

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 19 June 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at the
Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood Place, NW5 1LB on Monday, 19 June 2023 at
5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
Ray Booth, (Barnet Mencap)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park
Conservation Area Advisory
Committee)
John Foley
Merlin Fox, (Heath Hands)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces Society)
Sharlene McGee, (Leonard Cheshire)
Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Ellin Stein, (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood
Association Committee)
Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Steve Ripley, Ramblers Association
David Walton, (Representative of Clubs
using facilities on the Heath)
John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation
Area Advisory Committee)
Simon Williams, (Vale of Health Society)

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Department
Paul Maskell	- Natural Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Department
Paul Singleton	- Heath Constabulary

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from John Weston, Dr Gaye Henson and Jeff Waage.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The Committee considered the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 17 April 2023.

Matters arising

The Assistant Director provided Members with an update on the issue of the house at the Parliament Hill entrance. She confirmed that a solution had been found to repair the cracks in the structure and the insurance team were liaising with contractors to prepare the works. These works would be complicated and it was estimated that it would take about nine months to complete. Officers would consider how best to use the house in the meantime.

RESOLVED – That the minutes and summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 April 2023 be approved as an accurate record.

- b) Members noted that the public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee were not available in time for the meeting but would be made available to Members as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – That the minutes and summary of the Committee meeting held on 17 May 2023 be circulated to Members.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

The Committee received the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 12 June 2023.

Members and officers present at the Forum meeting also provided an oral update.

Members expressed their condolences regarding the passing of Declan Gallagher and noted the hard work of the team through a difficult time.

Members noted that work had started on the athletics track, and welcomed the speed which with this had got underway. It was noted that there were potential ways to access additional funding for the project.

RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since April 2023.

Parliament Hill Masterplan

Members received a presentation regarding the Parliament Hill Masterplan

The Chair requested for the Masterplan to be updated with additional text and circulated to Members.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood) noted that it was important to consider what children liked when redeveloping play areas, and encouraged officers to seek to attract local residents who did not regularly use the Heath.
- In response to a request to retain the mosaic, Members noted that the funding for the mosaic was the responsibility of a local school
- The Chair noted that a high-level consultation was due on 19th July 2023, and suggested that it would be appropriate for Members to share this with the members of the bodies they represented.
- Members requested that the outcome of the high-level public consultation be included in the next Assistant Directors report.

Events

Members noted the success of the Night of the 10k Personal Best, with a competitor had achieved a new all comers record of 11th fastest in the whole world. The Chair remarked that was quite an incredible feat for a small regional track.

Members noted that a new cross country running event would replace the Southern Counties event for this year. Members welcomed the new event but also felt it was important to raise awareness of the impact of events such as this on the physical state of the Heath.

Security

In response to a member's question on anti-social behaviours at the Heath, Officers confirmed that there had been an isolated incident, but also noted that the nature of reporting on social media could lead to misinformation and misperceptions. Officers assured the Committee that adequate security measures had been taken and the Metropolitan Police was working closely with the Constabulary to secure the Heath.

In addition, Officers confirmed that the Constabulary would potentially engage additional private security during summer to improve the security.

Noting that changes had been made to the Heath Constabulary as part of the TOM, Members requested that Officers return with further information on the impact of the TOM on the Heath in particular.

Café tendering

Officers were undertaking surveys to help give potential contractors of the Parliament Hill café an understanding of the building's fabric.

Other

A Member suggested that it would be helpful to develop an archaeological strategy for the Heath, and suggested that a professional geo-survey could be commissioned, noting that a photographic survey had taken advantage of the dry weather in summer 2022 and produced useful results. Officers took the request on notice but advised that there were several elements to be taken care of before a survey could be considered.

RESOLVED – That that the report be noted.

6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH BATHING PONDS AND LIDO ANNUAL REVIEW 2022/23**

The Committee discussed a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning a review of the Swimming season during 2022/23 at the Bathing Ponds and the Parliament Hill Lido.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Chair informed Members that this would be the Assistant Directors last meeting, and the Committee thanked Stefania for all her hard work.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 30 OCTOBER 2023**

The meeting ended at 19.16pm

Chairman

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