18th March 2026

At the Court of Wardmote held at The Courtyard Room, the Bishopsgate Institute London EC2M 4QH before Alderman Kawsar Zaman, Alderman of this Ward.

The Alderman welcomed electors and Common Councilmen to this annual Wardmote.

Minutes of the previous Wardmote of 19th March 2025 having previously been circulated, were unanimously approved by this Wardmote.

The Alderman announced the appointment of his two Deputies for the ensuing year being Tom Sleigh for the Ward Within and Benjamin Murphy for the Ward Without.

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

The Alderman then nominated two persons to be Ward Beadles being Christopher Watson for the Ward Within and Aniru Shyllon for the Ward Without and they were unanimously elected by the voters in attendance at this Wardmote.

The Alderman noted that apologies had been received from Deputy Tom Sleigh and Karina Dostalova but invited the four Common Councilmen present to address the meeting about their respective activities on behalf of this Ward and also invited the electorate to raise questions of these Councilmen.

Deputy Benjamin Murphy, spoke firstly about his work on the City of London Police Authority Board. He was pleased to report an 11% decrease in reported thefts and a 10% reduction in reported sexual offences. Drug offences in the Ward had peaked over the Christmas period, however, drugs are often discovered at the point of searching individuals in custody and with Bishopsgate Police Station in the ward, the numbers seem higher than some other wards in the City for that reason. The police and City Corporation licensing teams have been focused on the night-time economy, with specific schemes focused on safety of women and girls. This has included police officers offering walk and talk patrols for those who live and work in Bishopsgate. The City of London remains the safest place to live and work in the country and recent PEEL inspections have evidenced excellence in service provision.

As Chair of the Corporation Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee he mentioned his work in overseeing the Corporation`s portfolio of 350 major projects valued at £2.7bn and the transformation underway at the Corporation to improve its commercial partnerships and ensure value for money. Some of the major projects include the Barbican Renewal, Digital Transformation, the Wholesale Markets Relocation and a £600m investment to consolidate the courts system and build a new City Police headquarters in Fleet Street.

In addition to his role as Board Member of the City of London Police Authority, Ben also sits on the Policy and Resources Committee, which is akin to the Cabinet in other local authorities where he focuses on income generation; the Finance Committee, where he is supporting negotiations with government on how much of the business rate premium tax can be retained by the City Corporation; the Natural Environment Board, Epping Forest and Commons Committee and West Ham Park Committee where he is a leading a transformation of the 11 green spaces charities and their aligned governance.

Shravan Joshi, who has been a Common Councillor since 2018 defined his activities as falling into 3 groups, namely Civic, City Financial and Statutory,

His Civic activities involve Deputy Chair of Freedoms Applications, the Deputy Governor elect of The Honourable The Irish Society and formerly he was a member of the City Liveries Committee.

His City financial responsibilities involve the Competitiveness Advisory Board, Investment Committee, Capital Buildings Board and Lead Member role for SME Growth. These cover all aspects of City businesses including banking and insurance as well as growth in the Tech sector and AI.

His statutory role activities include the Planning & Transportation Committee, Policy and Resources Committee, (Resource Allocation and Corporate Affairs subs); his work on the Community & Children`s Services Committee and his membership of Educational Boards and Governorships of schools.

As the Chair of the Planning and Transport Committee, Tom Sleigh was unavoidably absent, he spoke in detail about the regeneration of Liverpool Street Station and the over station development planned to sit above the existing station which will provide a model for future city stations. The finance for the project was all from private sources, with no Government contributions available- this could prove a model for station regeneration across the country. Initially an infrastructure phase including the redevelopment of the retail outlets but without the closure of the busiest station in the country. It will enable increased use of freight trains- in answer to an electors query, he confirmed that this would not involve the use of diesel trains. All trains at Liverpool Street were electrified some time ago. The second phase would involve the sympathetic development of an office, keeping the heritage impacts upon the Great Eastern Hotel building to a minimum.

He briefly mentioned the problem of homelessness and rough sleeping and how the policy now adopted is a multi- agency approach, linked with City Police, charities, including some new charities, aiming at offering long term support rather than simply a bed for a night.

Simon Burrows then spoke about his first year as a Common Councillor and the experiences gained. These included insights gained from his involvement in the work on Liverpool Street Station. In addition, he had been able to apply his financial and accounting skills on the Technology Committee where the aim is to achieve more efficiency and transparency and improve cyber security and on the Corporate Services Committee. where the grading structure of Corporation jobs were being undertaken. In addition. he had learnt much about the work of the Community & Children`s Services Committee and the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee. In answer to a query from the Alderman he confirmed that it was the breadth of the activities and the far-reaching involvement of the Corporation beyond the City itself which surprised him the most.

The Alderman then invited former Deputy Simon Duckworth, who had recently joined the meeting after attending the Board of the City Bridge Foundation, to address the Wardmote. He had served the Ward for over 25 years, was a former Chairman of the City Police Authority and the Gresham Committee, as well as a past Chief Commoner. He explained the significance of the City Bridge Foundation, where he serves as Deputy Chairman, which controls not only the City's 5 main river crossings but from the funds owned by this historic endowment distributes between £25m and £30m each year in grants supporting a wide range of charitable projects all referencing accessibility be they educational charities, or justice, climate and environmental causes; this was for the benefit of London at its widest, an important role emphasising the City's engagement with all of its neighbouring communities. He also mentioned the recent rededication of Memorial Panels to those City Police Officers and Staff who died during the two World Wars, reminding those present that Bishopsgate Police Station had housed a Police Hospital for many years and amongst the City Police list of those who died in those conflicts had been a nurse serving in that Hospital.

Mr Henry Johnstone COO of Eastern City Business Improvement District was then invited to address the Wardmote. His organisation is a not-for-profit body elected by the Eastern City business community to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for a term of 5 years. The purpose being to use its funds from a local business levy to reinvest in projects and organisations in the District, to revitalise the area and foster a vibrant environment for work and leisure. Although separate from the Corporation, TfL or the Police they nevertheless work closely with all these organisations, local businesses, St John`s Ambulance, local taxis and places of worship. An example of this is their City Safe Bus, a converted former ambulance which serves teas and coffees, liaises with the police and provides a safe location at night. In addition, they have an events programme, they are running a night club, supporting various health and sports activities and ran a Christmas market in Birchin Lane and Lime Street. His presentation was supported with slides and gave further examples of their work, and he suggested that members of the Ward visit the Eastern City website for further information. They are already planning to apply for a second 5-year term to continue their work beyond 2027.

A further speaker was invited to address the Wardmote the Alderman called upon Wendy Hyde, Vice President of the Bishopsgate Ward Club to speak. Wendy is a past Common Councillor and Deputy of this Ward but her purpose was to inform the Wardmote about the activities of the Bishopsgate Ward Club. She explained that it was formed in 1790 to give businesses in the Ward an opportunity to liaise with their Common Councillors and discuss matters affecting the Ward. Nowadays however it`s role is more of a social and charitable one. There is a membership of about 250 people and they arrange visits, a Civic Lunch with the Lord Mayor, a Carol Service at St Botolph`s Church and more details can be found on it`s website. In some ways the Ward Club is like one of the various City Livery Companies but without reference to a specific trade or profession. However, the subscription (currently only £25 pa) and demands on members are much more modest, although becoming a member still gives a good introduction into the people and activities within the City that would never be experienced by simply working here.

There being no further questions Deputy Benjamin Murphy proposed a vote of thanks to the Alderman for his courtesy and ability in presiding at these proceedings and this was seconded by Sarah Teibo, an elector of this Ward and unanimously approved by all.

The Alderman replied and there being no further business duly closed the Wardmote at 1.20pm.