



PARLIAMENT
OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS



The Rt. Hon. Sir **Lindsay Hoyle, MP**

Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament

Meeting of the 2023-2024 Session

10:30 a.m. | Thursday, 1 August, 2024

House of Parliament, 33 Fort Street,
George Town, Grand Cayman



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Members of Parliament

Speaker of Parliament

Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin
KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP

Ministers of the Cabinet

Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly JP, MP
Premier, Minister of Finance, Education and
District Administration & Lands

Hon. Kenneth V. Bryan MP
Minister of Tourism & Ports

Hon. Sabrina T. Turner MP
Minister of Health & Wellness *and*
Home Affairs

Hon. Isaac D. Rankine JP, MP
Minister of Youth, Sports & Heritage

Hon. André M. Ebanks MP
Deputy Premier, Minister of Financial Services
& Commerce *and* Investment, Innovation &
Social Development

Hon. Johany S. Ebanks MP
Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing,
Infrastructure and Transport & Development

Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks MP
Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency

Hon. Dwayne S. Seymour OCl, JP, MP
Minister of Border Control & Labour *and* Culture



Ex-officio Members of the Cabinet

Hon. Franz I. Manderson MBE, Cert. Hon., JP
Deputy Governor, ex-officio Member
responsible for the Portfolio of the Civil
Service

Hon. Samuel W. Bulgin KC, JP
Attorney General, ex-officio Member
responsible for the Portfolio of Legal Affairs

Government Backbenchers

Hon. Heather D. Bodden OCI, Cert. Hon., JP, MP
Deputy Speaker, Parliamentary Secretary
to Tourism and Community Affairs,
Elected Member for Savannah

Hon. Dr. W. McKeeva Bush JP, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to Border Control &
Culture, and Planning, Housing, Infrastructure,
Transport, & Development, Elected Member
for West Bay West

Mr. Bernie A. Bush MP
Parliamentary Secretary to Commerce and
Youth, Sports, & Heritage, Elected Member for
West Bay North

Members of the Official Opposition

Hon. Roy M. McTaggart JP, MP
Leader of the Opposition, Elected Member for
George Town East

Mr. Joseph X. Hew MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Elected
Member for George Town North

Mr. Moses I. Kirkconnell OBE, JP, MP
Elected Member for Cayman Brac West and
Little Cayman

Ms. Barbara E. Conolly JP, NP, MP
Elected Member for George Town South

Mr. David C. Wight JP, MP
Elected Member for George Town West

Independent Opposition Members

Mr. Christopher S. Saunders MP
Elected Member for Bodden Town West

Hon. G. Wayne Panton JP, MP
Elected Member for Newlands



Officers of the House

Mrs. Zena Merren-Chin BSc., LL.B

Clerk & Chief Officer

Mrs. Twila Escalante LL.B

Deputy Clerk

Ms. Nordra Walcott LL.B (Hons.), PGDip

Assistant Clerk

Mrs. Patricia Priestley BSc., LL.B (Hons.)

Assistant Clerk

Mr. J. Kim Evans NP

Serjeant-at-Arms

Mr. Christopher D. A. Clarke

Parliamentary Page





Programme of Events

10:30 a.m.

Procession into the Chamber

All stand.

The Serjeant-at-Arms (bearing the Mace)

The Honourable Speaker followed by the Clerks

The Honourable Speaker proceeds to the Chair and bows to the right and to the left.

Prayers

The Honourable Speaker requests Reverend Donovan Myers to say prayers.

The Honourable Speaker asks for all to be seated.

Reading by the Honourable Speaker of Messages and Announcements



Motion for the Suspension of the House for the Admission of the Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons

The Premier, Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP, Minister of Finance & Economic Development, Education and District Administration & Lands moves:

"That this Honourable House do suspend to await the arrival of the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle."

The Question is proposed and put.

The Honourable Speaker suspends the House to meet Her Excellency the Governor Mrs. Jane Owen, and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

The Serjeant-at-Arms places the Mace in the lower cradle.

All stand.

The Honourable Speaker, preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms and followed by the Honourable Premier, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, and the Clerks, proceeds to the forecourt of the Parliament Building to meet Her Excellency the Governor, and the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

10:45 a.m.

Arrival of The Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP

Met by the Honourable Speaker.

The Honourable Speaker, the Honourable Premier, the Honourable Leader of the Opposition, the Clerks, and the Serjeant-at-Arms in attendance, stand at the top of the steps to await and welcome Her Excellency the Governor Mrs. Jane Owen and the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.



Raising of the Union Jack by Lance Corporal Brian Barnes upon the arrival of the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

10:48 a.m.

The Honourable Speaker and the Clerks escort Her Excellency the Governor and the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle inside the Parliament Building.

Her Excellency the Governor is escorted to the VIP Gallery.

10:50 a.m.

Procession into the Chamber

The Serjeant-at-Arms

The Honourable Speaker

The Right Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons

The Honourable Premier

The Honourable Leader of the Opposition

The Clerks

The Parliamentary Page

Proceed to the main doors of the Chamber.

The Serjeant-at-Arms gives three knocks on the door to the Chamber.

As the doors open, the Serjeant-at-Arms heads the Procession and announces, "*the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.*"

All stand.

The Honourable Speaker proceeds to the Dais. The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle takes a seat to the right of the Speaker's Chair.



Welcome – Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin, KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP

The Honourable Speaker, Sir Alden McLaughlin, welcomes Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

The Honourable Speaker invites Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle to address the House.

Address – Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP

The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle returns to his seat after delivering his remarks and the Honourable Speaker returns to his Dais.

Remarks – The Premier, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP

Remarks – The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Roy McTaggart, JP, MP

Presentation to the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP

Youth Parliamentarian Ms. Lili Anne Aleria presents the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle with a gift.



Departure of the Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons

All stand.

The Serjeant-at-Arms approaches the Clerk's Dais.

Procession departs in the following order:

The Serjeant-at-Arms

The Honourable Speaker

The Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons

The Reverend Donovan Myers

Youth Parliamentarian

The Honourable Speaker of the House of Commons joins Her Excellency the Governor in the Gallery.

The Honourable Speaker Returns

The Serjeant-at-Arms announces: "*Mister Speaker.*"

All stand.

The Honourable Speaker re-enters the Chamber preceded by the Serjeant-at-Arms who lays the Mace in the upper cradle.

Resumption of the Sitting of Parliament

The Honourable Speaker bows to the right and the left and takes the Chair, then calls the House to order.



Motion to record thanks to the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP

The Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Roy McTaggart, JP, MP moves the vote of thanks to the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle.

"This Honourable Parliament does record its grateful thanks to the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the UK House of Commons, for his historic visit to the Cayman Islands and for his gracious address delivered at this Meeting."

The Question is proposed and put.

Motion for the Adjournment of the House

The Honourable Premier moves for the adjournment of the House.

The Question is proposed and put.

Procession from the Chamber

All stand.

The Serjeant-at-Arms, bearing the Mace, leads the Honourable Speaker from the Chamber.



Message from the Honourable Speaker



14 Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin
KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP
Speaker of Parliament



Dear Distinguished Guests,

It is an honour and a profound privilege to welcome you to this special Meeting of the Parliament. Today we have the rare privilege of hearing from a luminary in legislative leadership, the esteemed Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, UK Parliament.

This marks the first occasion that a Speaker of the UK Parliament has made an official visit to our beloved islands. Such a historic visit is testament to the importance Sir Lindsay attaches to the relationship between the United Kingdom and the British Overseas Territories. This has been made most evident through Sir Lindsay's international diplomacy, his vocal emphasis on the Overseas Territories, and through the stained-glass window that he commissioned and installed in Speaker's House, which bears the Coats of Arms of the 16 Overseas Territories.

The Speaker's role is pivotal in our democratic process, embodying the principles of fairness, transparency, and integrity. Sir Lindsay's stewardship ensures that our legislative body remains a cornerstone of our governance, providing a platform where diverse voices can be heard, and where robust debate and deliberation shape the future of our society.

Sir Lindsay has not only excelled in these duties but has also demonstrated an exceptional commitment to fostering and strengthening relationships with not only the Commonwealth, but most particularly the British Overseas Territories. This focus is of paramount significance, as it underlines the inclusive nature of our legislative framework and acknowledges the vital contributions and unique perspectives of our territories. By nurturing these relationships, Sir Lindsay has championed policies and initiatives that aim to promote mutual growth, understanding, and collaboration.

Under Sir Lindsay's tenure as venerated Speaker of the House of Commons, we have witnessed a renewed emphasis on engagement and dialogue, bringing to the fore issues that matter to the Overseas Territories. This inclusive approach has paved the way for enhanced cooperation, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose, which was most apparent when he hosted a dinner in March of this year for Speakers of the Overseas Territories. Hosted at his residence, this intimate occasion provided an opportunity for connection, candour, and a vision for the future.

As we gather here today at the House of Parliament, we are reminded of the importance of such visionary leadership. Sir Lindsay's dedication to creating bridges of communication and collaboration resonates deeply with our values and it is through such exemplary service that we can aspire to a more cohesive and prosperous future. We are privileged to have the opportunity to gain insights from his passion for the Overseas Territories, his vast experience in the House of Commons, and his profound vision for a connected Commonwealth family.

About the Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle, MP



The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle has dedicated his life to public service with a profound commitment to his constituents and the democratic process. The son of former Labour MP Doug Hoyle, Sir Lindsay grew up in a politically active family, which nurtured his interest in politics from a young age. He attended Anderton County Primary School and later Lord's College in Bolton, where his leadership potential began to shine.

Sir Lindsay's political journey began in local government. He was elected to Chorley Borough Council in 1980, where he served diligently until 1998. His tenure included a period as Deputy Leader of the Council, showcasing his ability to manage complex issues and work collaboratively with others.

In 1997, Sir Lindsay was elected as the Labour



Member of Parliament for Chorley, a position he has held with distinction ever since. His dedication to his constituents and his ability to address their concerns effectively earned him a reputation as a highly respected and approachable MP.

Throughout his parliamentary career, Sir Lindsay has taken on various roles that have demonstrated his versatility and commitment. He served on several Select Committees, including the Trade and Industry Committee and the European Scrutiny Committee. His expertise in these areas further established him as a knowledgeable and effective parliamentarian.

In June 2010, he was elected Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons. In this role, he was responsible for chairing Public Bill Committees and presiding over debates in the absence of the Speaker. His fair and impartial handling of parliamentary business earned him widespread admiration from colleagues across the political spectrum.

On November 4, 2019, Sir Lindsay was elected as the **158th Speaker of the House of Commons**, succeeding John Bercow. His election came at a time of significant political turbulence, and his calm and measured approach provided much-needed stability. As Speaker, Sir Lindsay has been committed to upholding the traditions of the House while also embracing necessary reforms. He has been a staunch advocate for the mental health and well-being of MPs and parliamentary staff, recognizing the pressures that come with public service.

Sir Lindsay has also been a fervent advocate for the British Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth. He has championed the interests of these nations in Parliament, ensuring their voices are heard and their unique concerns are addressed. His work has helped strengthen the bonds between the United Kingdom and these

regions, promoting mutual respect and cooperation. By highlighting their contributions and challenges, Sir Lindsay has played a crucial role in fostering a more inclusive and informed global parliamentary community.

Sir Lindsay was knighted in the 2018 New Year Honours for his services to politics. He is married to Catherine Swindley, and they have a daughter, Emma. Outside of politics, Sir Lindsay is a passionate supporter of his local football team, Bolton Wanderers, and enjoys spending time with his family and animals on their farm in Adlington.

Sir Lindsay's tenure as Speaker of the House of Commons is marked by his unwavering dedication to fairness, transparency, and the integrity of parliamentary proceedings. His leadership during challenging times has reinforced the importance of the Speaker's role in maintaining the balance and decorum of the House. As he continues to serve, Sir Lindsay remains a figure of stability and respect, embodying the very best of British parliamentary tradition.

The Cayman Islands' Coat of Arms in the Speaker's Residence, Palace of Westminster, UK Parliament.



History of the Cayman Speakership



Pictured:
Hon. Sybil Ione McLaughlin
MBE, JP, National Hero; First Speaker of the Cayman Islands Parliament

The Office of Speaker of the Cayman Islands Parliament (formerly the Legislative Assembly) is a vital element in the political framework of the Cayman Islands, serving as the impartial arbiter of legislative procedures. The Speaker ensures the orderly conduct of debates, adherence to rules, and the protection of members' rights within the legislative body.

The Cayman Islands first saw the formalisation of its legislative framework in the early 19th century with the first meeting taking place in 1831. Initially, legislative meetings were informal, without the structured oversight that a Speaker provides.

In 1959, the Cayman Islands saw a significant shift with the introduction of a groundbreaking constitution, which established the Legislative Assembly. Part V of the 1959 Constitution allowed for a "Deputy President" to reside over the Legislative Assembly in the absence of the Governor. By the 1972 amendment, this role was replaced by that of the Speaker.

32.-(1) At sittings of the Assembly there shall preside—

- (a) the Governor; or*
- (b) at any time when there is a person holding the office of Speaker, the Speaker, or*
- (c) in the absence of the Governor or, as the case may be, of the Speaker, the senior official member of the Assembly.*

(2) The Governor, acting in his discretion, may appoint a Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, who shall be a person, whether or not a member of the Assembly, who is qualified and not disqualified to be a member of the Assembly[.]

On 5th September, 1990, Hon. Dr. W. McKeeva Bush moved Private Member's Motion No. 20/90, a resolution that would create the Office of the Speaker. Mr. John D. Jefferson Jr. seconded the Motion and the Motion passed with seven Ayes



and five Noes. In his closing remarks as the final Presiding Officer of the Legislative Assembly, Governor Governor Alan James Scott wished legislators well, and reminded them that "there is no more sacred trust than to have in your hands the responsibility for the future of your country."

One of the most significant milestones in the history of the Speaker was the appointment of Hon. Mrs. Sybil McLaughlin, MBE, JP, National Hero, who was the first person to hold this role when she was sworn in on 15th February 1991. She was not only the first woman to hold this position but also a key figure in Caymanian politics, having served as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly before becoming Speaker. Her tenure set a precedent for future leadership and parliamentary oversight.

While Hon. Sybil McLaughlin was Cayman's first Speaker, Captain Mabry Kirkconnell was the first elected Member to be sworn in as Speaker in 1996. In total, Cayman has seen nine distinct Speakers including our present, Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin, KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP. Prior to Sir Alden, Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, MP, held the role, and became one of the youngest women in the Overseas Territories to lead in this prestigious position.

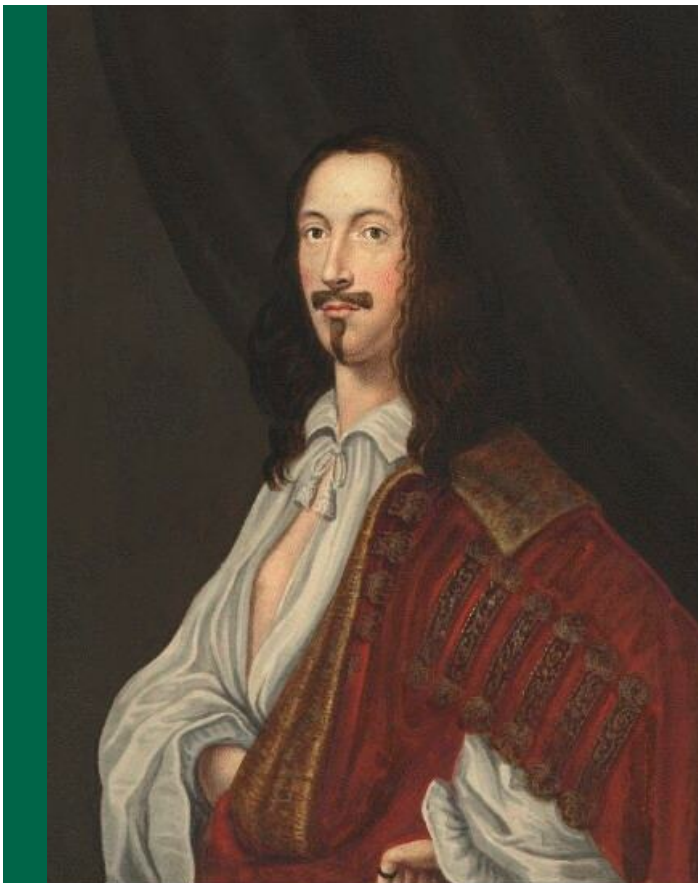
The role of the Speaker has evolved with changes in the political and constitutional landscape of the Cayman Islands. The 2009 Constitution Order introduced significant reforms, including greater autonomy for the Cayman Islands and a clearer definition of the Speaker's responsibilities.

The Speaker plays a crucial role in maintaining parliamentary order, upholding democratic values, and ensuring transparency and accountability within the legislative framework. As the Cayman Islands continue to evolve politically, the role of the Speaker will undoubtedly remain a cornerstone of their legislative process.

Past speakers

Hon. Mrs. Sybil I. McLaughlin MBE, JP, National Hero	1991-1996
Hon. Capt. Mabry S. Kirkconnell OBE, JP	1996-2001
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly JP	2002-2003
Hon. Dr. Linford Ainsworth Pierson OBE, JP, PhD. FCCA	2003-2005
Hon. Edna M. Moyle OBE, JP	2005-2009
Hon. Mary J. Lawrence MBE, JP	2009-2013
Hon. Juliana Y. O'Connor-Connolly JP	2013-2017
Dr. Hon. W. McKeeva Bush JP, Hon MSc	2017-2022
Hon. Katherine A. Ebanks-Wilks MP	2022-2023
Hon. Sir Alden McLaughlin KCMG, MBE, KC, JP, MP	2023-Present

History of the UK Speakership



Pictured:
Sir Thomas Hungerford
Speaker of the House of Commons in the 14th Century

The role of the Speaker of the House of Commons dates back to at least the 14th century, with Sir Thomas Hungerford being recognized as the first recorded appointed Speaker in 1377.

Originally, the Speaker's primary function was to act as the spokesperson for the Commons to the monarch, a role that was fraught with danger in its early years due to the contentious nature of relations between Parliament and the Crown. Over time, the position evolved to become one of greater authority within the Commons itself, responsible for maintaining order during debates and ensuring procedural fairness.

The Speaker's impartiality, a cornerstone of the modern office, was firmly established in the 17th century, ensuring that they act independently of party politics. This evolution reflects the broader development of the UK's parliamentary democracy, where the Speaker plays a crucial role in balancing the powers of the government and protecting the rights of MPs and the integrity of the legislative process.

In contemporary parliamentary procedure, the Speaker's role remains integral to the functioning of the UK's parliamentary democracy, ensuring that the House of Commons remains a forum for robust, fair, and orderly debate. The Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle is the 138th Speaker of the House of Commons, and has prioritised representing the British Overseas Territories and the broader Commonwealth in the UK Parliament.







Images of Rt. Hon. Sir Lindsay Hoyle on cover and page 14 **(C) House of Commons.**

Image of the Caymanian Coat of Arms on the Speaker's Residence window on page 17 **courtesy of the House of Commons.**

Portrait of Sir Thomas Hungerford on page 20 **(C) National Portrait Gallery, London.** Attribution: Unknown man called Sir Thomas Hungerford, attributed to Thomas Athow, after Unknown artist, early 19th century.

Information on the history of the Caymanian Speakership is taken from ***A Commemorative Retrospective of the History of the Legislative Assembly***. The e-book is available at parliament.ky/about-the-parliament/our-history/.

