

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 23 May 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields, Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Wednesday, 23 May 2018 at 6.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Mark Bostock
Deputy David Bradshaw
Michael Hudson
Ruby Sayed
Deputy John Tomlinson
William Upton
John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Sam Cooper (English Heritage)
Rachel Evans (RSPB)
Maija Roberts (Ramblers' Association/Open Spaces Society)

Officers:

Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Katherine Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation & Trees Manager
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Lucy Gannon	- Projects Management & Support Officer
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager Hampstead Heath
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Melvin Cohen, Stuart Fraser, Wendy Mead and Graeme Smith.

2. MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

Members received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 19 April 2018 appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Order No.29, the Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year. The Town Clerk read a list of Members eligible to stand and Karina Dostalova, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support and took the opportunity to welcome Deputy David Bradshaw and Mark Bostock to their first meeting. The Chairman also thanked long standing Member Oliver Sells and Councillor Sally Gimson, who was retiring, for their contributions to the Committee during their tenure.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The Town Clerk read a list of Members eligible to stand and Anne Fairweather, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Deputy Chairman.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the public Minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2018 were approved as a correct record.

7. **ACTIONS SHEET**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk setting out the outstanding actions list and noted the various updates and additions.

In relation to action 5, Members were advised that identification of a person to represent physical disabilities on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee was in progress. A survey of relevant charities had been completed by the Town Clerk and engagement with three charities would take place in due course.

With regards to action 7, Members were advised by the Superintendent that the deadline for Zippos Circus to provide an Event Management Plan, their animal welfare arrangements, etc, was 29 May 2018. This would be reviewed and assessed by the Superintendent before bringing a recommendation under the urgency procedures.

8. **MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) meeting held on 16 April 2018 were received.

The Chairman highlighted that the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 had received Royal Assent and thanked Members past and present and the Remembrancer's team for their support and input over the years to get the act passed.

A Member noted that it would be helpful for the Committee to receive a paper on matters discussed at the walk regarding disability access and inclusivity at the Highgate Men's Pond.

A Member noted from the minutes that members of staff were verbally and physically assaulted by a swimmer regarding installation of a temporary cycle parking area and that the Superintendent had written to the member of the public regarding their behaviour. It was queried whether this action was strong enough and that it should be known that there was a zero-tolerance policy to ensure the safety of staff and the public. The Superintendent advised that he was comfortable with the action taken regarding this incident and that the staff involved in the incident were supportive of the approach taken.

The Chairman highlighted that the Night of 10,000m Personal Best event on 19 May 2018 had been a great success which saw the Athletics Track completely transformed and thanked Highgate Harriers, Heath Staff and the event volunteers for their hard work.

9. **MINUTES OF THE HIGHGATE WOOD CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

The public minutes of the Highgate Wood Consultative Group meeting held on 18 April 2018 were received.

10. **MINUTES OF THE QUEEN'S PARK CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

The public minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Group meeting held on 24 April 2018 were received.

11. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2018/19**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding appointments to Committees and Groups for 2018/19.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be noted;
- The terms of reference and composition of both the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be approved;
- The Chairman and Deputy Chairman to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- John Tomlinson be appointed to the Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and the further two vacancies be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment;
- Ruby Sayed be appointed to the Queen's Park Consultative Group, and the further two vacancies be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment;

- John Tomlinson be appointed to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee with the Chairman to also attend in an ex officio capacity;
- The decision to appoint a local representative to observe meetings of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee.

12. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent providing an update on matters concerning Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. The following points were made:

- The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that meetings with the four Open Spaces Chairmen had taken place to discuss and prioritise a list of improvement projects applicable to a new source of internal funding. It was noted that bids for the top 10 priority projects would be submitted by the deadline at the end of May for consideration by the Chamberlain's Department.
- The Chairman saw identifying similar needs across Open Spaces as a great opportunity to form synergies.

Divisional Plan

- The Superintendent drew Members attention to the 2018/19 Divisional Plan (Appendix 1) and advised that items 1.11, 1.12 and 3.12 were all priority projects that would be submitted for consideration for funding via the Priority Improvement Pot.
- The Superintendent noted that a Q2 update of the 2018/19 Divisional Plan and the Division's risk register would be brought to the next Committee meeting.

Shared-use path surfacing

- Members were advised that a draft report outlining the surfacing and waymarking options for the existing shared-use-paths on Hampstead Heath was discussed by the HHCC in April and their comments were incorporated in the final draft of the report (Appendix 2).
- The Superintendent sought Members views on the report and, in particular, on the preferred surfacing material, the priorities identified and waymarking.
- Members were advised that all feedback would be incorporated into the plan and a prioritised programme of surfacing and waymarking works would be prepared and subsequently implemented through the Annual Work Programme.

- A Member noted that there was scope for softening the impact of the shared use paths.
- In response to a query regarding which recommendation was being recommended in the report, the Superintendent advised that a palette of materials was needed for different areas and the preferred surface material was Breedon Gravel.
- A Member recommended seeking feedback on the cycle and pedestrian pathways from different disability groups, e.g. the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNBI). The Superintendent advised that the DBE Access Group had been consulted in the finalisation of the report.
- The Kenwood House General Manager encouraged engaging with English Heritage who had carried out similar works.
- The Committee supported the two recommendations from the report.

Planning

- **The Water House, Millfield Lane.** The Superintendent noted that this planning application had been granted planning permission subject to S106. The City of London Corporation would be entering into a Financial Bond to ensure sufficient resources were set aside to make good the lane on completion of the development. Members were supportive of the approach.
- **Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2017/5395/P.** The Superintendent advised that planning permission has been granted and that City of London Officers had met with the developer to discuss tree and root protection.
- **Athlone House.** Planning permission has now been granted and Officers would be monitoring revisions to the planning application in relation to garden lighting and fencing.
- **The Wallace House.** A further development within Fitzroy Park is being reviewed specifically in relation to the impact of the basement on Hampstead Heath.

Extreme Weather

- Members were advised that the unprecedented hot weather had led to the queue for the Parliament Hill Lido being closed in the afternoon of the Spring Bank Holiday Monday as the facility had reached capacity. It was noted that the site was well prepared for the upcoming expected good weather.

Constabulary

Members acknowledged the 25th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary in 2017 and felt that it was important to mark the occasion. The possibility of a visit by the Lord Mayor, including meeting the Constabulary was discussed.

City Surveyors Cyclical Work Programme

- The Superintendent advised that 1,000m³ of silt had been removed from the Mixed Pond and two partially submerged silt revetments planted with suitable aquatic species. At the Lido, the roof in the Men's changing facility has been replaced and solar panels have now been installed successfully above the Ladies' changing facility.

Swimming

- The Superintendent provided an update on works underway and further proposals to make the Men's Pond fully accessible.

Workforce

- Members were advised that the Open Spaces Department has appointed 23 Apprentices as part of the Government's Apprentice levy and six apprentices have been appointed at Hampstead Heath.

Upcoming Events

- Give it a Go! returns to the Heath on 15 July 2018 which showcases sport, health, wellbeing and physical activity on the Heath.
- Members were advised that 20 August 2018 marks the 80th Anniversary of the Parliament Hill Fields Lido. This occasion will be celebrated by a series of events organised by the Parliament Hill Lido User Group (PHLUG) at the Heath.
- In response to a question regarding the costs of hosting events at the Heath, Members were advised that most of the events would be self-funded by the PHLUG. The Leisure & Events Manager provides advice, rather than funds, to the event organiser by way of support.

Learning Team – Play Programme

- The Superintendent provided an update on the different programmes noting that the schools programme, play programme and Green Talent were ahead of their target and Playing Wild were working to target.
- A Member queried whether the play programme was designed to include inclusive play equipment for children with disabilities. Members were advised that inclusivity was very important in the design stage and

confirmed that disabled children's needs had been included in the plans for the Adventure and Peggy Jay playground improvements.

Highgate Wood

- The Superintendent provided an update on progress at Highgate Wood and noted that some snagging works were being undertaken in relation to the paths that were surfaced in the winter.

Queen's Park

- The Superintendent advised Members that Queen's Park successfully had its first wedding ceremony on the bandstand at the end of April and that the couple had agreed for pictures of the day to be used in advertising. The feedback from the couple and their family was very positive.
- It was noted that there would be Green Flag Award judging in mid-May.
- Members were advised that a feasibility study of the Play Area toilet facility was due to take place to inform what the costs would be for refurbishment versus developing a new build.
- Works have begun to develop the children's farm.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note the contents of this report;
- Provide feedback in relation to the recommendations presented in the Shared Use paths report (appendix 2) as outlined in paragraph 3;
- Agree that a prioritised programme of surfacing and waymarking works will be implemented through the Annual Work Programme as outlined in paragraph 4.

13. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS AND WETLAND STRATEGY

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath concerning the Hampstead Heath Ponds and Wetland Strategy and the Model Boating Pond Island future access arrangements.

- Members requested more information with regard the legal implications of restricting public access.
- The Chairman deferred the report to the next meeting pending legal advice.

14. **THE HIVE LEARNING & VOLUNTEER CENTRE, HAMPSTEAD HEATH - GATEWAY 7 OUTCOME REPORT**

Members considered a Gateway 7 outcome report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Hive Learning & Volunteer Centre at Hampstead Heath.

The Superintendent advised Members that the Department were bidding for funding to carry out a feasibility study investigating how to better use the existing facilities at the Heath.

Members were pleased with this robust business-case approach from Officers to review the project and to provide a holistic view of the Heath's assets and how they can be put to best use.

15. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK 2018**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath concerning the Management Framework for Hampstead Heath.

The Superintendent advised Members that the HHCC had requested a further opportunity to provide feedback on the Management Framework and the deadline had been extended for final approval by this Committee in November.

RESOLVED – That Members consider the Outcomes and Measurement Framework, and feedback on the proposals in paragraph 10 of this report.

16. **OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT EVENTS POLICY**

Members noted a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the Open Spaces Department Events Policy.

Members were advised that the HHCC had provided feedback on Part 2 of the policy and the Open Spaces Committee had made minor changes to provide clarity to Part 1. Part 2 of the policy will be updated in-line with feedback received from the HHCC and the Events Advisory Group. An updated version of Part 2 will be presented to the HHCC in July 2018, before being presented to this Committee in September 2018 for approval.

In response to a query regarding Section 7, Clause 4(a) (iii) of the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 and the policy concerning events on unbuilt land, the Superintendent advised Members that infrastructure associated with events such as the Affordable Art Fair are temporary and located on areas classified as built-on, which includes the Fairground at East Heath.

RECEIVED.

17. **CONCERTS AT KENWOOD HOUSE**

Members received a verbal update from Kenwood House General Manager regarding events at Kenwood House and the following comments were made.

- The Kenwood House General Manager advised Members that Kenwood House had reviewed its programme and would now be hosting a variety of larger public events.
- Members were advised that managing noise pollution was a key focus for Kenwood House Team.
- It was noted that the setup of the House Festival would commence on 27 June not July as stated within the report.
- The Leisure & Events Manager gave thanks to the Kenwood House General Manager for the Kenwood Event Organisers sponsorship towards the new Heath diary.

RESOLVED - *With two hours having elapsed since the start of the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order No. 40 the Committee agreed at this point to extend the meeting by up to thirty minutes.*

18. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

**19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
Final Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan 2018/19**

Members noted a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Final Open Spaces Departmental Business Plan 2018/19.

20. 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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

21. ST COLUMBA RADIO MAST STATION, SPANIARDS ROAD, NW3 - LEASE RENEWAL

Members considered a report of the City Surveyor regarding the lease renewal of the St Columba Radio Mast Station on Spaniards Road.

22. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

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

Land available for acquisition at Hampstead Heath

Members considered a late urgent report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning a piece of land available for acquisition at Hampstead Heath.

24. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting on 5 September 2018 at 4.00pm at Guildhall was noted.

The meeting ended at 8.09 pm

Chairman

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