

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Tuesday, 16 July 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 16 July 2024 at
10.00 am

Present

Members:

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Sir William Russell (Chairman)
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (Deputy Chairman)
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Ald. Michael Mainelli
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons
Alderman Alastair King DL
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Gregory Jones KC
Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman & Sheriff Dame Susan Langley, DBE
Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Christopher Makin
Alderman Tim Levene
Alderwoman Jennette Newman
Alderwoman Martha Grekos
Alderman Simon Pryke

Officers:

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Sir Peter Estlin, Alderman and Sheriff Bronek Masojada and Alderman Kawsar Zaman.

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

Alderman Alastair King declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 17, stating that he was a trustee of the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

In accordance with Standing Orders No.11 and 12, the Committee elected its Chairman for 2024/25.

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 civic year (2024/25).

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

In accordance with Standing Orders No.14 and 16, the Committee elected its Deputy Chairman for 2024/25.

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 (2024/25).

[Alderman Sir Charles Bowman thanked the Committee for its support and moved into the chair]

5. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 14 May 2024.

Chairman's Congratulatory Remarks

The Deputy Chairman, on behalf of the Court of Aldermen, offered congratulations to Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons and Alderman Alison Gowman, CBE for having recently been recognised in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honors.

He went on to pay tribute to Alderwoman Susan Pearson for her service on the Court of Aldermen and noted that a formal Vote of Thanks would be moved at this afternoon's Court of Aldermen meeting.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 14 May 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. **APPOINTMENT: -**

The Committee considered one of its four Aldermanic appointments to the Planning and Transportation Committee following the retirement of Alderwoman Susan Pearson.

The Committee was also requested to consider an Aldermanic nomination to a vacancy on Emanuel School for the remainder of a term concluding in July

2026, in the room of Common Councillor Tijs Broeke who had recently stepped down from the role. Following conversations between the School and Chairman of this Committee, it had been suggested that an external appointee, might be well suited to take up the nomination, subject to the formal approval of the Court of Aldermen.

The Committee commented that it would be helpful to have further details of the skills and background of the proposed candidate circulated to all before approving the nomination. It was also suggested that it might be helpful to establish a mechanism for formal feedback given that the proposal on this occasion was for an external representative and to look again at the process by which nominations of this sort came forward.

RESOLVED: - That the Aldermen approve:

- (a) The appointment of Alderwoman-Elect Elizabeth King to the Planning & Transportation Committee for the remainder of the current civic year;
- (b) The Committee grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, to obtain and circulate further information about the proposed nominee for the Emanuel School vacancy and seek further comment on this before deciding whether to progress or delay further consideration until the next meeting.

7. PRESENTATION - THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY

The Deputy Chairman welcomed representatives of the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) – Tony Gabb, a veteran Squadron Commander and Captain of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, Major Iain Morpeth, also a veteran Squadron Commander and Vice President of the HAC, Colonel Howard Wilkinson, Regimental Colonel of the HAC and Chris Huxtable, Adjutant of the Company of Musketeers and Pikemen.

The HAC explained that they intended to present on the nature of the relationship between the City of London and the Honourable Artillery Company. It was reported that the current President of the HAC was the new Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Roley Walker.

They began by speaking of the HAC of relatively more modern times. It was acknowledged that, whilst the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers were perhaps the most familiar face of the HAC to many by virtue of the ceremonial role they undertook in the City, the HAC was fundamentally about the regiment in which all had served. Reference was made to the Second Boer War in the 1880s to which the HAC had sent 200 men to South Africa as part of the City Imperial Volunteers, raised and funded by the City under the guidance of the Lord Mayor, Sir Alfred Newton and the Court of Common Council. During that war, the HAC had lost 6 men. In the First World War the HAC raised three infantry battalions and seven artillery batteries with a total of over 13,000 members of the company serving either with the HAC or other unit. 4,000 members were commissioned into other units of the armed forces. More than 1650 members lost their lives in the War with their names commemorated on

war memorials all over Europe with the London Units in which they served engraved on the memorial outside the Royal Exchange. In the Second World War, the HAC raised three gunner regiments, one anti-aircraft regiment with the infantry battalion forming an Officer Cadet Training Unit. Here, over 700 men serving with the HAC and other units lost their lives. Since the Second World War and following the Reserve Forces Act 1997, which allowed reservists to be mobilised for theatres other than war. Members of the HAC have therefore served in UN peacekeeping duties in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly 25% of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers have served overseas in some capacity.

It was reported that the HAC was also a charity and affiliated with three Public School Combined Cadet Forces as well as supporting two local School Academy CCFs in Islington and Hackney. Aside from the Sword of Honour given for the best Officer Cadet by the Worshipful Company of Accountants, the HAC reported that they were financially unsupported by the Livery but acknowledged that they benefitted from Livery relations in many other ways.

The Committee were informed that the HAC comprised some 2,500 members of whom some 450 are active soldiers, 500 are non-regimental but ex-military from other units, 1500 veterans and 50 associated members, a new category for partners of long-serving members.

The HAC reported that their formal start date was 25th August 1537 – just over 13 years short of 500 years ago – when King Henry VIII gave the overseers of the fraternity of the Guild of St George a Royal Charter and Letters Patent authorising them to establish a corporation for the defence of the realm and to be known as the Fraternity or Guild of Artillery. This date made the HAC the second oldest military body in the western world. The use of the word Honourable seems to have crept in from the 1680s before being confirmed by Queen Victoria in 1860. Following its formation at a time before England had a standing army, The Guild of St George became the Artillery Company of London under Queen Elizabeth I. During Elizabeth I's reign, better regulations concerning the militia, a citizen arm came into force which in London relied upon Wards to provide the manpower with the Lord Mayor and Aldermen fulfilling the roles of the Lord Lieutenant and appointed officers of the four trained bands. Due to the requirements placed on the City by the Crown, a symbiotic relationship evolved between the City, the trained bands and the Artillery Company and the HAC's relationship with the City flourished with orders in Council in 1612 directing the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to select the officers of the Artillery Company. During the reign of Charles I, further orders in 1632 required all officers of the trained band to be enrolled in the Artillery Company and in 1633 the Court of Aldermen established the Court of Assistants to the Artillery Company providing them with rules and orders for the company's governance. During the 17th and 18th century, the offices of President and Vice President of the HAC were almost invariably held by Aldermen and, over time, some 120 Lord Mayors have become members of the HAC, of whom 5 have served since 1943. Although not members per se, this continued to date with the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen and the Recorder of

London deemed to be honorary members of the Court and eligible to sit in on Court meetings at any time.

The Committee were informed of the history of the company during the Civil Wars. It was reported that, at some point, all members of the HAC were required to be Freemen of the City which continued until 1778. The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers had recently welcomed 9 new members admitted to the Freedom as a group which the HAC continued to encourage as did the Court of Assistants with new members of the Court.

The Committee were informed that it was during the 1640s that the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers took their form as seen today. During the Civil Wars, the Artillery Company did not participate as a formal body. Following the restoration, members of the HAC and the London trained bands were to form what was to become the core of the Royal Marines at Armoury House 360 years ago. In 1772, the HAC were called in to separate factions rioting at Guildhall on a charge of election manipulation on behalf of John Townsend who was made Mayor that year as opposed to the notorious John Wilkes who went on to become Lord Mayor 2 years later but went on to damage his reputation by ordering the picket guard sent to protect the Bank of England to fire on rioters during the Gordon riots in 1780. Following these riots, the HAC were awarded two brass cannons by the Court of Aldermen for its part in quelling rioters. These are on display at the entrance way of Armoury House. Shortly afterwards, with the complete reorganisation of the regiment in 1781, the authority of the Court of Aldermen appears to have changed and to be taken over by the HAC. That said, it would appear that the HAC still look to the Court of Aldermen on all matters of substance until at least the beginning of the 20th century.

The HAC reported that they were extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to talk on the very long and close relationship between the Company and this Honourable Court and why Aldermen still continued to receive HAC Court papers. They emphasised that they were keen to continue to foster the support and approval of the Court of Aldermen which was of the upmost importance to the wellbeing of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers. They welcomed questions from the floor.

An Alderman queried what the Court of Aldermen could do to maintain this rich tradition of such close connections going forward. It was reported that this was high on the agenda of the Vice President at present and that internal discussions had already been held as to reestablishing an annual lunch for the Court of Aldermen, particularly for new Aldermen as a means of welcoming them to the HAC.

An Alderman commented that some on the Court had close links to defence and security and encouraged the HAC to make particular connections here. The HAC welcomed this suggestion, highlighting that they were effectively ambassadors for defence outside of the military. They also welcomed any relevant Livery Company links in this respect.

Another Alderman commented that it would be useful for this Committee to provide some context, particularly to new Alderman, as to the relationship with the HAC and the reasons behind them receiving HAC Court agenda papers and any expectations as to attendance here. It was noted that the HAC Court meeting held on the Tuesday after Lord Mayor's Show Day was of particular interest given that the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs presented here and that the Aldermen were also invited to a Mess dinner and a St George's Day dinner each year.

An Alderman, also SABTAC, commented that he had been in conversation with the Regimental Secretary of the HAC to seek to reintroduce an annual dinner at the Mansion House for the benefit of the HAC and their relations with the Court of Aldermen and wider Court of Common Council. It is hoped that this could take place in the Spring/Summer of 2025.

Another Alderman queried the HAC's engagement with the wider Livery. It was reported that there was an HAC Livery Association and that this had a significant number of members, including previous Lord Mayor Sir Clive Martin. There was also a civic dinner at which approximately 30% of Livery Companies were represented by their Masters making this a very material touch point.

An Alderman questioned the current role and background to the HAC Special Constabulary. The HAC reported that the detachment was in suspension at the moment because the City of London Police had decided to discontinue the role that the detachment had been providing. This was currently under review with a view to finding a redirected role and being able to take the detachment out of suspension. The Town Clerk expressed his keenness to be involved in future conversations on this. The HAC added that they were very keen to continue to provide training facilities for the City of London Police cadets

An Alderman spoke on reserve forces and what city firms could do to support reservists serving in the armed forces. He stated that there might be a role for the Court of Aldermen in this respect.

Another Alderman spoke of the City Schools – both its independent schools and multi-academy trust schools – he queried what more might be done to foster relations between these and the HAC with particular reference to CCFs and use of facilities/sports field. The HAC underlined that the HAC effectively sponsored two Cadet Units within Islington at present – one at COLAI and one at Mossbourne. They commented that both had been an enormous success and that they would therefore welcome discussions around exploring this further for the City schools mentioned.

The Deputy Chairmen drew discussions to a close and thanked all for a very comprehensive and constructive debate. He underlined the Court of Aldermen's sense of commitment to continuing to support the HAC and recommended that a small working group form to meet with the HAC to examine how best to take forward points raised today. It was suggested that this be made up of Alderman Levene, Alderman Edhem, Alderman Gowman, Alderman Hughes-Penney, Alderman Barr and Alderman Jones.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF AN HONORARY COLLECTOR OF TOLL ON WINE**

The Committee considered a report of the City Remembrancer outlining the historic role and duties of the Collector of Toll on Wine at Customs House and recommending that provision be made for the title to be recreated in an honorary capacity.

The City Remembrancer reported that since the time of writing this report, he had held further conversations with the Lord Mayor, who had stated that, should the appointment be approved, he would be minded to consider someone from the hospitality industry as opposed to the tax industry for the role given the wine connection. He reiterated that this would be an honorary position only.

The Lord Mayor added that the idea behind reviving positions such as these was as a means by which to honour people doing good work in and around the City. He reported that the two Water Bailiffs already appointed had carried out fantastic work cleaning up the river and supporting the view of the Thames and Thames Day.

RESOLVED: - That Members agree that the Lord Mayor may appoint an honorary Collector of Toll on Wine in order to honour a senior figure in the taxation industry.

9. **BRIDGEMASTERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk outlining briefly the role and duties of the Bridgemaster, one of the historic offices of the City Corporation which has some element of interaction with the Court of Aldermen.

Following the recent electoral contest at Common Hall for the office of Bridgemaster, and in response to several queries around process and background that arose therefrom, the report was intended to be a means of advancing a shared understanding of the history of the office and the respective remits of the executive bodies of the City Corporation (i.e., the Court of Common Council, Common Hall, and the Court of Aldermen) in relation to it.

The Lord Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for providing this clarification. He added that he would be keen to see the holders of these offices rotate regularly going forward as another means by which to recognise the good work of individuals within the charity sphere. He added that he was not of the view that the appointee should come solely from within the City Bridge Foundation.

An Alderman suggested that a similar approach might be taken to the position of AleConner going forward for the reasons already articulated.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted and its content received.

10. **MAYORAL PRIORITIES 2024-25 ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (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 the Chief Strategy Officer outlining the proposed mayoral theme to be championed, subject to election, by the Lord Mayor of London 2024-25, Alderman Alastair King.

It was highlighted that the Mayoral Theme – Growth Unleashed – was intended to empower the City and its communities to seize opportunities, maximise growth and succeed. The report set out the final version of the theme and key activities that will be undertaken during the Mayoral year, following the preliminary ‘high-level’ theme that was agreed at previous meetings of this committee.

Alderman King highlighted that he had linked in with what the City of London Corporation had already done around its Vision for Economic Growth and also its City Belonging Project – seeking to add the Mayoral Theme to already established foundations. He added that he had held numerous events in recent months to help stress test the proposed theme and seek input on this and anticipated output from the wider City. He highlighted that there was a forthcoming Mayoral Theme event planned specifically for the under 40s so as to capture the City’s rising stars both in the Financial and Professional Services sphere but also in the voluntary sector.

Alderman King went on to report that he was also working alongside the Lord Mayor’s Appeal to try and raise money from various different, specific communities during his Mayoral year. He also spoke on joined up thinking and referred to string links between his own theme and that of Sir Nicholas Lyons who had focused on ‘Financing our Future’ and also with what the current Lord Mayor was doing around new technologies. There was also now an agreement amongst the next three Aldermen like to become Lord Mayor that all would continue to promote the growth agenda.

Finally, Alderman King spoke of launching 15 new employee resource networks within the City and also referenced launching the Lord Mayor’s Award in his Mayoral Year – this would cut across all of his proposed strands of work and recognise and celebrate real excellence.

The Deputy Chairman noted that the Court of Aldermen would also have a session on the Mayoral Theme, particularly the communities element of this, ahead of their next meeting in September.

RESOLVED:- That Members note the 2024-2025 Mayoral Priorities as set out in this Report.

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

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration.
13. **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.
14. **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 14 May 2024.
15. **PRESENTATION ON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SECTOR - ALDERMEN BARR, HOWARD AND PRYKE**
Aldermen Barr, Howard and Pryke gave a presentation on the Investment Management Sector.
16. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND POTENTIAL DISQUALIFICATION FOR ABSENCE**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive concerning leaves of absence and potential disqualification for absence.
17. **ASSOCIATED REGIMENT STATUS: THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Remembrancer setting out the case for the conferring on the Royal Regiment of Scotland the status of an Associated Regiment of the City of London.
18. **ALDERMANIC AWAYDAY PLANS**
The Committee were updated on Aldermanic Awayday Plans for September 2024.
19. **ALDERMANIC STRATEGY GROUP THREE UPDATE**
Aldermanic Strategy Group Three updated the Committee on progress on the 'Court of Aldermen 2024' document.
20. **KEY COMMITTEE ISSUES**
Aldermen were given the opportunity to report on recent, wider Committee issues of strategic importance.
21. **MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**
The Committee received the minutes of the last meeting of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee held on 7 June 2024.
22. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Questions relating to Annual Wardmotes were raised.

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

Matters relating to staffing at the Old Bailey and updates on the Lord Mayor's Programme of events were raised.

The meeting ended at 12.13 pm

Chairman

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