

## **BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

**28 March 2011**

**Minutes of the meeting of the BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE held at Guildhall, EC2 on MONDAY, 28 MARCH 2011 at 11.30am.**

### **Present**

### **Members:**

#### ***Non-Resident***

Ian Burleigh (Chairman)  
Dennis Cotgrove  
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg  
Michael Hudson  
Wendy Mead  
Gareth Moore  
Henrika Priest  
John Spanner

#### ***Resident***

Deputy John Barker  
David Bradshaw  
Peter Leck  
Deputy Joyce Nash  
Barbara Newman  
Chris Punter  
Stephen Quilter  
Angela Starling  
John Tomlinson

### **Officers:**

Natasha Cendrowicz  
Pam Raphael  
Alan Bennetts

Andrew Wild  
Joy Hollister

Eddie Stevens

Michael Bennett

Mike Kettle  
Anne Mason

Sharon McLaughlin

- Town Clerk's Department
- Chamberlain's Department
- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
- City Surveyor's Department
- Director of Community & Children's Services
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### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Martin Farr and Randall Anderson.

#### **MICHAEL FARROW**

Members were asked to mark the recent passing of Michael Farrow, who had been a member of this Committee for a number of years, with a minute's silence.

# **1A. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Henrika Priest to her first meeting.

## **2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING**

All Resident Members declared their general interest as residents of the Barbican Estate (this was a standing item). Deputy Joyce Nash declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 15 as a Barbican tenant. Deputy John Barker declared a personal interest in item 14 as a Trustee of the YMCA Board.

## **3. COMMITTEE QUORUM**

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that this was an outstanding item from the previous year when the issue of the Committee quorum and attendance in general was subject to review. She advised Members that attendance over the last twelve months had been good and there had been no occasions in which the Committee had been inquorate. Members were satisfied to retain the current quorum of five non-residents.

The Town Clerk also sought the Committee's views on the frequency of meetings which each Committee was being asked to review in light of the recent Governance review.

**RESOLVED:** That:-

- i) the Committee's quorum be unchanged; and
- ii) the frequency of meetings be retained at four meetings per year.

## **4. MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 13 December 2010 were approved.

## **5. RESIDENTS' CONSULTATION COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

The minutes of the Residents' Consultation Committee meeting held on 14 March 2011 were received.

## **6. UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services providing an update on various issues on the Barbican Estate. It was noted that the appendices providing Technical and City Surveyor updates had been circulated late. Hard copies were laid round the table.

Business Plan Priorities It was reported that the Barbican Estate Plan for 2011 to 2014 was still being finalised and would be circulated imminently.

Fire Safety In response to a question, it was explained that fire safety letters to Tower Block residents would be issued shortly. In response to a further question, it was confirmed that it was appropriate for the fire safety letters to be charged to the service charge account. The Chairman added that the safety of

residents was paramount and where necessary, enforcement to ensure exits were not impeded would start shortly.

Sustainability In response to comments regarding a recent sustainability survey, it was noted that a report regarding the Sustainability Working Group would be submitted to the next meeting.

Car Park Strategy In response to a question, it was reported that a working group consisting of Members and officers from Chamberlain's and the Community and Children's Services Department would be convening to address car park account issues. In response to a further question regarding rent paid on empty car park spaces, it was agreed to consider this proposal.

Car Parking Bays In response to a question, it was confirmed that information about trends concerning occupancy would be provided to the Car Park Strategy Working Party. It was explained that information regarding former car park bays (205 in total) was now provided. It was noted that demand for baggage stores was dependent upon their location.

Water Pressure A resident Member referred to ongoing water pressure problems. The Chairman thanked officers for their perseverance in trying to resolve the water pressure problems on the Estate.

Public Lift Availability In response to a request, the City Surveyor undertook to provide information concerning escalator availability as well as public lift availability in future update reports. It was reported that the Moor House lift had now been connected, which meant that all the lifts were connected.

The Turret In response to a question, it was agreed to provide a full update in the non-public section due to the disclosure of exempt information.

## **RECEIVED.**

### **7. SLA REVIEW**

A report of the Director of Community & Children's Services updating Members on the review of the estate wide implementation of Service Level Agreements for the quarter October to December 2010 was considered.

Review of cleaning schedule In response to a question, it was explained that while the review of cleaning schedules had been completed, the actions arising from this review were not due to start until the next financial year. An update would be included in the next SLA action plan reported to committee. .

Rough Sleepers In response to a question, it was explained that officers worked closely with the City of London Police to address the problem of rough sleepers on the Estate and the City as a whole. At the last count, twenty rough sleepers had been identified in the City.

Market Testing of balcony and roof repairs In response to a question, it was explained that results of the market testing were still awaited and an update would be included in the next SLA action plan reported to the Committee.

Response to Leaks In response to a question, it was explained that an asset maintenance plan had been established to address long term structural issues such as leaks.

Restructuring of Technical Services In response to a question, it was explained that a report setting out the new technical structure would be submitted to the next meeting.

Calls/messages to the repairs line In response to a question, it was explained that a new KPI had been set up to take forward residents' comments.

**RESOLVED:** That the work undertaken by the Barbican Estate Office and the Resident Working Parties to monitor and review the implementation of Service Level Agreements estate-wide and to identify and implement actions where appropriate, to improve services be noted.

## **8. PROGRESS SALES AND LETTINGS**

A report of the Director of Community & Children's Services advising Members of the sales and lettings that have been approved by officers since the last meeting was considered.

**RECEIVED.**

## **9. BUDGET 2011/12 – FURTHER 10% REDUCTIONS**

The Town Clerk reported urgent action taken in accordance with Standing Order No.39 (a) to enable approval to be granted to the proposed 10% cuts to the Barbican Residential Committee 2011/12 budget in accordance with the requirement to make 10% savings across both City's Cash and City Fund. As the savings amounted to £5,000 it was felt that this was better dealt with using urgency procedures rather than organising a special meeting of the Committee in advance of the Court of Common Council agreeing the City of London's overall budget at their meeting of 3 March 2011.

**RECEIVED.**

## **10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

DIY facilities A Member requested that officers give consideration to including a DIY area in underused car park space, mindful that many residents did not have sufficient space to undertake DIY tasks in their flats.

## **11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent actions.

**12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

**Item Nos.****Exempt Paragraphs****13 - 16****3**

**SUMMARY OF MATTERS CONSIDERED  
WHILST THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED**

**13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2010 were approved.

**14. YMCA UPDATE**

The City Surveyor provided an update on the YMCA.

**15. RESIDENTIAL RENT REVIEW**

A report of the Director of Community and Children's Services reviewing the rent for homes on the Barbican Estate let under City of London tenancies was considered.

**16. ARREARS WRITE OFF**

A report of the Director of Community and Children's Services relative to an arrears write off was considered.

**17. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

Wendy Mead Wendy Mead reported that this would be her last meeting.

**The meeting closed at 12:47pm**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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