



## CHAPTER xxxi.

An Act to make provision with regard to St. Martin's Lane Library and St. Clement Danes Vestry Hall to confer various powers upon the Westminster City Council and for other purposes. A.D. 1925.  
[30th June 1925.]

**W**HEREAS the city of Westminster in the administrative county of London (hereinafter referred to as "the city") is a metropolitan borough constituted under the London Government Act 1899 and is under the management and control of the mayor aldermen and councillors of the city (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"):

And whereas there are vested in the Council and used by them for administrative purposes the premises known as the Westminster City Hall and situate in Charing Cross Road in the city and the said premises are insufficient for the said purposes:

And whereas it is necessary for the efficient discharge of the Council's duties that larger premises should be available for administrative purposes and it has been found impossible to provide other adequate premises except at a great cost or to enlarge the city hall except by incorporating therein the adjoining and communicating premises known as the St. Martin's Lane Library and situate in St. Martin's Lane in the city (hereinafter referred to as "the existing library"):

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— And whereas the Council are the library authority for the purposes of and within the meaning of the Public Libraries Acts and as such authority have vested in them in addition to the existing library the Great Smith Street Library the Buckingham Palace Road Library and the South Audley Street Library :

And whereas the Council under their existing powers are empowered to let the existing library or any part thereof but have been restrained from using the existing library or any part thereof for any purposes of the Council other than the purposes of the Public Libraries Acts :

And whereas one part of the existing library is used as a lending library another part is let and the remainder is vacant :

And whereas it is expedient to empower the Council to use such part of the existing library as is vacant at the commencement of this Act for administrative or other purposes and subject to the provision in the neighbourhood of another public library in substitution therefor to incorporate the whole of the existing library in the city hall and thereafter to use the same for administrative or other purposes :

And whereas the premises known as the St. Clement Danes Vestry Hall were by the City of Westminster (St. Clement Danes Vestry Hall) Scheme 1902 (made under and pursuant to the London Government Act 1899 and confirmed by Order in Council on the eleventh August nineteen hundred and two transferred to and vested in the Council on the trusts and subject to the right of user by the duchy of Lancaster and to the right of user (if any) of any other person upon and subject to which it was held immediately before the date of the confirmation of the scheme :

And whereas the said vestry hall was erected under and pursuant to the Courts of Justice (Additional Site) Act 1871 (34 & 35 Vict. c. 57) by section 6 of which it was provided that the building should if the chancellor for the time being of the duchy of Lancaster so required be used as court rooms by the duchy and that the building and rooms therein to be used as court rooms by the duchy should be and were thereby declared to

be within the manor and liberty of the Savoy for such purposes : A.D. 1925.

And whereas it is expedient to extinguish such trusts and rights of user :

And whereas it is expedient to empower the Council to admit certain persons to be honorary freemen of the city :

And whereas it is expedient to empower the Council to hold and administer charitable gifts for the benefit of the city or the parish of the city or the inhabitants thereof :

And whereas it is expedient that the other provisions contained in this Act should be enacted :

And whereas the purposes aforesaid cannot be effected without the authority of Parliament :

And whereas in relation to the promotion of the Bill for this Act the requirements of the Borough Funds Acts 1872 and 1903 have been observed and the approval of the Minister of Health has been obtained :

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows (that is to say) :—

## PART I.

### INTRODUCTORY.

1. This Act may be cited as the Westminster City Council (General Powers) Act 1925. Short title.

2. This Act is divided into Parts as follows :—

Part I.—Introductory.

Part II.—St. Martin's Lane Library.

Part III.—St. Clement Danes Vestry Hall.

Part IV.—Miscellaneous and Financial.

Division of  
Act into  
Parts.

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Interpre-  
tation.

3. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires the expression—

“City” means the metropolitan borough and city of Westminster;

“Council” means the mayor aldermen and councillors of the city of Westminster;

“Existing library” means the premises known as the St. Martin’s Lane Library and situate in St. Martin’s Lane in the city;

“City hall” means the premises known as the Westminster City Hall and situate in Charing Cross Road in the city;

“Public Libraries Acts” means the Public Libraries Acts 1892 to 1919;

“Mayor” means the mayor of the city;

“Town clerk” means the town clerk of the city.

PART II.

ST. MARTIN’S LANE LIBRARY.

Incorporation of existing library in city hall and user of existing library.

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section the Council may—

(a) Incorporate the existing library in the city hall; and

(b) Use the existing library or part thereof for administrative purposes or in connection with or for the purposes of such other of the powers and duties of the Council as the Council may from time to time decide.

(2) Before incorporating the existing library in the city hall or using any part thereof other than such part as is let or vacant at the commencement of this Act for any purposes other than the purposes of the Public Libraries Acts the Council shall provide in the neighbourhood of the existing library and east of Regent Street another public library in substitution therefor.

(3) From the commencement of this Act until the date when the Council shall have provided another public library as aforesaid the Council shall maintain in the existing library a public lending library:

Provided always that if the Council shall not within three years from the commencement of this Act or within such extended period or periods as the Ministry of Health may approve provide in the neighbourhood of the existing library and east of Regent Street another public library of at least equal floor space in substitution therefor the right of the Council (a) to incorporate the existing library in the city hall or (b) to use the existing library or part thereof for any of the purposes specified in subsection (1) of this section shall be suspended until another public library in substitution shall have been provided as aforesaid. A.D. 1925.

### PART III.

#### ST. CLEMENT DANES VESTRY HALL.

5.—(1) The Council and the chancellor and council of the duchy of Lancaster may enter into and carry into effect an agreement for the purpose of extinguishing the duchy of Lancaster's right of user in the premises known as St. Clement Danes Vestry Hall and situate in Clements Inn Passage in the city and such agreement may provide either for the use of another room or rooms in any other premises to be used as court rooms by the duchy of Lancaster which other room or rooms shall for that purpose be deemed to be within the manor and liberty of the Savoy or for the payment of a sum or sums of money for the extinguishment of the existing right of user. Agreement with Duchy of Lancaster.

(2) On the execution of any such agreement the duchy of Lancaster's right of user in the said premises shall be extinguished and thereupon the said premises shall vest in the Council freed and discharged from all trusts or restrictions affecting the same.

(3) Any sums payable by the Council to the chancellor and council of the duchy of Lancaster under any such agreement shall be paid by the Council out of the general rate of the city.

### PART IV.

#### MISCELLANEOUS AND FINANCIAL.

6. The Council may from time to time appoint a member of the Council to be deputy mayor and to

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deputy  
mayor. hold office during the term of office of the mayor and subject to any rules or byelaws made from time to time by the Council anything authorised or required to be done by to or before the mayor may be done by to or before such deputy mayor.

Power to  
admit  
persons as  
honorary  
freemen of  
city.

7.—(1) The Council may from time to time by the authority of not less than two-thirds of the number voting at a meeting of the Council specially called for the purpose with notice of the object admit to the honorary freemen of the city persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the city.

(2) The town clerk shall keep a list called the freemen's roll and every person admitted to be an honorary freeman of the city shall be enrolled by the town clerk on the freemen's roll.

Power to  
retain &c.  
lands.

8.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other Act or Acts to the contrary the Council may retain hold appropriate and use any lands premises buildings and structures which they are for the time being empowered to lease or let and which are not required for the purposes for which the same were acquired by the Council for any other purposes for which the Council are for the time being authorised to acquire or use lands or premises Provided that in every case of appropriation of lands premises buildings or structures to a purpose other than that for which the same were originally acquired by the Council or to which the same have been previously appropriated a transfer of the value of the lands premises buildings or structures so appropriated shall be effected in the books of the Council.

(2) Nothing in this section shall be taken to dispense with the necessity for obtaining the consent of any Government department to any sale lease exchange or other disposition of any lands premises buildings or structures vested in the Council where such consent would be required if this Act had not been passed.

(3) This section shall not apply to any lands premises buildings or structures which are the subject of any charitable use or trust or alter or confer any

power of altering the charitable purposes to which any such property is by law applicable. A.D. 1925.

9.—(1) The Council may accept hold and administer any gifts of property real or personal for the benefit of the inhabitants of the city or the parish of the city or any part or class of such inhabitants and may execute any works (including works of maintenance or improvement) and incur any expense incidental to or consequential on the exercise of any of the powers conferred by this section or in relation to any parish or city property not being property relating to affairs of the church or held for an ecclesiastical charity.

Power to accept and administer gifts for benefit of city.

(2) In this section the expressions "affairs of the church" and "ecclesiastical charity" have respectively the same meanings as those assigned to them by the Local Government Act 1894.

10. The Council may instal fit up and from time to time maintain renew and use or work mechanical washers mechanical wringers box mangles and other mechanical and time-saving appliances in or in connection with any public baths and wash-houses of the Council and either for the convenience or assistance of persons using such public baths or wash-houses or otherwise and may make such charges for or in respect of the use of the same as the Council may from time to time decide.

Power to instal mechanical appliances in public baths and wash-houses.

11.—(1) The Council may provide any of their officers or servants with a residence within the city on any lands or premises now or hereafter vested in the Council within the city or on or in any part thereof upon such terms and conditions as the Council may from time to time determine and either at a rent or as part of his remuneration or wages and no such officer or servant shall thereby become liable to any disqualification forfeiture penalty or costs.

Power to provide residences for officers or servants.

(2) In the exercise of the powers conferred by this section the Council shall be deemed to be acting in the execution of the Metropolis Management Act 1855 as amended by any subsequent Act.

12. Nothing in this Act affects prejudicially any estate right power privilege or exemption of the Crown.

Crown rights.

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Costs and  
payments  
under Act.

**13.** All costs charges and expenses preliminary and incidental to the preparing applying for obtaining and passing of this Act as taxed by the taxing officer of the House of Lords or of the House of Commons and all costs and expenses of the Council in the execution of this Act not otherwise provided for shall be paid by the Council out of the general rate of the city.

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