**MINUTES OF THE WARDMOTE**

**HELD AT NOON ON WEDNESDAY 16TH MARCH 2016**

**AT DRAPERS’ HALL**

1. The Beadle opened the Wardmote in the usual manner.
2. The Alderman welcomed all to the Wardmote, and thanked the Worshipful Company of Drapers for the use of their Hall. He then commented on the Lord Mayor’s activities over the past year and also on the progress of the Angel Court development, acknowledging it winning the Lord Mayor’s Cup and achieving over 1 million working hours with no serious injuries.
3. Next the Alderman appointed Mr John Bennett as the Ward Deputy for the year ensuing.
4. The Alderman appointed Mr Adrian Smallwood as Honorary Ward Clerk for the year ensuing.
5. The current Beadle, Mr Terry Taylor, is retiring from his position as he is moving to France. There was one nomination for the role of Ward Beadle, Mr George Martin, who was appointed for the ensuing year.
6. The Alderman then invited the Common Councilmen to address the Wardmote.

Mr Bennett began his address by pointing out that the City of London Corporation is governed more by committees than a cabinet. He made specific mention of his committee and trustee roles on the Policy and Resources Committee, the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee and also being Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Mr Bennett then addressed two specific matters. Firstly, regarding the concert hall at the Barbican, where Sir Simon Rattle has been appointed as the next Music Director of the London Symphony Orchestra, the resident orchestra. The Barbican’s concert hall is not a modern world class symphony hall, and indeed London does not have one. The City of London Corporation has embraced the need to have one and has recently completed a feasibility study and have been asked to take the project further to an Outline Business Case into relocating the Museum of London to Smithfield so that the current Museum site can be redeveloped into a new symphony hall. Mr Bennett also mentioned that the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama is about to retire and he is involved in the search and appointment of his successor.

Mr Bennett’s second matter regarded shredder vans, which pose an environmental hazard from toxic fumes and also very noisy. There has been a proposal to ban their use in the City, but statistics show that only 40% of shredding activity happens on site within the City, and where it does so, it is on private property (and therefore beyond the reach of a ban). He mentioned that the main shredder operator was working with the City of London Corporation to reduce the amount of on-site shredding.

Mr Scott spoke about his current roles at the City of London Corporation. In relation to the scheme to build a new concert hall, as mentioned by Mr Bennett, he too is involved. In particular, in his role as both a member of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee also a member of the Board of The Museum of London he is looking at options to relocate the Museum of London to the General Market of West Smithfield. Expressions of Interest have just been issued to architects in that regard.

Mr Scott also drew attention to his other roles. He is Chairman of the Markets Committee, where he has instigated a strategic review of all markets which, amongst other things, will look at the appropriateness of their current locations. He is also a member of the Board of Governors Guildhall School of Music and Drama, the Joint Grand Gresham Committee and the Thames Festival Trust.

Mr Hayward highlighted his nominated membership of the Planning and Transportion Committee and Finance Committees, and his election by the Court of Common Councilmen to the Licensing Committee and Education Board. He also has membership of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls and Bridewell Royal Hospital, the Special Projects Sub-Committee, Member Development of Common Councilmen, and the Honourable Irish Society.

He drew attention to some issues he has dealt with from his Committee roles which were relevant for the Ward. With regard to the Planning & Transportation Committee, he noted that the redevelopment of Angel Court meant that the Ward List of electors was temporarily reduced by about 100; that the works at Austin Friars, 8-10 Moorgate and Telegraph Street were complete, and that there was a proposal to redevelop 60 London Wall. With regard to the Finance Committee, the City of London Business Rates Premium was going to rise by £0.01 next year (having remained static for the past nine years) in order to pay for the increases in costs to the City of London Police from measures to address the threat of Paris-style attacks.

1. Following the addresses, the Alderman asked if there were any questions from any voters present.

The only question came from Mr Ian Hillier-Brook of MCO Europe Ltd, asking whether it is possible to stop smokers and vapers from blocking and leaving litter on the footpaths along New Broad Street.

The Alderman first answered the question proposing that the matter be submitted as a Resolution to the Grand Court of Wardmote in order to ensure the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee addressed it. This was carried unanimously.

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Mr Bennett also responded to the question pointing out that dropping litter was an offence and that the City of London Corporation has installed lots of cigarette bins on lampposts around the City. He observed that the outcome of the Resolution to the Grand Court of Wardmote would probably give rise to additional patrols.

1. Next the Alderman invited Luke Joyce and Simon Glynn of the Department of the Built Environment, City of London Corporation to receive the congratulations and thanks from the Ward for the successful delivery of the public realm works at Austin Friars.

Mr Glynn gratefully received the thanks of the Ward and went on to explain that there is currently an experimental traffic control order in place to restrict vehicle movements in Austin Friars between 11.00am and 4.00pm so that the area is totally pedestrianized.

Mr Scott also spoke and addressed a point regarding the City of London Corporation’s policy of immediate removal of graffiti from bollards, as has been necessary in Austin Friars and also New Broad Street.

1. The Alderman then spoke about Charitable work within the City, noting the Lord Mayor’s ‘Dragon Awards’ and the City Giving Day promoted by the City of London Corporation, which was seeking to raise participation from 200 to 400 companies by the next event on 27th September 2016. He encouraged the audience to participate, not only with the benefit of public recognition on the front page of the City AM newspaper, but also that participation can be easily achieved with little outlay by supporting The Brokerage Citylink. With that, he then invited the guest speaker, Ms Rosa Morgan-Baker, Senior Programme Manager at The Brokerage Citylink, to give her presentation titled “What difference can an hour make? Volunteer opportunities for your organisation”.

Ms Morgan-Baker gave her presentation, which initially covered some background to the charity’s activities. The charity is 20 years old and supports students from Year 6 up to undergraduates from all parts of Greater London. Its main purpose is to give exposure of City life, businesses and careers to students by means of free workshops. All that the charity requests from supporters is that they provide a meeting room for a workshop and also support their staff in volunteering an hour of their time to be interviewed by students.

1. The Alderman then thanked Ms Morgan-Baker for her presentation and then delivered some “parish notices” regarding the Ward Club, and the Ward’s new website and Twitter account.
2. With no more business before the Wardmote, Mr Bennett proposed a vote of thanks to the Alderman for presiding at the Wardmote. This was seconded by Mr Scott and passed unanimously.
3. Mr Hayward then proposed a vote of thanks to the Master and Worshipful Company of Drapers for the use of their Hall. This was seconded by Mr Bennett and passed unanimously.
4. Finally, the Beadle closed the Wardmote in the usual manner.

**ALDERMAN**

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