter which was the culmination of the past 4-5 years work to modernise the charity's governance and provided the explicit power to socially invest, the power to undertake total return accounting and the power to borrow. A very significant moment in the charity's history. He added that with a new brand and new investment strategy, now was an ideal time to continue to build upon the many and varied networks of the Corporation and of those on this Committee.

The Chairman thanked Mr Farnsworth for this update on the work of the charity. He congratulated him and the team on their hard work to re-brand and modernise the charity.

In response to a question, Mr Farnsworth commented that it would be important to build on the ambassadorial piece in the coming 6 months as the new brand was launched. He added that the charity was always keen to welcome new applicants.

8. **APPOINTMENTS: -**

The Committee formally considered and approved the following appointments to various Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies:

RESOLVED: That: -

(a) Governor of Christ's Hospital

Alderman Alexander Barr be appointed as a Governor of Christ's Hospital.

(b) Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee

Alderman Alison Gowman be appointed to the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee.

(c) Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee

Alderman Kawsar Zaman be appointed to the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee.

(d) The Committee of Aldermen to Administer the Sir William Coxen Trust Fund

Alderman Gregory Jones be appointed to the Committee of Aldermen to Administer the Sir William Coxen Trust.

(e) St Paul's Cathedral Chorister Trust

Alderman Bronek Masojada be appointed to the St Paul's Chorister Trust.

(f) Emanuel School

Tijs Broeke be appointed to the Emanuel School.

9. THE LORD MAYOR'S GREEN BURSARY (WORKING TITLE)

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor outlining the proposal for the City Corporation to approve a new Lord Mayor's Green Bursary (working title) – funded by the Merchant Taylors' Foundation and the City & Guilds Foundation – which will support young Londoners to gain green skills and help their communities reach net zero.

The Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor summarised the paper by stating that it was a bursary proposed to help support 1-3 young Londoners in terms of green skills. Support for the initiative was sought for the next 5 years.

An Alderman reported that the Corporation were also running a 'Skills for a Sustainable Skyline' taskforce of which she was an active member and Chair of one of the Sub-Groups.

The focus here was examining the barriers to creating green skills for the Central London Construction industry. This would seem to link in well with this initiative with City & Guilds also being involved in the taskforce. The Alderman therefore asked that ways to join the two and better enforce the message be explored.

Another Alderman stated that other liveries such as the Gardeners were also running similar initiatives around green skills and questioned whether this would therefore be communicated more widely to perhaps serve as a template for future discussions. The Executive Director and Private Secretary stated that she would be happy to share this more widely in due course.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee approve the setting up of a Lord Mayor's Green Bursary.

10. MAYORAL PRIORITIES 2023-24 ALDERMAN PROFESSOR MICHAEL MAINELLI (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)

The Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor, the Director of Innovation & Growth, the Deputy Town Clerk and Chief Strategy Officer outlining the proposed 2023-24 Mayoral theme which will be championed, subject to election, by the next Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli.

Alderman Mainelli reported that he had been meeting with individual Aldermen to brief them on the proposed themes for his Mayoral year and encouraged all to reach out to him should they wish to discuss these any further. He reiterated that he was also keen for all to volunteer to get involved with his Sustainable Development Goals.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee note the 2023-2024 Mayoral Priorities as set out in this Report.

11. **SHRIEVAL PLAN 2023/24**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor outlining the proposed 2023-24 Shrieval Plan to be championed by the Sheriffs, Alderwoman Susan Langley & Alderman Bronek Masojada.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee note and endorse the Shrieval Plan for 2023/24.

12. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN: FUNDING FOR WARDMOTE LIVESTREAM PILOT**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Court of Aldermen, in accordance with Standing Order No. 46 (Court of Aldermen).

Alderman Luder thanked the Committee for their support with this trial which would be put in place for the electoral Wardmote being held in Castle Baynard tomorrow afternoon. He stated that he hoped that this would go some way to increasing interest in both electoral and annual Wardmotes and translate into more votes being cast going forward.

In response to a question, the Committee were informed that the link to the Wardmote had already been posted on the City's public webpages and had also been communicated to voters within the reminder notice issued recently.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee note the decision taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.46

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

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

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration.

15. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman

and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The Committee considered and approved the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 15 May 2023.

17. CATERING CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR MANSION HOUSE AND THE CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor relative to a catering contract extension for the Mansion House and Central Criminal Court.

18. STRATEGY GROUP 2 - INTERNAL PRIORITIES - UPDATE

Aldermanic Strategy Group 2 Members updated the Committee on their work pertaining to Internal Priorities.

19. SHERIFFS AND RECORDERS FUND

Alderman and Sheriff Alastair King spoke on the work of the Sheriffs and Recorders Fund and upcoming events.

20. ALDERMANIC STRATEGY MORNING

The Chairman and Deputy Chairman updated all on plans for the September Aldermanic Strategy Morning.

21. MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee received the minutes of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 June 2023.

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

There were no questions raised in the non-public session.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm

Chairman

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