

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Wednesday, 5 September 2018**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 5 September 2018 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Mark Bostock
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Gregory Jones
Wendy Mead
Deputy John Tomlinson
Sam Cooper (English Heritage)
Councillor Sam Gardiner (London Borough of Camden)
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
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Lucy Gannon	- Projects Management & Support Officer
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Yvette Hughes	- Business Manager Hampstead Heath
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy David Bradshaw, Stuart Fraser, Michael Hudson, William Upton, John Beyer, Councillor Melvin Cohen, Rachel Evans and Graeme Smith.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

Michael Welbank gift presentation

The Chairman introduced Michael Welbank, a previous Chairman of the HHHWQP Committee, who was an invited guest of the Chairman. Mr Welbank advised that not only had he been professionally involved with the Hampstead

Heath for a number of years working on key projects such as the Ponds Project but was also personally involved as a local resident. Mr Welbank presented the Chairman with a personalised gavel gifted to the Committee which was made from oak trees at the Heath.

RESOLVED, that the public minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

The Chairman requested an update regarding the feasibility study of the Play Area toilet facility. Members were advised that a consultant had been provided with the feasibility results which would be going to the next Queen's Park Consultative Group for feedback.

4. **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 (1) regarding identifying a representative on the HHCC representing those with a physical disability, the Chairman noted that interviews were being set up with relevant charities post recess and it was hoped a person would be selected soon.

With regards to action (2), the Chairman noted that this should be separated into two actions. She advised that the draft 2018/19 Divisional Plan would be going to the HHCC first before sign-off at the next HHHWQPC meeting. The division's Risk Register was not complete and would also come to the next meeting.

Actions (3) and (4) were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

RECEIVED.

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

The public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 9 July 2018 were received.

6. **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:

Hampstead Heath Management Plan

- The Superintendent advised Members that development of the Hampstead Heath Management Plan 2018-2028 was progressing to schedule and that a final draft would be submitted to Members of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) with the final version to come to the Committee for signoff at its November meeting.

Land acquisition

- The Chairman updated Members that she had met with the buyer of the Harry Hallows land with Mark Hutchinson regarding his intentions for the land which was followed up with a formal letter setting out the responsibilities of the buyer, particularly the need to manage the Japanese Knotweed on the land. The buyer has since met the team and visited the land.

Planning

- **The Water House, Millfield Lane 2017/3692/P.** The Superintendent advised Members that this planning application had been granted subject to S106. It was noted that work had begun and that the Superintendent would be attending a meeting on site next week.
- **Parliament Hill William Ellis School 2018/1270/P.** The Superintendent noted that he had a seat on the working group and that work was progressing.
- **South Fairground Site.** The application was subject to enforcement action London Borough of Camden and Officers had given Counsel for the development to be removed.
- **North Fairground Site 2017/4346/P.** It was noted that the London Borough of Camden had not determined the application to the timescale and therefore a local enquiry was ongoing with Officers providing witness statements.
- **Jack Straws Castle 2017/2064/P.** A decision has not yet been determined and Officers await a decision.
- **Chester Court, Lissenden Garden 2017/1353/P.** The Superintendent advised that Officers had presented evidence against at the application appeal and was pleased that the appeal was refused by London Borough of Camden.
- **55 Fitzroy Park.** It was noted that a development had just been listed with a request to build five houses as a private open space. The Superintendent stated that the team would object to this application as this would be developed on the periphery of the Heath and would have an impact on hydrology.

Oak Processionary Moth

- Members were advised that the Tree Team had inspected trees for nests from May to August which was a huge undertaking as 2,013 nests were identified from 680 trees on Hampstead Heath. A specialist contractor carried out nest removal on high risk trees removing 1,400 nests.

- In response to a query regarding the drastic increase in nests from the previous year, Members were advised that there was a consistent pattern of a significant increase in nests after two years of gradual increase once OPM is identified at a site.
- A Member noted that OPM was being managed in Germany by fencing off large areas of trees for protection and queried what measures were being taken in the UK to deal with OPM. The Director of Open Spaces assured Members that the pest was being taken seriously which was now present in all 32 London boroughs and that he Chaired the Forestry Commission's Committee for OPM. It was noted that there was no quick fix to eradicate this pest, but that a programme to manage and slow the spread was being developed. Officers continue to identify zones to treat the areas of most risk to the public and are seeking to get additional funds towards the cost of managing OPM.
- The Director of Open Spaces stated that a report would come to the Committee detailing the costs and implications of OPM.

Adventure playground

- The Team have received revised proposals from the designer with design alterations in line with feedback received following engagement with young people. A 3D model of the proposed design will be produced to and following further engagement the project will go out to tender.

Swimming

- Superintendent advised that the good weather throughout summer had resulted in increased visitor numbers which had a huge impact on Heath services, and notably at the swimming facilities. As a result, the Lido was closed early due to reaching capacity on a number of occasions.
- Unfortunately, there had been a knock-on effect resulting in members of the public swimming in the model boating pond which is not lifeguarded.
- The Chairman thanked Heath Staff for their hard work over the busy summer period.
- The Superintendent noted that there were posters at the Heath regarding the Corporation led initiative concerning gender identity which was being actively promoted and had generated a worldwide response.
- Waste and recycling have remained an issue at the Heath with huge numbers being cleared by the Team throughout summer which the Superintendent highlighted had received positive feedback from visitors. The Team were working with the Heath & Hampstead Society to fast-track the project in the Divisional Plan in an attempt to deal with the issue of litter and were talking with local providers.

Events

- The Leisure & Events Manager noted that the annual Hampstead Heath Duathlon event which took place at the weekend had been a huge success. Hampstead Heath Rugby Club, the chief sponsor, were thanked by the Chairman along with all the volunteers that helped with the event.

Highgate Wood

- It was noted that the Friends of the Roman Kiln (FORK) were now a constituted charity and an external consultant has been appointed to prepare an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Queen's Park

- It was noted that the Book Festival on 30 June - 1 July 2018 was a success and the event organisers have already requested a date for 2019.
- The Superintendent advised Members that numbers in attendance for the outdoor cinema screenings over the summer had been mixed but that the most recent screening had a turnout of 500 people.
- Members were invited to attend the upcoming annual Queen's Park Day on 16 September 2018. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate details regarding this event to all Members.

7. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SITE SPECIFIC EVENTS POLICY PART TWO**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath concerning the Hampstead Heath Site Specific Events Policy Part Two.

The Chairman noted that Part Two had already been discussed heavily at the last HHCC meeting, particularly the proposed Event Scale, and Members voted in favour of Option 1. Members were happy with the proposed option and agreed with the decision of the HHCC.

The Kenwood House General Manager noted that there were many similarities regarding planning events at Kenwood House and the Heath and had experienced similar issues regarding public versus private events. He agreed to provide Members with a washup of events at Kenwood House for the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the proposed Events Policy (Part Two) for Hampstead Heath (Appendix 1).

8. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK RISK MANAGEMENT**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning the management of risks undertaken by the Open Spaces Department and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Division.

Members were advised that there were nine risks identified - five amber and four green – and that the green items would come off the report unless there was a change to the risk.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Approve the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park risk register included at Appendix 2;
- Agree the removal of the three static 'green' risks from future risk reports to this Committee, as proposed in paragraph 13;
- Note the Corporate Risk Matrix at Appendix 1 and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Current and Target Risk Grid at Appendix 3.

9. **REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME JANUARY 2017 TO MARCH 2018**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath providing a review of an extended 15-month Annual Work Programme (AWP) carried out on Hampstead Heath from January 2017 until March 2018.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note the works undertaken in the review period and provide feedback;
- That the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee are conveyed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee at their September meeting;
- Note the works undertaken in the review period and provide feedback.

10. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2017/18**

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2017/18 with the final agreed budget for the year.

Members were advised that the Director's deficit budget variance of £47k for Local Risk was caused by additional costs incurred from dealing with OPM and waste.

In response to a query regarding the costs incurred over the summer period and the impact of the heat wave, the Superintendent advised that the report covered the last financial year but predicted that the figures would be higher

than expected due to the extra costs incurred throughout summer, e.g. security and life guards. Members felt that more up-to-date figures were needed in reports and should tie in better with meeting dates.

A Member queried whether the hot weather improved or lost money for the Heath. The Superintendent noted that swimming at the ponds was the main issue as there was currently no enforced charge to cover the costs of keeping it safe, etc. It was noted that the Superintendent was working Mark Hutchinson to change the policy on charging and a formal plan would be brought to the Committee for input when developed. This would include an initiative to improve the payment route introducing contactless payment.

The Kenwood House General Manager noted that similar issues regarding payment were being experienced at Kenwood House and agreed to discuss this with the Superintendent to ensure a consistent perspective and approach.

RESOLVED – That Members note the revenue outturn report for 2017/18 and the consequential implications for the 2018/19 budget.

11. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN YEAR-END REPORT 2017/18**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning the Open Spaces Business Plan year-end update for 2017/18.

Members were advised that this report had been to the other Open Spaces Grand Committees in July and there had been consistent achievement of performance measures with slight improvement upon the previous year.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note this report and the achievement against performance measures as detailed in appendix 1;
- Note the achievements at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park as detailed in appendix 4.

12. **MODEL BOATING POND ISLAND FUTURE ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath concerning the Model Boating Pond Island Future Access Arrangements.

The Chairman advised that this was debated heavily at the last HHCC meeting who agreed with the preferred option as set out in the report.

RESOLVED – That Members agree the preferred option for the future management of the Island as set out in paragraph 22.

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

There were no questions.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no urgent items.
15. **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.
16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2018 were approved as a correct record.
17. **MODEL BOATING POND ISLAND: NON-PUBLIC APPENDICES**
Members noted a non-public appendix item read in conjunction with the Model Boating Pond Island Future Access Arrangements at item 12.
18. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT**
Members considered and approved the joint Gateway 7 report of the Director of Open Spaces and the Project Director concerning the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project.
19. **LEARNING PROGRAMME LONG TERM FUNDING**
20. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
21. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 5.15 pm

Chairman

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