

21st March 2019

At the Court of Wardmote held at the The Parish Hall, St Botolph's Churchyard, London, EC on 21st March 2019 before the Right Honourable Baroness Patricia Janet Scotland of Asthal, PC, QC, GCMCO, Alderman of this Ward.

The Alderman welcomed electors to this annual Wardmote and explained that following the appointments of the Deputies and the Honorary Ward Clerk and the election of Ward Beadles, the Common Councilmen would be invited to address the Ward and electors would then have an opportunity to raise questions

Minutes of the previous Wardmotes of 19th and 20th March 2018 having previously been circulated, were unanimously approved by the Wardmote.

The Alderman appointed her Deputy for the Ward Within, being Wendy Marilyn Hyde and her Deputy for the Ward Without, being Thomas Charles Christopher Sleigh, for the ensuing year.

The Alderman then appointed Mr T R Morris as Honorary Ward Clerk for the ensuing year,

The Alderman nominated Mr Joseph Akoto Mensah as Beadle for the Ward Within and Mr James Shrubbs as Beadle for the Ward Without and they were unanimously elected by those present to represent this Ward for the ensuing year.

Before inviting each Common Councilman to address the Wardmote, the Alderman expressed her gratitude to these Councillors for their work on behalf of both this Ward and the City of London throughout the previous year and to the Church of St Botolph Without Bishopsgate in permitting us to use their hall.

Deputy Wendy Hyde then addressed the meeting about her work in relation the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee and in particular concerning air pollution in the City and the steps being taken to monitor air quality and improve it where possible. A particular success was the improved air quality now recorded around Sir John Cass Primary School. She also mentioned the lunch time briefing scheduled for 8th April for those interested in learning more about this topic. In addition she mentioned the activities of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and referred members to the website where details of the increased number of outside activities including the monthly food market in Guildhall Yard are published.

Common Councilman Shravan Joshi then spoke about his work with planning, licencing and schools committees but in particular mentioned the

good relationship enjoyed between the City and Transport for London (TfL). This had enabled improvements to be made in relation to Bishopsgate which as a “red route” is controlled by TfL. Bus traffic on this route had been reduced by 12% and general traffic reduction at Bank Junction had been achieved, although this did involve an increase of traffic along Bishopsgate. He also mentioned the TfL consultation being held in Guildhall on 2nd April 2019.

Common Councilman Andrew Mayer then addressed the meeting about his work in relation to the preparations for BREXIT and the City’s preparations for whatever outcome might be achieved. An international regulations support group had been established to advise organisations and businesses and to review areas of potential exposure. A team will work in Brussels to negotiate solutions in areas of critical uncertainty.

Deputy Tom Sleight then spoke about his activities as a vice chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and chairman of the Property Investment Board. Property assets of the City provide 60% of its annual income and so are crucial to its financial wellbeing. He also mentioned his work on the Members Diversity Working Party which is making recommendations concerning all parts of the City.

Common Councilman Simon Duckworth who was now the Deputy Chairman of the Corporation’s lead Policy & Resources Committee explained that he was consequentially serving on 16 committees or working groups and was therefore involved in particularly broad areas of City activities. While the role involved high level engagement activity in relation to the City’s role within financial services, he also chose to speak about his work on the Police Committee where he represents the City’s Police Authority in two National Boards. Given the City Police have national responsibility for economic crime which is believed to be in the region of £100 billion a year, its work in combatting illegal financial and economic activities is hugely important locally, nationally and internationally.

Common Councilman Ben Murphy spoke about the newly formed Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Begging Sub-Committee, which brings together Council services, charities, health providers, drug and alcohol rehabilitation teams, police and others to address root causes and provide pathways off the streets for those in need. Rough sleeping had increased by more than 80% in the past year, much of which happens in Bishopsgate. He also outlined the success being achieved through Operation Luscombe, which is a combined operation across City Police, British Transport Police and the Metropolitan Police and has seen a reduction in begging from over 30 individuals to about 2, with monthly pop-up hubs run by City Police in Bishopsgate. In addition he also mentioned that Network Rail had now agreed to make the toilets in Liverpool Street Station free of charge from April 2019.

The Alderman spoke of her work as Secretary General with the Commonwealth Secretariat which covers 53 countries, involving 2.4 billion people of which 60% are under 30 years old. London is the global centre of this organisation and it hosted the Commonwealth Heads of State meeting last year. The Commonwealth currently generates trade at a level of £585 Billion which is estimated to increase to £700 billion, further increasing to £2

trillion by 2030. Historically London has been the bridge between all these countries and there are tremendous opportunities for us regardless of future trading arrangements in Europe, not least as Africa is creating a new continental free trade area. Her office has created a Commonwealth access hub to encourage better responses for providing climate change finance, a portal for disaster risk finance, insurance opportunities and are also looking at a diaspora investment survey, a Commonwealth Blue Charter to enable work to be undertaken to save our oceans and to encourage global co-operation. Many current issues affecting our City such as trade, finance, terrorism and climate change have international origins and implications and should not therefore be addressed in isolation.

Chief Inspector Jess Wynne was then invited to address the meeting and gave a brief overview of current counter terrorism measures. He explained that after the atrocities in 2017, 2018 had been a better year but threats are constant and the current threat level is graded as “severe” as incidents from Far Right groups and individuals, have been added to the risks from radicalised Islamists. However counter terrorism advisers are now working with businesses and organisations and specialists are making unpredictable deployments, in order to maintain vigilance. He also mentioned the success of Operation Luscombe, as explained by Ben Murphy and said that working with TfL they were working towards “Vision Zero” where there would be no deaths resulting from collisions or road accidents in the City. He did however mention that crime had increased in the Ward by 30% but this might partly be due to increased reporting standards and the growing night time economy in the Ward, with more bars and restaurants. He re-assured the meeting that the Ward and the City are still basically safe places to work and reside and the police are continuing to work to preserve that situation.

In responding to that point the Alderman mentioned the Commonwealth’s activities to encourage inclusivity and in particular its “Peace at the Crease” inter religion cricket match. Our success with the Olympic Games in 2012 was in part due to our open welcome to all nationalities. Businesses and City organisations should foster such attitudes and encourage the sharing of ideas and giving equal respect to all.

Deputy Tom Sleigh, then proposed a vote of thanks to the Alderman for her courtesy and ability in presiding at these proceedings and this was seconded by Deputy Wendy Hyde and unanimously approved by the Wardmote.

The Alderman replied and thanked Deputy Sleigh and Deputy Hyde and thanked all those who had attended reminding them that both she and all the Common Councilmen were open to hear any questions or problems concerning the Ward at any time should electors wish to get in touch.

There being no further business the proceedings were closed at 12.55pm