

GRESHAM (CITY SIDE) COMMITTEE
Friday, 26 May 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Gresham (City Side) Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 26 May 2023 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley
Deputy Simon Duckworth
Deputy Christopher Hayward
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Alderwoman Susan Langley
Deputy Edward Lord
Wendy Mead
Deputy Henry Pollard
Deputy Nighat Qureishi
Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Deputy Philip Woodhouse

Officers:

Greg Moore	- Assistant Town Clerk
Ben Chen-Sverre	- Chamberlain's Department
Marie Renee	- Community & Children's Services Department
Paul Murtagh	- Community & Children's Services Department
Kirpal Kaur	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department

At the outset of the meeting, Alderman Vincent Keaveny was moved into the chair until the election of a Chair.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Alderman Nicholas Lyons.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee received the Order of the Court, dated 27 April 2023, appointing the Committee and setting its Terms of Reference.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chair in accordance with Standing Order No.29.

Deputy Edward Lord, being the only candidate expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Chair for the year ensuing.

The Chair thanked colleagues for their support and took the opportunity to welcome Deputy Henry Pollard and Alderwoman Susan Langley to their first meeting, following appointment to the Committee in April. The Chair also thanked Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley and Tijs Broeke, who had stepped down from the Committee, for their contributions.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chair in accordance with Standing Order No.30.

Deputy Nighat Qureishi, being the only candidate expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Deputy Chair for the year ensuing.

Deputy Qureishi thanked colleagues for their support.

Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Chairman

It was MOVED by Wendy Mead, seconded by Deputy Simon Duckworth, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

“That the Members of the Gresham Committee (City Side) express their sincere thanks to:

Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy

for the extremely able and courteous manner in which he has presided over its proceedings.

During his period of office, the City Corporation has benefitted from the considerable attention he has given to each aspect of the responsibilities which the City of London Corporation holds and shares with the Mercers’ Company, in the joint administration of the Will of Sir Thomas Gresham.

The Committee would like particularly to acknowledge Chris’ robust and unwavering support for Gresham College and the implementation of its new business plan during challenging times, including the substantial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the embedding of a new leadership structure to align with the business plan and funding deal.

He has been instrumental in supporting the College step up its income generating and partnership activities with City businesses as part of this, developing a more innovative role in deepening and widening links with the City’s own educational activities, cultural mission, and social impact.

Under Chris’ Chairmanship, the Committee has also continued to build on excellent relations with the Worshipful Company of Mercers which, despite the

interruptions and challenges caused by virtual meetings and social distancing during the pandemic, have truly gone from strength to strength.

We are certain that Chris will treasure fond memories of his Chairmanship, including events such as the award of the Freedom of the City to the world-renowned mathematical physicist and former Gresham Professor of Geometry, Sir Roger Penrose.

In taking leave of Chris as their Chairman, Members of this Committee wish to thank him for his service and stewardship of this historic Committee, and to wish him every possible success for the future.”

Deputy Christopher Hayward was heard in reply, thanking the Committee for its kind words and articulating the great privilege it had been to oversee the work of this committee. He reflected on the enormous value brought by Gresham College, as well as on the historic and valuable relationship with the Worshipful Company of Mercers, and offered his best wishes to his successor in overseeing the continuing endeavours of the City Side.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 24 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

7. **GRESHAM COLLEGE COUNCIL AND GRESHAM WORKING PARTY APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk inviting Members to consider the appointment of representatives on the Gresham College Council and to the Gresham Working Party. The Chair introduced the item and drew the Committee’s attention to the specific matters requiring the Committee’s consideration.

The Committee noted that there were three vacancies on the Gresham College Council, in the room of Deputy Chris Hayward, Tijs Broeke, and Deputy Keith Bottomley who had stepped down from the College Council. Expressions of interest were sought from Members and, following some discussion, Wendy Mead, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, and Deputy Nighat Qureishi, being the only Members indicating their willingness to serve, were duly appointed.

The Committee then considered the appointment of up to four Members to the Gresham Working Party. Expressions of interest were sought from Members, and Simon Duckworth, Deputy Henry Pollard, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, and Deputy Dr Giles Shilson were duly appointed, with it agreed that Simon Duckworth should continue to act as Chair.

RESOLVED: That the Gresham (City Side) Committee:

1. Agree to appoint Deputy Nighat Qureishi, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, and Wendy Mead to the Gresham College Council, for four-year terms expiring 2027.

2. Note and endorse the Committee's long-standing arrangement whereby the Chair (or such other Member as they may nominate in their absence) shall serve as one of the College Council's Vice Chairs and act as the City Side's "voting Member" where required.
3. Agree to appoint Simon Duckworth, Deputy Henry Pollard, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, and Deputy Dr Giles Shilson to the Gresham Working Party.
4. Endorse the standing delegated authority arrangements in respect of the Gresham Working Party, as set out in the report.

8. **GRESHAM ALMSHOUSES UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services which provided an update on the Gresham Almshouses.

The report also sought approval for funding in respect of the installation of CCTV and annual maintenance costs at the Almshouses. The Committee clarified that, whilst content to approve the installation costs of £2800 (plus VAT) from the Committee's contingency budget, the Committee was requesting the Chamberlain to incorporate the ongoing £128 annual maintenance fee within the overall annual budget.

RESOLVED: That the Committee:-

1. Notes the report.
2. Approves an allocation of £2800 from committee contingency to fund the installation of CCTV at the Gresham Almshouses.
3. Requests the Chamberlain to make provision for the annual maintenance costs of £128 within the annual budget allocation.

9. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE - SIR THOMAS GRESHAM CHARITIES**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain presenting the risk register for the Sir Thomas Gresham Charity. The Committee noted that there was one new risk identified since the previous submission.

RESOLVED: That the Committee confirms that the Risk Register satisfactorily sets out the risks faced by the charity and that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate those risks.

10. **REVENUE OUTTURN - 2022-23**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain presenting the 2022/23 revenue outturn for the Gresham (City Side) Committee.

The Committee noted that total net expenditure for 2022/23 amounted to £506,000, which represented a reduction of £33,000 (6%) when compared to the final net expenditure budget for the year of £539,000. This reduction was largely due to additional rent received of £19,000, a return of funds of £7,000

loaned to the college to fund the publication of Gresham's Law, and the contingency budget of £10,000 not being expended for that year.

Noting the potential calls for *ad hoc* funds which might be required in the coming year, the Chair proposed that the £33k be carried forward and put into the budget for this financial year. The Committee was supportive of this proposal.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The Chamberlain be asked to carry forward the £33k underspend for 2022/23 into the 2023/24 budget.
2. The report be noted.

11. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of two actions taken under delegated authority since the last meeting, relating to the appointments of Gresham Professors of Astronomy and Music.

Several Members took the opportunity to comment on the high calibre of applicants, as well as on the value of being involved in the interview processes. For the benefit of newer Members, it was flagged that this opportunity was open to all Members of the City Side and participation was encouraged greatly.

RECEIVED.

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

There were no questions.

13. ANY BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

There was no other business.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below which relate to functions of the Court of Common Council not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and which it is considered would not be in the best interests of the charity to disclose in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act).

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

16. CONDITION OF GRESHAM ALMSHOUSES

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services concerning the condition of the Gresham Almshouses and ongoing maintenance work.

17. CHARITIES REVIEW

The Committee was provided with an oral update in respect of the ongoing charities review activity.

18. JOINT GRAND GRESHAM COMMITTEE MATTERS - CITY SIDE CONSIDERATION

The Committee considered the various items on the agenda for the meeting of the Joint Grand Gresham Committee that day.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 11.25 am

Chairman

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