

GRESHAM (CITY SIDE) COMMITTEE
Friday, 2 June 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Gresham (City Side) Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Friday, 2 June 2017 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Simon Duckworth
Deputy John Bennett
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Wendy Mead (Chief Commoner)
John Scott

Officers:

Philippa Sewell	-	Town Clerk's Department
Julie Cornelius	-	Town Clerk's Department
Alan Bennetts	-	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Wendy Giaccaglia	-	Community & Children's Services Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Alderman Ian Luder, Nicholas Bensted-Smith, Christopher Hayward and Deputy Tom Hoffman.

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 an Order of the Court of Common Council of 27 April 2017 appointing the Committee and approving its Terms of Reference.

RECEIVED.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No.29. The Town Clerk read a list of Members eligible to stand and Deputy Dr Giles Shilson, being the only Member who expressed his willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

The Chairman welcomed Chris Hayward, Deputy Edward Lord and Nick Bensted-Smith to the Committee, and thanked outgoing Members Brian Harris, Anthony Eskenzi and Ian Seaton for their service.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman pursuant to Standing Order No. 30. Simon Duckworth, as the immediate past Chairman, in Common Council and willing to serve, was accordingly declared as the Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: THAT the Members of the Gresham (City Side) Committee express their sincere thanks to:

SIMON DUCKWORTH, O.B.E., D.L.

for the diligent, knowledgeable and enthusiastic manner in which he has presided over their proceedings since first being elected as Chairman in May 2014.

DURING his period of office he has given considerable attention to every aspect of the responsibilities which the City of London Corporation shares with the Mercers' Company in the joint administration of the Will of Sir Thomas Gresham.

EVERY effort has been made on his part to maintain excellent relations with the Mercers' Side, and his contribution to overseeing the Royal Exchange and Gresham College has always been informed and pertinent. Simon has been instrumental in commissioning the first biography of Sir Thomas Gresham since 1925, and the Committee thanks him for ensuring funding was in place from the Corporation and for his judgement when negotiating between the City Side and Mercers' Side.

THE Chairman has shown great interest in supporting the continued success of Gresham College. He has taken every opportunity to promote the work of the College, working with co-sponsors and other Members of the City of London Corporation to ensure that the College has been supported in its ambitions and vision for growth. During his term of office the College has grown substantially, with attendance at lectures remaining consistently high and the College now looking for larger premises.

AT the conclusion of his service as their Chairman, the Committee would like to thank him for his cordial and humorous chairmanship, the intelligent contribution he has made to the accomplishments of the Committee and his generous hospitality, and wishes him good health and happiness in the future.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 10 February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

7. **GRESHAM WORKING PARTY REPRESENTATIVES**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appointment of Members to the Gresham Working Party.

RESOLVED - That:

- a) the Terms of Reference of the Gresham Working Party be noted;
- b) the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Deputy Edward Lord and Mr John Scott be appointed to the Gresham Working Party; and
- c) the delegated authority procedures detailed in the report be endorsed.

8. **GRESHAM COLLEGE COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk regarding City Side appointments to Gresham College Council. At the previous meeting in February, the Committee Members had agreed that more visible segregation from an external viewpoint was required between Members in their roles as funders and as directors of the College. As such, the report proposed that College Council representatives be appointed from the wider Court of Common Council membership (not from the Gresham Committee), either by the Court of Common Council directly or by the Gresham (City Side) Committee.

Members discussed various options for appointing Members to the College Council, and the following points were raised:

- Educational expertise was abundant within the wider Court Membership, although specific knowledge about Gresham College was limited. However, this could be an opportunity to involve more Members and raise the profile of the College within the Court.
- Although the number of Members volunteering for Outside Bodies was limited, the Committee felt that educational institutions, and Gresham College in particular, would spark a higher level of interest.
- Segregating the decision-making as funders and decision-making on behalf of the College was good practice and good governance.

The proposal to allow current Corporation appointees to the College Council to continue in office until the expiration of their terms was discussed. After due consideration, it was decided that it would be in the interests of all parties for the roles to be separated prior to substantive discussion of future funding arrangements in 2018. It was therefore agreed that such Members should step down from the College Council at the earliest convenient opportunity, once successors from the Court had been found.

RESOLVED – That:

- a) the principle of separating the two roles at the earliest opportunity be agreed, with future Corporation appointments to the College Council to be drawn from the wider membership of the Court (not to include members of the City Side Committee); and
- b) that clarity be sought over the position of those Gresham (City Side) Committee Members who were currently members of the College's Working Parties, in the hope that they might continue in those roles despite stepping down from the College Council.

9. **GRESHAM ALMSHOUSES UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services regarding the Gresham Almshouses. Members discussed the report, noting the recent improvements work that had been carried out. In terms of the

ongoing Improvement Plan, Members were advised that the Sheltered Housing Manager was due to meet with the City Surveyor later in the month.

With regard to vacancies, officers advised that these were advertised on all social housing estates within the square mile and, if no suitable applications were received, officers approached residents in the City of London Almshouses who had expressed interest in moving. The Town Clerk advised that, as the Almshouses were situated in Brixton, most eligible residents did not want to move there as they wanted to remain within the City.

Members noted the result of the recent review of the Pets Policy and expressed their disappointment that there were not enough residents in favour of a change at this time. Members discussed the benefits of pet ownership, for mental health and for companionship, and agreed that, although the current Pet Policy would remain in force for the meantime, it should be reviewed again in the near future.

In response to a question regarding the summer garden event, officers advised that said a date had not yet been set, but Trustees would be notified within the next couple of weeks.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

11. **ANY BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

There was no other business.

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2017 be approved as a correct record, subject to one amendment.

14. **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.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was one item of other business.

The meeting ended at 11.15 am

Chairman

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