

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 5 June 2019

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 June 2019 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chair)
Mark Bostock
Deputy David Bradshaw
Alderman Prem Goyal
Michael Hudson
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Ruby Sayed
Deputy John Tomlinson
William Upton QC
John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Sam Cooper (English Heritage)

Officers:

Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Kate Radusin	- PA to Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Media Team, Town Clerk's Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Kate Smith	- Head of Corporate Strategy & Performance, Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Carter	- Director of Community & Children's Services
Marcus Roberts	- Head of Strategy & Performance, Community & Children's Services
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Martin Falder	- PA to the Director of Open Spaces
Dr Jeremy Ashbee	- English Heritage
Sir John Holmes	- Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute
Victoria Metcalfe	- Humanitarian Policy Group, Overseas Development Institute

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Wendy Mead, Rachel Evans, Councillor Thomas Gardiner, Councillor Melvin Cohen, Oliver Sells QC, Graeme Smith and Adeline Siew Yin Au.

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

There was one declaration from Sam Cooper who stated that he was an employee of English Heritage and could have a perceived conflict in respect of item 10a regarding the proposed Humanitarian Aid Memorial Design at Kenwood House.

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

Members received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 25 April 2019 appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference.

The Town Clerk noted that Stuart Fraser had since retired from Court but would remain listed on the Order as this could not be changed once issued for the year.

A Member noted that the constitution of the Committee listed a number of local bodies and local interest groups of relevance that required representation on the Committee and felt that a representative for disability should also be included within the terms of reference.

Members were advised that the constitution was defined by statute and, whilst someone could be co-opted onto the Committee, it might not be possible for the constitution to be changed as this was set by the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989. The Town Clerk agreed to investigate the Order and seek legal advice regarding representation of protected groups.

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 thank Stuart Fraser for his contribution to the Committee during his 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 13 March 2019 were approved as a correct record subject to an amendment on page 6.

7. **ACTION SHEET**

Members noted the various outstanding actions and the update provided thereon.

Members were advised that action 1 was complete as a representative for physical disability had been identified and had joined the HHCC.

With regards to action 2, the Chairman advised that the request to change to the Committee's Terms of Reference to include an Alderman was turned down by the General Purposes Committee of Alderman.

The Superintendent noted that action 3 referred to Kenwood House not Keats House.

Members were advised that action 4 would be carried forward to the September meeting.

8. OTHER MINUTES

8.1 Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

The draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 29 April 2019 were received.

8.2 Highgate Wood Consultative Group

The draft public minutes of the Highgate Wood Consultative Group meeting held on 3 April 2019 were received.

8.3 Queen's Park Consultative Group

The draft public minutes of the Queen's Park Consultative Group meeting held on 27 March 2019 were received.

The Chairman noted a typo advising that 9,000 volunteers did not attend the Volunteers Reception which would be updated.

9. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2019/20

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding appointments to Committees and Groups for 2019/20.

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.

10. **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 Chairman was sad to inform Members that there had been an incident over the weekend resulting in the fatality of a man at the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond. The Committee sent its best wishes and condolences to the family and friends of the deceased and offered their support to the Lifeguards on duty.
- The Superintendent advised that the Men's Pond was closed and would not be reopened until the Metropolitan Police had completed their investigations.

Adventure Playground, Preachers Hill Playground and Vale of Health Playground

- Members were advised that the concept designs would ensure that the playgrounds remain natural using pebbles and timber. It was noted that CIL funding would be sought for additional play equipment.

Sports

- Members were advised that the licencing arrangements of the Parliament Hill Bowling Green were changing to an annual licence which had been drafted and would be discussed at a meeting with the Club tomorrow. This change in licensing would allow for the Corporation to make better use of the facility during the winter months when it was not being used by the Clubs.

Mobility scheme

- In response to a query from a Member regarding the distance from the Lido to the collection point for the mobility scooters, the Superintendent confirmed that the Lido was selected for the scheme as it had dedicated blue-badge parking spaces very close to the Lido. Additionally, Gospel Oak Station, which provides step-free access, was located within a very short distance from the Lido. It was noted that there was no charge for hire, but all users needed to receive instructions of how to use the mobility scooters.

Waste & Recycling

- Members were advised that a pilot would be carried out at Parliament Hill including the trialling of a small number of bins across the more rural parts of the Heath.

30th Anniversary

- The Chairman advised Members that an all Court visit to Hampstead Heath had been arranged for 25 June 2019.
- Members were invited to attend an event hosted by the Heath & Hampstead Society to follow the Committee's meeting on 11 September 2019 which would be held at the Heath.

Highgate Wood

- A Member voiced concern that the successful Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid by the Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln (FOHRK) on City land could potentially affect Corporation led HLF bids in the future. The Superintendent advised that this was progressing to a Gateway 3/4 through the Projects Sub Committee who would ensure liaison with other bids.

Lido

- A Member noted that he was made aware of a project costing £140K to repair leaks at the Lido and felt that the Committee should always be made aware of all projects relating to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. Members were informed that the Committee were always advised of Gateway projects, but the leak issue had been ongoing for five years. The Superintendent agreed to keep Members apprised of ongoing projects.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members give their views on the Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial, as detailed in para 13;
- Members approve the Queen's Park Day event (appendix 8), as set out in para 62.

10.1 Appendix 1 - Humanitarian Aid Memorial Design

Members considered the Humanitarian Aid Workers Memorial proposal at the Kenwood Estate and the following comments were made:

- The Chairman welcomed Dr Jeremy Ashbee, Sir John Holmes and Victoria Metcalfe who attended to respond to queries regarding the memorial.

- The Chairman noted that HHCC Members were shown the proposed site for the memorial during its Committee walk on Saturday 27 April and drew Member's attention to the photographs provided in the agenda pack.
- Members were advised that the Heath & Hampstead Society were against the selected site for the memorial on the basis that the 1871 Act guaranteed the protection of the Heath and its fringes. It was noted that the Society had not yet spoken with the press regarding the proposed memorial but that a public campaign would follow should the proposal be allowed to progress.
- It was noted that the HHCC minutes of 29 April 2019 reflected a negative view of the proposal from eight of the societies represented on the Committee; opposition had been further illustrated by correspondence received by the Chairman from the Heath & Hampstead Society, Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association and London Wildlife Trust. It was now established practice that the Management Committee would normally follow the advice of the Consultative Committee; the Management Committee should therefore do so and oppose the memorial.
- The Chairman was supportive of the worthy cause but voiced concern that agreeing to the memorial could open the Heath up to requests from other equally worthy causes which would be difficult to manage.
- It was noted that the Corporation regularly made representations against planning applications near to the Heath and the proximity of the memorial to Heath land raised reservations.
- A Member did not feel this was an appropriate site as it clearly affected Heath views despite being within the Kenwood Estate and was not viable for transport or footfall.
- In response to a query regarding revenue, Members were advised that this was not a motivation for the sculpture.
- Members were advised that the monument was a memorial not only to those that had died in humanitarian crises but was a symbol and celebration of vitality and life. This unique memorial would have significant international significance as a piece of work developed by humanitarians worldwide and it was hoped that it would add to the attractions of the Kenwood Estate and Heath with minimal impact to the natural habitat.
- Members questioned why the other sites at Kenwood House were rejected, e.g. Kitchen Gardens which was felt to be a more suitable spot. Members were advised that other locations would be considered but there was a desire for the memorial not to be tucked away. The site was preferred for contemplation, reflection and its views and none of the other options fulfilled this criterion.

- The Chairman concluded that the current position of the Committee was that the proposed site was inappropriate and not supported.

RECEIVED.

10.2 Appendix 2 - Map of proposed grazing sites

Members noted the map of the proposed grazing sites.

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10.3 Appendix 3 - Open Spaces Learning Team Play Principles

Members noted the Open Spaces Learning Team Play Principles.

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10.4 Appendix 4 - Preachers Hill Playground Concept Design

Members noted the concept design for the Preachers Hill Playground.

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10.5 Appendix 5 - Vale of Health Play Area Concept Design

Members noted the concept designs for the Vale of Health Playground.

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10.6 Appendix 6 - Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Consultation Poster

Members noted the Golders Hill Park Accessible Car Park Consultation Poster.

RECEIVED.

10.7 Appendix 7 - Golders Hill Park Sensory Walk Poster

Members noted the Golders Hill Park Sensory Walk Poster.

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10.8 Appendix 8 - Queen's Park Event Applications

Members considered and approved the Queen's Park Event Applications.

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11. HIGH-LEVEL ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN - HAMPSTEAD HEATH 2018-2021

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the proposed High-Level Asset Management Plan for Hampstead Heath which was developed in conjunction with the City Surveyors Department to ensure the effective use and management of buildings and structures across Hampstead Heath.

The Chairman felt that the word 'retail' should be removed from the third objective concerning the Parliament Hill Fields Review and changed to 'visitor, engagement and education centre'. The Superintendent advised that this objective had already

been changed to 'Heath related retail' to reflect the opportunity to sell books, maps, gifts, cards, and reusable cups, bottles bags etc.

Members discussed the possibility for a Hampstead Heath app or web presence to share information, talks and videos from the space, etc. Members were advised that these ideas had been discussed on numerous occasions by the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee and had been informed by the IT Department that it was not possible. A Member disagreed and felt that Officers should work to make the website and app happen as it was the will of the Members.

RESOLVED – That:-

- Members approve the proposed High-Level Asset Management Plan for Hampstead Heath 2019-2021 (appendix 1) as outlined in para 7.

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

Members considered and approved a report of the Director of Open Spaces concerning the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Risk Management providing Members with an update on the management of risks undertaken by the Open Spaces Department and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Division.

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.*

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Note the Corporate Risk Matrix (Appendix 1);
- Approve the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Risk Register (Appendix 2);
- Approve the reduction of OSD NLOS 002 from Amber to Green at Appendix 2;
- Approve the increase of NLOS 006 from Green to Amber at Appendix 2;
- Note the risk history report at Appendix 3.

13. LARGE & MAJOR EVENT APPLICATIONS FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Members considered and approved a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath in relation to three large or major events; Zippos Circus, The London Youth Games and the South of England Athletics Association Cross Country Championships.

Members were advised that each of these events has been assessed by the Officer Event Group and considered and supported by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Approve the Zippo's Circus event (appendix 1);
- Approve the London Youth Games event (appendix 2);
- Approve the South of England Athletics Association Cross Country Championships event (appendix 3).

14. QUEEN'S PARK CAFÉ TENDER TIMELINE

Members considered and approved a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath concerning the proposed tendering process for the Queen's Park Café.

The Constabulary & Queen's Park Manager confirmed that the current licensee, Urban Leisure Group (ULG), had served notice to terminate their lease ending on 2 October 2019. The process to select a new licensee would follow the same process as last time with a decision made from the anonymised information of all potential businesses.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- Members agree to tender the lease for the Queen's Park Café, as described in paras 9 & 10;
- Members agree the proposed tendering process and timeline, as set out in Para 11.

15. COL SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY 2019-23

Members considered a report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance concerning the City of London Corporation's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-23.

- A Member was very concerned that this was the proposed final version as a number of relevant Committees had not inputted into the Strategy and their Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen had not been properly consulted.
- Members voiced concern over the timelines of the report with the final decision to be taken by the Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) on 4 July 2019. It was felt that the timelines were not appropriate as they would not leave enough time for valuable input from every relevant Committee.
- The Chairman noted that the Strategy covered a significant period of time (2019-23) and therefore the objectives needed to be right.
- The Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance stated that similar comments had been received from other Committees and agreed that the

front page was confusing and based on standard report language. She clarified that whilst the report stated it was 'For Information', this meeting was an opportunity for Members to input into the Strategy.

- Members were advised that two extra informal meetings had been arranged to follow consultation with all Committees: 1) a breakfast briefing chaired by the Chair of Policy & Resources (CPR) on 28 June 2019 whereby all interested parties would be invited to attend and discuss the Strategy and 2) a meeting with experienced co-optees, the Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee and the Chair of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum.
- It was noted that the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk had deemed it appropriate to take the final report incorporating all feedback from Committees back to the Public Relations & Economic Development Committee (PRED) for a second round of input before taking it to P&R for a final decision which would now be delayed until September. The report would not be brought back to all Committees.
- The Chairman did not find this approach appropriate and felt that the report should be taken to all relevant Committees again with the fuller content for a second round of consultation. Several Members supported the Chairman's sentiments and questioned the urgency to finalise the Strategy without full consultation.
- It was noted that the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum met on 10 June 2019 and should be included in the future consultations.
- A Member stated that the Strategy as a whole was broad and vague, but that paragraphs 5b and 5c were ungrammatical and were statements not objectives. He felt that the objectives needed to be measurable and tangible. The Member supported the sentiment of the Corporation's three key outcomes but questioned whether the Corporation supported the business of sport which had huge revenues and international tourism and was not clearly captured within the Strategy. It was noted that Hampstead Heath had links and connections with big sporting teams and hosted international events which should be captured.
- With regards to paragraph 9f, Members requested more detail on the action plan that would support the implementation of the Strategy.
- The Deputy Chair was supportive of a Sport Strategy but felt that Members needed to understand the scope of the Strategy. She noted that the sports facilities across the Corporation's Open Spaces, the provision of sport and the role of these services for London were not addressed in the report along with the different residents that used them. The Chairman agreed these services and interactions needed to be promoted.

- There was concern that the Strategy suggested that the Corporation only carried out hospitality for elite events and did not highlight the significant support of national and international sporting events hosted by the Heath and other City of London Open Spaces, e.g. the English Cross Country events and the Night of 10,000m PB's.
- A Member indicated that the Strategy should refer to the work the City of London Corporation undertakes with other London Boroughs as well as the amazing sporting facilities across the Open Spaces and the support for grass roots sports.
- In relation to paragraph 6, a Member indicated that more detail was needed regarding the City of London Corporation's support for bids across the UK.
- A Member noted there was a background paper listed at the end of the report but felt that further benchmarking was required.
- Members discussed the funding and resourcing implications and the lack of understanding surrounding this. A Member stated that the Finance Committee would not approve additional funding and that Departments were expected to work within their budgets. It was noted that with proper governance and airtime, the Committee could lobby for additional funding. Members indicated that the Strategy needed to determine the priorities for funding and resources taking account of the Fundamental Review.
- In response to queries regarding the new Sports Engagement Manager position, Members were advised that the role was to support sporting events and push the sporting agenda. It was agreed that the job description would be circulated to Members.
- Members requested that the feedback from all Committees be circulated in advance of the breakfast briefing. A Member noted that some Members found it difficult to attend breakfast briefings and requested that written comments on the Strategy also be accepted.
- It was agreed that the Chairman and Deputy Chair would communicate directly with the CPR expressing the Committee's view that the Strategy could not be endorsed as it did not go far enough and to recommend that a second round of consultation with all relevant Committees be included in the process to ensure the Strategy was inclusive and correct.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman and Deputy Chair communicate with the Chair of Policy & Resources to express the Committee's view that the Strategy cannot be endorsed and make a recommendation for a second round of consultation with all relevant committees.

16. REVENUE OUTTURN 2018/19 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2018/19 with the final agreed budget for the year.

RECEIVED.

17. GENDER IDENTITY POLICY

Members received a report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive concerning the City of London Corporation's Policy on Gender Identity, and the findings from independent analysis of an online survey conducted in 2018. The following comments were made:

- The Chairman stated that the Policy was publicised with little warning and requested that the Media Team liaise with local Officers to ensure that any potential implications and press issues are addressed prior to the publication of press releases.
- It was noted that there was significant interest and concern being voiced on social media and within the press and it was agreed that it would have been helpful to understand the implications of the situation in advance. Members were reassured that there were 21,000 valid responses to the survey which were largely supportive and that there had been a number of misconceptions shared on social media. It was agreed that a Member Q&A would be circulated.
- To provide clarity, Members were advised that the Policy had been to Chief Officers and the Summit Group before publication and it was their responsibility to inform their teams of policy changes. The Policy was made public in early May and campaigners had only recently used this within the context of the Heath's Bathing Ponds. It was noted that as soon as the Media Team were informed of the media issues at the Heath, two media Officers attended site to help deal with the matter. Members were advised that any queries from the media must be directed straight to the Media Team for a response.
- The Superintendent advised that there were two single sex facilities at the Heath, Kenwood Ladies' Bathing Pond and the Highgate Men's Bathing Pond, which were prone to media attention. This was having a knock-on effect on users of the facilities who were being asked for comments by the media.
- It was noted that a meeting had been arranged with representatives of the swimming groups using the Heath to discuss how to manage the issues. It was noted that the Corporation was offering more training in this area for staff and Members, but this did not cover the practical issues and more clarity was requested.

- A Member felt that staff needed more support. It was agreed clear guidelines were needed to support front facing staff.
- Members were advised that the aim of the Policy was to provide a high-level Corporation-wide strategy with the flexibility to allow individual Departments to incorporate their own specific considerations.
- A Member noted that this was an ongoing issue that had not been resolved as recommendations were still in development. In response to a query asking what the Committee could do to support Chief Officers, the Superintendent confirmed that the Heath's Business Manager was leading on developing values for the Pond to support the strategy noting that it was difficult to have set rules on identity, but that tolerance was key.
- It was noted that the Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association were supportive of this approach.
- The Deputy Chair stated that this was not a new issue and would not go away, the focus was to ensure that that people's individual circumstances were always handled sensitively.
- Members were advised that an update would come to the Committee at the end of summer embedding the Policy and how it would work for the Heath.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

- Consider the survey findings;
- Note the Gender Identity Policy and its implications for them.

18. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no urgent items.

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. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 were approved as a correct record.

22. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There was one question.

23. 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.

24. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting on 11 September 2019 was noted.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

Chairman

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