

MARKETS COMMITTEE
Tuesday 28 February 2012

Minutes of the meeting of the MARKETS COMMITTEE held at Guildhall, EC2 on TUESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2012 at 1.45pm.

Present: Members

Mark Boleat (In the Chair)	
Deputy John Barker	Deputy Stanley Ginsburg
Nigel Challis	Alderman Gordon Haines
John Chapman	Brian Harris
Deputy Stella Currie	Michael Hudson
Peter Dunphy	Deputy Henry Jones
Deputy Robin Eve	Deputy Joyce Nash
Marianne Fredericks	Deputy Robin Sherlock

Officers

Rakesh Hira	Town Clerk's Department
Peter Lisley	Town Clerk's Department
Mathew Lawrence	Town Clerk's Department
Debbie Howard	Chamberlain's Department
Alan Bennetts	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Andrew Wild	City Surveyor's Department
David Smith	Director of Markets & Consumer Protection
Donald Perry	Markets & Consumer Protection Department
Malcolm Macleod	Superintendent, Billingsgate Market
Robert Wilson	Superintendent, Smithfield Market
Nigel Shepherd	Superintendent, Spitalfields Market
Andrew Buckingham	Public Relations Office

In attendance

Liz Batteson, Smithfield Markets Tenants Association	(For items 1 – 5 only)
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1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Hugh Morris, Deputy John Bennett, John Brewster, Alex Deane, Deputy Pauline Halliday, Michael Henderson-Begg, Deputy Keith Knowles, Robert Merrett, Michael Page, Elizabeth Rogula, Alderman Sir Michael Savory, John Spanner and James Tumbridge

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING

Michael Hudson declared a non-prejudicial interest in respect of item 8.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 23 January 2012 were approved subject to the following amendments:

- Under the section on Members present at the previous meeting the name Alex *Dane* be corrected to read Alex *Deane* and the spelling of Alderman Sir Michael *Savoury* be corrected to read Alderman Sir Michael *Savory*.
- The third paragraph, under Item 6, second sentence be amended from “The meeting had been very productive and *enforced* high standards...” to “The meeting had been very productive and *endorsed* high standards...”

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

Cancellation of 6 March 2012 Markets Committee meeting

A discussion took place on the recent decision to cancel the March meeting. It was noted that the meeting had been cancelled due to insufficient business and that a decision on the Billingsgate Porters Buyout was required before the 6 March meeting. The Chairman made reference to the non-public minutes where it had been agreed that the Director of Markets, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, be delegated authority to finalise the new lease agreements with tenants at Billingsgate Market.

The Chairman explained that if Members wished to hold a Committee meeting then it would be accommodated, as had been done on this occasion.

Recent Court Cases

A discussion took place on Members being informed on court cases relating to the Markets, which had not been brought by either the City or the FSA. A vote took place and 8 Members voted in favour of **not** receiving such information, 2 Members voted in favour of receiving the information.

RESOLVED – That Members would not receive information on court cases relating to the Markets unless the prosecution was brought by either the City or the FSA.

Smithfield Lease Renewals Update

In answer to specific points made by a Member, the Director gave an update on the Smithfield Lease Renewals. He explained that, following the Court Directions issued after the 18 October Case Management Conference; both parties had been directed to exchange their witness statements ahead of the Preliminary Issues Hearing by 23 December 2011. The City had been ready to exchange by that date but the SMTA had requested an extension of time, which had been granted. Further extensions of time had subsequently been granted but, by the beginning of February, the City had been obliged to apply to Court for a final date by which the witness statements should be exchanged and, if they were not, that the Preliminary Issues should be found in the City's favour. The Court granted the City's application with a Final Order. It was noted that the SMTA had been ordered to pay £1,000 to the City Corporation for covering its legal costs. In response to a question by a Member it was pointed out that the remaining legal costs would be covered by the budget for the lease negotiations.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Charity Fundraising Event

The Director reported that some £200,000 had been raised from the recent 'Square Mile Salute' charity fundraising Dinner in Guildhall and thought that Members would wish to know that two of the driving forces behind the event had been tenants at Billingsgate Market (Mr Jeff Steadman of Chamberlain & Thelwell) and Smithfield Market (Mr Gordon Hogg of Gordon Meats and Finclass). A Member thanked the tenants for taking out their own time to contribute to the event which had benefited a number of Armed Forces charities.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business 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 as follows:-

Item No. Paragraphs	Exempt
7 – 9	3

Part 2 – Non-Public Agenda

7. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2012 were agreed.

8. BILLINGSGATE PORTERS BUYOUT

The Committee considered and agreed a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection.

9. SMITHFIELD LEASE RENEWALS UPDATE

The Director of Markets and Consumer Protection provided a verbal update on the Smithfield lease renewals which was also covered under item 4.

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

A question was raised relating to the impact of the 2012 Olympics on the three Markets.

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

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm

CHAIRMAN

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