

**EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE**  
**Wednesday, 13 November 2013**

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee held at  
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 13 November  
2013 at 11.00 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Alderman Gordon Haines (Chairman)  
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg (Deputy Chairman)  
George Abrahams  
Deputy John Barker  
Deputy Catherine McGuinness  
Virginia Rounding  
Ian Seaton  
Verderer Peter Adams  
Verderer Michael Chapman DL  
Verderer Richard Morris  
Verderer Dr. Joanna Thomas

**In Attendance:**

Adrian Liddle

**Officers:**

Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Andy Barnard	- Superintendent, Burnham Beeches & Stoke Common
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent, City Commons
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's
Jo Hurst	- Open Spaces
John Park	- Public Relations Office

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alderman Jeffrey Evans, Alderman Ian Luder, Deputy Alex Deane, Sylvia Moys and Barbara Newman.

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

Mr Ian Seaton made a declaration in a matter relating to the work of the Committee in respect of his membership to the City Bridge Trust. Deputy Catherine McGuinness declared an interest as a trustee of the Epping Forest Centenary Trust.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

*Matters Arising:*

Officers informed Members that a report regarding resourcing and costs of City of London Officers who responded to planning issues was considered by the Open Spaces Committee and an additional £25,000 had been approved for 2013/4 by the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Director had, at the request of the Committee, met with the Head of Keep Britain Tidy. She had been able to share concerns regarding the appointment of judges and the accuracy of reports and had been assured that any future concerns would be reviewed and actioned when appropriate.

4. **REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS - EPPING FOREST - 2013/14 & 2014/15**

The Committee considered the report of the Chamberlain informing the Committee on Epping Forest's latest approved revenue Budget for 2013/14. The budgets had been prepared within the resources allocated. Overall the provisional Original budget for 2014/15 totals £4,788, an increase of £533,000 compared with the latest approved budget for 2013/14. The main reasons for this increase were an increase of £326,000 in Expenditure, the main contributing factor being an increase in the City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme of £337, and a reduction of £164,000 in income, most of which relate to a reduction in Grant income of £177,000 (HLF and CBT).

**RESOLVED:** That Members:

- Reviewed the provisional 2014/15 revenue budget to ensure that it reflected the Committee's objectives and approved the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- Reviewed and approved the draft Capital Budget; and
- Authorised the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces, to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, departmental reorganisations and other reviews, and Changes to the Additional Works Programme.

5. **REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS - BURNHAM BEECHES, STOKE COMMON & CITY COMMONS - 2013/14 & 2014/15**

The Committee received the report of the Chamberlain informing the Committee on its latest approved revenue budget for 2013/14 and. The budgets had been prepared within the resources allocated to the Director and the table below summarises the position.

Overall the provisional Original budget for 2014/15 totals £2,446M, an increase of £263,000 compared with the latest approved budget for 2013/14. The main reason for this increase was an overall increase of £268,000 in Expenditure, the main contributing factor being an increase in the City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme of £253.

**RESOLVED:** That Members:

- Reviewed the provisional 2014/15 revenue budget to ensure that it reflected the Committee's objectives and, if so, approve the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- Authorised the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces, to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, departmental reorganisations and other reviews, and Changes to the Additional Works Programme.

6. **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EPPING FOREST AND COMMONS COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and were informed that as part of the post-implementation review of the changes made to the governance arrangements in 2011 it was agreed that all Committees should review their terms of reference annually. This would enable any proposed changes to be considered in time for the reappointment of Committees by the Court of Common Council.

In response to a query regarding the quorum of the Committee, the Town Clerk agreed to consult the Comptroller and City Solicitor to clarify which Members could form part of a quorum. An updated report would be considered by the Committee at their meeting in January 2014.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Superintendent of Epping Forest and noted the following:

**Staff changes**

There had been no staff changes during the September/October period.

**St Jude's Day Storm**

62mph gusts were recorded over the Forest with the western fringe and high ground recording the most damage. Over 200 fallen trees and large branches had been removed from roads; rides and adjacent properties following concerted work by Arborist and Forest Keeper teams. A Forest-wide survey of damage was still underway, with initial reports suggesting that the loss of veteran trees was low.

**Fairmead Road Closure**

Essex County Council completed the installation of the barrier gate on 5th September under a Traffic Regulation Order which would be the first stage in returning 1 km of Fairmead Road to the Forest.

**Cattle Grids Installation Programme**

Grids were working well but there were still some teething problems regarding design detail in relation to bypass gates; bypass surfaces and potential cattle

creeps on grid kerbing. Epping Forest Officers, Essex County Council and their contractors were working hard to address the issues.

### **Rough Sleepers**

Following over 46 Rough Sleeper evictions across the summer, officers from the Police; Redbridge Housing and the East London Migrant Forum supported Forest Keepers in a sweep of Wanstead Flats to secure better outcomes for Rough Sleepers and a reduction in displacement across the Forest.

### **Great Gregories Out wintering Facility**

Epping Forest District Council approved the planning application following extensive amendments to the original plan substituting straw for chip and exchanging the slurry lagoon for a farmyard manure spreading system. Procurement work was underway, but the project was now running behind schedule and temporary straw bale housing will be used to accommodate cattle during the winter.

### **Rural Payments Agency Compliance Inspection**

Epping Forest had passed with commendation a challenging 2.5 week inspection on cross compliance by Rural Payments Agency staff. The Stewardship Officer was complimented for the finest set of Nitrate Vulnerable Zone records the inspector had ever seen.

### **Prosecutions**

Forest Keepers had secured successful prosecutions for 2 quad bike riders (£435 each); Fly tipping on Fairmead Road (£410 fine); Dog not under control guilty with conditional discharge and order to pay compensation to injured dog. The Police also secured a muzzling order for an out of control dog at Chingford on 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Nathusius' Pipistrelle bat**

Volunteers netted and recorded the Forest's first Nathusius bat, a nationally rare species, at Barn Hoppitt during trials of an electronic bat lure.

### **Jubilee Pond, Wanstead Flats**

The final phase of access works was nearing completion with installation of the final phase of the easy access trail and surfacing of the Lake House Road Car Park.

### **Dog Control Orders**

Forest Keepers completed the first complaint-led joint patrols with Epping Forest District Dog Wardens at Buckhurst Hill Cricket Ground and Connaught Water. More patrols were planned. The proposals for the London Borough of Waltham Forest revised Dog Control Orders would be considered by Cabinet this week.

### **Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge**

The first Corporate Hospitality Evening had been staged with a local firm of solicitor hiring the building. The Garden House had also been successfully hired on 2 occasions for Dinner Parties.

### **Panel Engineer's Visit – 16th October 2013**

Atkins Global's Panel Engineer completed his second 2013 biannual inspection of 5 Large Raised Reservoir (LRRs) Dams and 3 further precautionary monitored LRRs. The Panel Engineer again complimented Epping Forest on improved vegetation management.

### **Planning Applications**

Pressure on the Green Belt at Epping Forest continues to be felt by speculative applications including a resubmission for 105 dwellings at Knollys Nursery; a new application for 1,200 dwelling at Jack's Hatch (near Epping Long Green) and consultation for 2,000+ dwellings at Latton Priory. Despite protests, the Inspector for the London Borough of Waltham Forest's Core Strategy has struck out specific Epping Forest protection policies from the strategy.

Despite a series of objections by the Conservators in the past, a planning application has been lodged for a single house in the style of Sir George Gilbert Scott for the ruined former Infant Asylum Headmaster's House at Forest Lawn, Hollybush Hill as directed by the Planning Inspector in 2010.

### **EPIC Forest Promotion**

Epping Forest became Epic Forest for a week when Fox Studios funded 3 days of guided walks; archery lessons and art workshops for former Discovering Epping Forest Schools to promote the release of the EPIC movie DVD and Blu-Ray.

### **Family Learning Events - Autumn Half term**

600 participants attended Forest Learning Events on bats, pumpkin carving and gunpowder plot themes.

### **Highams Park**

Royal Haskoning BHV won the tender for works at Highams Park Lake with the intention to commence major works subject to planning consent in April 2014. A new group including the three local residents groups and Walthamstow Scouts had been formed to campaign for a replacement shared use facility on the lakeside.

### **Fisheries**

During October there was a major issue with oxygen depletion at Theydon Green Pond on 3 separate occasion we have re-oxygenated water using pumps and diffusers. Due to cuts this year, the Environment Agency (EA) is unable to provide the grant of £10,000 that they had been providing annually since 2010 to help implement our Fisheries Policy.

### **Horse Riding – Close Season**

The Forest closed to free range riding on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Visitor survey**

The visitor survey had now finished for 2013 and 1,083 completed questionnaires were received, an increase on last year. Volunteers were gradually taking over more elements of the survey and this year they have mapped eight sites on the Forest, covering a whopping 120 miles over 60 hours of surveying, mapping 1,395 visitors.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteer hours for August to September amounted to 1,271

### **Mast Year**

There was widespread consensus that 2013 is another mast year, following the previous 2010 mast year, with a plentiful profusion of nuts and berries. The warm wet autumn had also seen a strong show of fungi in the Forest with excellent records of rarities and record amounts of foraging. Forest Keepers had 19 prosecutions pending for commercial levels of collecting.

### **London Borough of Newham Fireworks and Laser Display**

The Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November event received record crowds, with 25,000 visitors within the compound, together with the entire length of the specially closed Centre Road.

In response to a query from Members, Officers informed the Committee that over the last two years covert cameras activated by heat or movement had been utilised to try and record fly tipping incidents and a sign had been erected alerting the public to its use. A new 'state-of-the-art' camera had just been purchased and is being tested ahead of siting at fly tipping 'hot spots'. The new camera also had the ability to read car registrations.. Members said that although fly tipping was a problem, Officers must remember that litter dropping across the forest was also an on-going issue.

Members queried whether there were sufficient resources available to support the current level of fungi picking prosecutions. Officers informed Members that prosecutions were necessary given the extensive and very high levels of fungi picking that were currently taking place..

In response to a Member query, Officers advised that the City of London can avail itself of a Common Law Power to help travellers move from a site. A tractor had been made available at Wanstead Flats to support the movement of a group of seven travellers.

## **8. EPPING FOREST WORK PROGRAMME OUT-TURN 2012-2013**

The Committee received a report of the Director or Open Spaces which summarised the work completed as part of the access and habitat work programme for Epping Forest from April 2012 to March 2013. Members were informed that the work was completed against the backdrop of highly unusual weather conditions, beginning with drought and followed by one of the wettest spring and summer periods on record.

Amongst the highlights of the work by staff and contractors were:

- the re-surfacing of over 2.5km of surfaced rides;
- the completion of work on 89 Keystone Beech trees in a revised Branching Out programme, modified due to the weather conditions;
- the pollarding of more than 150 Hornbeams and “haloing” of many other ancient and veteran pollards in 15 Forest compartments (Appendix 1);
- the completion of 10 years work in restoring the ancient wood-pasture and Oaks of Lords Bushes;
- the harvesting of over 20 hectares of haylage from the Forest in addition to the crop taken from the Buffer Lands;
- the start of the new grazing contract with Wildlife & Countryside Services And the introduction of Redpoll cattle to the Buffer Lands.

In addition, of the two main volunteers’ groups, the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers (EFCV) and the Epping Forest Centenary Trust, carried out work on over 40 sites During the year, the EFCV agreed to consolidate its volunteering effort on 8 core sites across the Forest. The Scout Project 823 was a success, with the highlight being the construction of the walkway at Connaught Water.

The habitats work programme was supported by significant annual income from the agri-environment grants administered by the Rural Payments Agency and Natural England which this year amounted to £313,741.91 in total. In addition, further income was received from the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Tubney Charitable Trust for the trees and grazing management elements of the Branching Out Project.

#### **9. EPPING FOREST GRAZING MONITORING AUDIT**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces describing the latest monitoring work on grazing and provides the second annual assessment by the Independent Grazing Assessor, Dr Peter Dennis of Aberystwyth University (Committee Member & Secretary of The Royal Society’s UK Biodiversity Science Committee (UK BSC)).

Members were informed that the Assessor was satisfied with the Grazing Strategy’s phased approach although he recognised that it had moved at a slower pace in 2013 than anticipated due to external and infrastructure constraints. He considered the current combination of monitoring methods provides “a suitable and effective monitoring programme”. He inspected the 8 additional transects and regarded their length and location as appropriate but suggests some additional techniques, including Centre-pole Fixed Point Photography as an economical way of garnering extra vegetation data.

The annual costs of continuing the monitoring programme, with some of the additions covered in this report, would come from local risk budgets and would amount to up to £12,000. In addition the work involved in the assessment is likely to cost between £3,000 - £3,500 in the next financial year.

In response to survey proposals by the Head of Conservation Dr Dennis concluded with some suggestions for future projects and survey work. He outlines the extra resources that might be required for these and suggests a phased timetable for survey work is required to match available resources. He recommended seeking public engagement with monitoring projects where possible.

In response to a query from Members, Officers said that the Red Poll cattle supplied by Wildlife and Countryside Services were grazing complementary sites alongside the Long Horns at Epping Forest. The partnership contract previously approved by your Committee makes provision for grazing by the Grazier's stock reducing the call on the City's capital. The cost of managing the Red Polls were covered by the owner of the cattle.

**RESOLVED:** That Members approved the production of a 3rd report by the Grazing Assessor to be provided to the Management Plan Steering Group for consideration prior to being submitted to Committee in November 2014

#### 10. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Superintendent for hosting the visit to Dorneywood and tour of Burnham Beeches. The Superintendent of Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common provided the following update to the Committee:

The Cattle at Burnham Beeches continued to graze within the Park Lane invisible fence until mid-September. They are now grazing land at Hedgerley and village 'Lookers' are carrying out daily checks and reporting issues to the BB Office as they arise.

The Exmoor Ponies continued to graze on Burnham Beeches following their recent dental and feet checks. They would move to land owned by the Teikyo School near Slough as food availability dictates.

The cattle at Stoke Common had now been taken from the site having completed 2750 grazing days on the site in 2013. This was within the agreed range to ensure an appropriate balance between the needs of conservation and farming.

Halo and clearance works had started at Burnham Beeches in preparation for the coming winter's pollard restoration programme.

Contractors recently cleared 1.25 Ha of secondary woodland at Stoke Common as part of year 6 of the restoration programme. Staff and volunteers would continue to carry out smaller scale works over the winter months.

Many events had recently been held on the sites including:

- A Rotary Club sponsored event, a week-long Halloween trail, an 'On location' walk and 5 'Simply Health' walks.
- 500 students ranging from primary age to MSc students made educational visits to the Beeches and Stoke Common.

- Volunteers contributed 1300 hours to work at the sites in September and October. A wide range of task was completed and the conservation and administration volunteers in particular are proving to be a growth area.

Several visits had also taken place at Burnham Beeches over the period including

- a visit by the City Commons Consultation Group to inspect the invisible fencing project.
- the pollarding of a tree by Sheriff Waddingham followed by lunch at Dorney Wood.
- A guided tour of the site for the Worshipful Company of Marketors.
- A work shadow day for staff from the Nene Park Trust.

In relation to the recent storm, Officers informed the Committee that Burnham Beeches suffered relatively lightly from the recent high winds. The site was closed during the worst of the weather and reopened and checked according to the site policy. 2 beech pollards are known to have been felled and around 20 maiden trees. Many limbs were lost and work to bring down hung up branches and tress completed in the high and medium priority areas and some issues remain in low risk areas and will be tackled as resources allow.

**11. OUTCOME OF PHASE 2 TRIALS OF INVISIBLE FENCING AND VIRTUAL GRIDS AT BURNHAM BEECHES.**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces and noted the results of the final phased trials that took place in July to September.

In response to a query, Officers said they were working closely with the manufacturers to implement a series of recommendations to improve the current system.

**RESOLVED:** That Members agreed:

- To delay the final delivery of conservation grazing across Burnham Beeches by one year to allow:
- Equipment improvements and implications should be assessed.
- Two options to be considered as mechanisms for final delivery.
- That the Superintendent provides a final recommendation report to this committee in July 2014.

**12. REVIEW OF PILOT STUDY - USE OF SECONDARY AUTHORITY POWERS TO INTRODUCE DOG CONTROL ORDERS AT BURNHAM BEECHES.**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces and noted the results of the final phased trials that took place in July to September.

In response to a query, Officers said they were working closely with the manufacturers to implement a series of recommendations to improve the current system.

**RESOLVED:** That Members agreed:

- To delay the final delivery of conservation grazing across Burnham Beeches by one year to allow:
- Equipment improvements and implications to be assessed.
- Two options to be considered as mechanisms for final delivery.
- That the Superintendent provides a final recommendation report to this committee in July 2014.

13. **SOUTH BUCKS DISTRICT COUNCIL - DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT LOCAL PLAN UPDATE.**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces which informed Members of the proposal to introduce Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve using the recently acquired powers provided under Secondary Authority status.

Officers informed Members that there was a general interest in this topic, and they had been working with local authorities to tackle the issues posed by it. As each site was different it was difficult to implement a blanket policy, and so site assessments were a necessary and useful part of the process. The Director said she would be meeting with the Kennel Club next month to discuss the matter.

In response to a query from Members, Officers agreed to circulate information for dog owners which Members could hand out to offending parties. Officers also informed Members that they used local press to publicise information regarding dog control orders for the public.

14. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Superintendent of City Commons provided the following update to the Committee:

**St Judes Storm**

Very clear storm warnings were issued by the Met Office and the Commons Rangers responded very efficiently on the morning of the 28th October 2013 assessing the damage and clearing blocked paths. There was not much damage across the Coulsdon Commons and West Wickham Commons. At Ashted Common some pollards were lost and some veteran trees within the low risk zones sustained damage to large limbs and bows.

**Rural Payments Agency**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 the Rural Payments Agency commenced a five day inspection of the City Commons ELS/HLS agreement. Initial feedback is expected on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

**Byelaw Enforcement – Farthing Downs**

Working with the Comptroller & City Solicitor a successful prosecution had been brought against a driver who drove his vehicle across Farthing Downs.

### **Lime Wood Project – Spring Park**

The Small-leaved Lime Conservation Project at Spring Park has received £7,513.00 funding from the SITA Trust.

The Project aimed to conserve an area of ancient woodland at Spring Park which contains a regionally important and distinctive population of rare Small-leaved Lime trees. This species, once favoured as a source of material for rope-making, is now vulnerable due to its poor reproduction. The Project would promote its survival and regeneration through implementing a Species Management Plan drawn up by the Limewood Working Group, which was part of the Tree Council.

This plan would guide the Project and ensure that appropriate management is used. Site rangers, working with volunteers and contractors will re-coppice lapsed Small-leaved Lime stools, layer stems to encourage regeneration, coppice and pollard other trees nearby, 'halo release' the veteran Limes and remove timber using heavy horses.

### **Bridleway 38 – Ashtead Common**

The Ashtead team had brought forward a surfacing project on Bridleway 38 between Craddocks Avenue and Lady Howards Crossing. The Head Ranger had secured £3,800 compensation from a Contractor working for Network Rail for damage to the bridleway surface resulting from works to the electricity sub station adjacent to the railway. The work was due to commence shortly and local horse riders had been informed.

### **Holmefield Road – Coulsdon Common**

The Head Ranger reported to the summer Consultative Committee proposals to install posts to protect the Common along Holmefield Road. The Rangers were taking advantage of a temporary road closure to complete the work in late November.

### **Cattle**

As part of our commitment to biosecurity 25 of our Sussex cattle were having 5 different blood tests on Thursday 21st November to ensure they were fit to enter the Epping Forest herd. Once the tests results were back the breeding herd will move to Great Gregories in late December. In addition, 5 cattle were going to be overwintered at Chessington Farm and 20 younger stock will be over wintered on the Coulsdon Commons.

### **Sheep**

The decision was taken not to breed from our flock of Jacob's we have sufficient numbers for the planned grazing in 2014.

### **Volunteer numbers**

Volunteers contributed 5611 hours between April and October 2013, now only 20 hours behind last year's position. This was boosted by 57 young people from the Big Challenge helping manage the firebreaks on Ashtead Common, a further task had been planned for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Kenley Air show**

The organisers of the Kenley Charity Air Show have agreed the terms the City was prepared to offer:-

- 14 acres of Kenley Common would be closed for 3 hours during the air show to provide a sterile area.
- The organisers are responsible for marking off the area.
- The Licensee was to pay reasonable costs incurred by the City of London for the supervision of the event.
- A peppercorn fee had been proposed as this is a charity event raising funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund.
- The organisers were responsible for risk assessments and the safety of the public attending the event.

### **Restructure**

Informal consultation had been completed with very constructive feedback has been received from staff. The Superintendent will be presenting the revised structure to the Director and Corporate HR towards the end of November.

### **Kenley Revival Project – Kenley Common**

The Superintendent was notified by the Heritage Lottery Fund that the Kenley Revival Project had achieved a round 1 pass on the 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. The Town Clerk informed the Committee by email.

The Project was then approved by the Projects Sub Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013 allowing the Superintendent to progress the development phase of the project and submit a round 2 application in December 2014.

Pre-start documentation had been approved by the Heritage Lottery Fund and £28,000 was being released to the City of London, this would be used to employ a part time, fixed term contract Project Development Officer.

### **Work Programmes**

The Head Rangers were starting to prepare their work programmes for 2014/15 ready to present to the three Consultative Committees in January & February 2014. These would then be presented to the Epping Forest & Commons Committee in March 2014.

#### **15. COULSDON COMMONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The Committee noted the minutes of the Consultative Committee.

#### **16. ASHTEAD COMMONS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The Committee noted the minutes of the Consultative Committee, and the Town Clerk agreed to include the minutes of the West Wickham Consultative Committee meeting on the agenda for the next meeting in January.

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

In response to a query from Members, Officers said they would investigate the commercial potential of allowing ward clubs and livery committees to use the open spaces for events. The Director agreed to discuss this with the Marketing Officer. In response to a query from a Verderer, Officers said the work programme 2014/15 would be circulated before the January Committee meeting. Officers also clarified that the feeding and maintenance costs of livestock not owned by the City were met by the individual owners.

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

The Committee agreed to confirm a date via email for a meeting of the Epping Forest Land Registration Working Party in February after a visit had taken place.

**19. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**MOTION:** 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 that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

**Items 20 – 24 under Paragraph 3.**

**20. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

**21. LEASE RENEWAL**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces.

**22. HIGH BEACH VISITOR CENTRE - FUTURE OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces.

**23. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There was none.

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

There was none.

**The meeting ended at 1.10 pm**

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Chairman

**Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra**  
**Natasha.Dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk**