

Meeting of the

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 March 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

A G E N D A

VENUE

Committee Room, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove
Crescent, London, E14 2BG

Members:	Deputies (if any):
Chair: Councillor M. Shahid Ali Vice-Chair: Councillor A A Sardar	
Councillor Philip Briscoe	Councillor Rajib Ahmed, (Designated Deputy for Councillors M. Shahid Ali, Carli Harper-Penman, A. A. Sardar and Salim Ullah)
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman	Councillor Stephanie Eaton, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Tim O'Flaherty)
Councillor Tim O'Flaherty	Councillor Peter Golds, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Philip Briscoe)
Councillor M. Mamun Rashid	Councillor Azizur Rahman Khan, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Tim O'Flaherty)
Councillor Salim Ullah	Councillor Abdul Matin, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor Tim O'Flaherty)
	Councillor Abjol Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor M. Mamun Rashid)
	Councillor Fozol Miah, (Designated Deputy representing Councillor M. Mamun Rashid)
	Councillor Abdul Munim, (Designated

Deputy representing Councillor M. Mamun
Rashid)

[Note: The quorum for this body is 3 Members].

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

Nadir Ahmed, Democratic Services,

Tel: 020 7364 6961, E-mail: nadir.ahmed@towerhamlets.gov.uk

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 March 2009

7.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

**PAGE
NUMBERS** **WARD(S)
AFFECTED**

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1 - 2

To note any declarations of interest made by Members, including those restricting Members from voting on the questions detailed in Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992. See attached note from the Chief Executive.

3. MINUTES

3 - 4

To agree as a correct record of the proceedings the minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 21 January 2009.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 Appointments to External Bodies

5 - 8

All Wards

4.2 Charity of Thomas Dickinson: Proposed winding-up

9 - 12

All Wards

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Agenda Item 2

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This note is guidance only. Members should consult the Council's Code of Conduct for further details. Note: Only Members can decide if they have an interest therefore they must make their own decision. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending at a meeting.

Declaration of interests for Members

Where Members have a personal interest in any business of the authority as described in paragraph 4 of the Council's Code of Conduct (contained in part 5 of the Council's Constitution) then s/he must disclose this personal interest as in accordance with paragraph 5 of the Code. Members must disclose the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting and certainly no later than the commencement of the item or where the interest becomes apparent.

You have a **personal interest** in any business of your authority where it relates to or is likely to affect:

- (a) An interest that you must **register**
- (b) An interest that is not on the register, but where the well-being or financial position of you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association, is likely to be affected by the business of your authority more than it would affect the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision.

Where a personal interest is declared a Member may stay and take part in the debate and decision on that item.

What constitutes a prejudicial interest? - Please refer to paragraph 6 of the adopted Code of Conduct.

Your personal interest will also be a prejudicial interest in a matter if (a), (b) and either (c) or (d) below apply:-

- (a) A member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think that your personal interests are so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interests; AND
- (b) The matter does not fall within one of the exempt categories of decision listed in paragraph 6.2 of the Code; AND EITHER
- (c) The matter affects your financial position or the financial interest of a body with which you are associated; or
- (d) The matter relates to the determination of a licensing or regulatory application

The key points to remember if you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting:-

- i. You must declare that you have a prejudicial interest, and the nature of that interest, as soon as that interest becomes apparent to you; and
- ii. You must leave the room for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision unless (iv) below applies; and

- iii. You must not seek to improperly influence a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.
- iv. If Members of the public are allowed to speak or make representations at the meeting, give evidence or answer questions about the matter, by statutory right or otherwise (e.g. planning or licensing committees), you can declare your prejudicial interest but make representations. However, you must immediately leave the room once you have finished your representations and answered questions (if any). You cannot remain in the meeting or in the public gallery during the debate or decision on the matter.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY 2009

**COMMITTEE ROOM C1, FIRST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor M. Shahid Ali (Chair)

Councillor Philip Briscoe
Councillor Carli Harper-Penman
Councillor Tim O'Flaherty
Councillor M. Mamun Rashid
Councillor A A Sardar (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Salim Ullah

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Shirley Houghton

Officers Present:

Peter Steen	– Governor Support Officer		
Graham White	– Interim Legal Services Manager,	Chief	
	Executive's		
Alan Ingram	– Democratic Services		

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Mamun Rashid and from Councillor Carli Harper-Penman for (lateness),

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2008 were agreed as a correct record.

4. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 School Governor Appointment - Halley Primary School

Mr Peter Steen, Governor Services Support Officer, introduced the report seeking the appointment of a Local Authority School Governor to fill a vacancy that existed at Halley Primary School.

Details of three applicants for the position of Governor had been circulated previously and votes were cast by show of hands as follows:-

- Councillor Ahmed Hussain – 1 for and 4 against, with 1 abstention
- Capt. Nicholas Cook – 5 for and 0 against, with 1 abstention
- Mr Ali Sadad – 0 for and 0 against

Accordingly, it was **RESOLVED**

That Capt. Nicholas Cook be appointed as a Local Authority Governor for Halley Primary School for the term of office expiring 22 January 2013.

4.2 Amendments to the Constitution

Mr Graham White, Interim Legal Team Manager, introduced the report proposing amendments to the Council's Constitution in accordance with legislative changes.

Following debate, it was **RESOLVED**

That the changes to the Council's Constitution and the delegation of functions to Officers be approved as set out in the Appendix to the report with the exception of the power to make or revoke an order designating an area as an alcohol disorder zone, which shall be reserved to the General Purposes Committee.

The meeting ended at 7.52 p.m.

Chair, Councillor M. Shahid Ali
General Purposes Committee

Agenda Item 4.1

Committee General Purposes Committee	Date 25th March 2009	Classification Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Service Head, Democratic Services	Title: APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES			
Originating Officer(s): John S. Williams	Ward(s) affected: All			

SUMMARY

1. The General Purposes Committee has responsibility for appointing Councillors, officers or other nominees as appropriate to represent the Council on external bodies. On 18th June 2008 the Committee received nominations from the political groups and agreed the Council's appointments to a wide range of external bodies for the municipal year 2008/09.
2. This report sets out a number of further appointments which now fall to be made, in respect either of organisations that have newly invited the Council to nominate a representative or where a vacancy has arisen since the June 2008 meeting, for example as the result of the resignation of the existing nominee.
3. The table overleaf lists the outstanding appointments and any nominations received at the time of printing the agenda. The respective political groups have been notified of the vacancies listed and any further nominations or amendments received prior to the committee will be reported at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That appointments be made to external bodies for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/2009 as listed at paragraph 7 overleaf.

BACKGROUND

5. The General Purposes Committee has been established by Council to enable the swift determination of non-executive matters, including appointments to external bodies.
6. The Committee is requested to consider the nominations set out below for appointment to External Bodies, which have been received from the political groups on the Council. Appointments are made for one municipal year unless otherwise indicated.

VACANCIES AND NOMINATIONS RECEIVED

7. The Committee is asked to make appointments to the following vacant positions. Any nominations received from the political groups prior to agenda despatch are listed below. Any further nominations received prior to the Committee will be tabled at the meeting:

Organisation	Reason for vacancy	Current representative(s)	Nominations
Cultural Industries Development Agency	Resignation of Cllr Rofique U. Ahmed as one of the Council's two nominees.	Cllr Denise Jones (ongoing to May 2009) 1 vacancy	Labour Group nomination: Councillor Salim Ullah
East London Nursing Society Trust (4 year term)	Membership of all three of the Council's nominees (Councillor Dr Anwara Ali, Councillor Oliur Rahman and Ms Anna Lynch) has lapsed.	3 vacancies	To be notified. NB: The lapsed nominees are eligible for re-appointment if they wish and if they can confirm availability to attend the Trustees' meetings.
North East London Valuation Tribunal (6 year term)	Expiry (on 1 st January 2009) of Mr Leon Rogers' term of office as one of the Council's three representatives.	Mr Jeffrey Pelta (ongoing to 31 December 2009) Mr Martin Young (ongoing to 31 December 2009) 1 vacancy	To be notified. NB: The Valuation Tribunal has invited the Council to re-appoint all three representatives now to avoid the need for further nominations in December 2009.

Norton Folgate Almhouses Charity (4 year term)	Resignation of Ms Sybil Yates as one of the Council's three representatives.	Cllr Bill Turner (ongoing to June 2010) Ms Rachel Blake (ongoing to June 2012) 1 vacancy	To be notified. NB: The nominee does not have to be a Councillor or officer of the Council.
Parmiters Bethnal Green Education Trust	No nomination made at GP Committee 18 June 2008	1 vacancy	To be notified.
Stepney Relief In Need Charity (4 year term)	Retirement of Mr David Byatt as one of the Council's three representatives.	Cllr Rofique U. Ahmed (to June 2009) Cllr Bill Turner (to June 2012) 1 vacancy	Labour Group nomination: Councillor Oliur Rahman

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

9. There are no legal comments arising from this report.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS

10. There are no immediate implications for One Tower Hamlets arising from this report.

ANTI POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no immediate anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

12. There are no immediate SAGE implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. The appointment of representatives to external bodies enables the Council to strengthen links with community. The appointment of representatives to external bodies also contributes to the Council's leadership role in the community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97) LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

**Name and telephone number of
holder and address where open to
inspection**

External Bodies File

John S. Williams
020 7364 4204, Mulberry Place.

Agenda Item 4.2

Committee General Purposes Committee	Date 25th March 2009	Classification Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Report of: Service Head, Democratic Services Originating Officer(s): John S. Williams		Title: CHARITY OF THOMAS DICKINSON – PROPOSED WINDING-UP Ward(s) affected: All		

SUMMARY

1. The Charity of Thomas Dickinson was set up in 1852 for the benefit of the poor in the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney, preference being given to members of the Church of England. The trustees of the charity are three ex-officio trustees (the Rector of St Dunstan and All Saints Stepney, the Rector of St George-in-the-East with St Paul and the Vicar of Christchurch with All Saints Spitalfields); plus three trustees nominated by the Council.
2. In recent years the work of the charity has fallen into neglect and the last recorded meeting of the trustees was on 24 May 2002. Because of this, and fact that there are other charities which provide similar benefit in the same area, the trustees have resolved to begin the process of winding up the charity and transferring its assets to other charities. The Clerk to the Trustees has written to the Council to ask whether the Council has any objection to this proposal. The Council has not appointed any trustees to the charity in the current municipal year and for a number of years prior to 2002 attendance by the Council-appointed trustees was sporadic.
3. The legal context and implications of the proposal to wind up the charity are set out in the comments of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) overleaf.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. That the Committee indicate on behalf of the Council whether they have any objection to the proposed winding-up of the Charity of Thomas Dickinson as set out in the report.
5. That, if the Committee does not object to the proposal, the Clerk to the Trustees be informed of this and be asked to report back in due course to the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) on the outcome of the winding-up and the transfer of the charity's assets.

BACKGROUND

5. The Charity of Thomas Dickinson was set up in 1852 for the benefit of the poor in the Metropolitan Borough of Stepney, preference being given to members of the Church of England. Under the Charity Commissioners' Scheme dated 24 November 1959 and amended 12 August 1982 the trustees consist of 'six competent persons':- three ex-officio trustees (the Rector of St Dunstan and All Saints Stepney, the Rector of St George-in-the-East with St Paul and the Vicar of Christchurch with All Saints Spitalfields); plus three trustees nominated by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
6. The Council previously administered the charity and until 1989 provided a clerk. After that date the appointment by the Council of trustees, and attendance by those trustees, became sporadic. There are no current appointments of Council representatives to the charity. After 1989 the Charity Commission was asked to confirm that the charity could operate with a quorum of just the ex-officio trustees and for some years the charity continued its work on this basis but following changes of clergy in the area its work fell into neglect.
7. An attempt was made in 2001 to revive the work of the charity but the last recorded meeting of the trustees was on 24 May 2002. Because of the lack of activity, and in view of the fact that there are other charities which provide similar benefits in the same area, it has been suggested that the charity be wound up and its assets transferred to other charities. A meeting was therefore called by the existing trustees on 13 January 2009 to make a formal decision to wind up the charity and to put into place the actions necessary to achieve this. Mr John Kitchen was appointed to act as Clerk to the Trustees to organise the winding up.
8. Mr Kitchen has now written to the Council to ask whether the authority has any objection to the proposal to wind it up. The proposal agreed at the recent meeting of the trustees is that the assets of the charity (estimated currently at just over £14,000) would be divided equally between the three parishes for them to allocate to other charities working within the local area for the same purpose.
9. The Committee is asked to indicate on behalf of the Council whether the proposal is acceptable to the authority.

CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL)

10. The Charity of Thomas Dickinson has not been active for a number of years and the Council has not currently appointed trustees to the Charity. A Clerk to the Trustees has been appointed with a view to winding up the charity. In doing so the Clerk will be obliged to liaise with the Charity Commissioners to ensure that the procedures for winding up and transferring the charity's assets are in accordance with the Commissioners' guidance and the purpose set out in the agreed scheme for the charity itself.

COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

11. There are no implications for the Council's own budgets arising from this report. The assets of the Charity of Thomas Dickinson would, if the winding up of the charity is agreed, be divided equally between the three parishes in the area for allocation to other charities providing similar support.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ONE TOWER HAMLETS

12. There are no immediate implications for One Tower Hamlets arising from this report. The funds held by the Charity of Thomas Dickinson will be passed to other charities which will continue to provide similar services within the area.

ANTI POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

13. There are no immediate anti-poverty implications arising from this report. The funds held by the Charity of Thomas Dickinson will be passed to other charities which will continue to provide similar services within the area.

SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT (SAGE)

14. There are no immediate SAGE implications arising from this report.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 2000 (SECTION 97) LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

**Name and telephone number of
holder and address where open
to inspection**

Letter from Clerk to the Trustees, 17.1.09

John S. Williams
020 7364 4204, Mulberry Place.

Thomas Dickinson Charity – appointments file

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