

Committee:	Date:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	15 April 2013
Subject: Decision Taken Under Delegated Authority Procedures	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report provides details of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of this Committee, in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(b).</p> <p>Recommendations:-</p> <p>That the action taken since the last meeting be noted.</p>	

Main Report

Background

Standing Order No. 41(b) provides a mechanism for decisions to be taken between scheduled Committee meetings, where the Committee has delegated authority to make the decision to the Town Clerk in Consultation with the Committee's Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

Decisions Taken under Delegated Authority

1. The following actions have been taken under urgency Standing Order No. 41(b), since the last meeting of the Committee:

Highgate Wood Conservation Management Plan

2. At the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee on 28 January 2013, authority was delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to approve any final amendments to the Highgate Wood Conservation Management Plan.

This followed a discussion about the possibility of some additional text on Queen's Wood. Since then there were also some discussions between Open Spaces and the Comptrollers and City Solicitor's Department about designating Highgate Wood a Local Nature Reserve. These discussions confirmed that such a designation would not be appropriate due to the foundation legislation under which the Wood is held.

The following additional text was approved by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman:

New section between 2.29 and 2.30

Funding for Highgate Wood is provided through the City of London's City Cash Fund which also supports Hampstead Heath and Queen's Park and a number of the other Open Spaces owned and managed by the City of London Corporation. The operational budget for Highgate Wood in 2012/13 was just under £500,000, supplemented by income provided by the Pavilion Café, sports and events.

Brief History of Queen's Wood

Insert after 3.8 page 18.

Queen's Wood like Highgate Wood, is also an area of ancient woodland, but was not part of the Bishop of London's Hunting Park, and was therefore not connected to Highgate Wood historically. Muswell Hill Road runs along the line of an old ecclesiastical boundary, separating the two woodland sites and in the nineteenth century Queen's Wood was known as Churchyard Bottom Wood. Just over ten years after the transfer of Highgate Wood to the City of London Corporation, Queen's Wood was purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by Hornsey Council in 1898 and renamed Queen's Wood in honour of Queen Victoria. In November 1990 it was designated a Statutory Local Nature Reserve by London Borough of Haringey. Both Queens Wood and Highgate Wood were designated Sites of Metropolitan Importance by The London Ecology Unit in the same year.

Insert after 5.16 page 29

Queens Wood is managed by the Friends of Queen's Wood, who work closely with Haringey's Conservation Officer to care for the site and identify funding for projects and objectives identified in the Management Plan. There have been a number of coppicing operations carried out since 1993, to encourage regeneration and greater floristic diversity. The Friends hold monthly volunteer sessions focusing on woodland management and several new ponds have been dug as new habitat. Several members of the Friends of Queen's Wood are also members of the Highgate Wood Consultative Committee, and this provides a useful connectivity between the two sites.

Timescale

Short term: 2015/16

Medium term: 2016/17 to 2018/19

Long term: from 2019/20

Conclusion

3. Members are asked to note to contents of this report.

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