

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 9 June 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Room 2 - Committee Rooms on Monday, 9 June 2014 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Karina Dostalova
Revd Dr Martin Dudley
Ann Holmes
Clare James
Edward Lord
Professor John Lumley
Deputy John Owen-Ward
Martyn Foster (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden)
Tony Ghilchik (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Maija Roberts (Ramblers Association/Open Spaces Society)

Officers:

David Arnold	Town Clerk's Department
Alistair MacLellan	Town Clerk's Department
Paul Double	City Remembrancer
Alison Elam	Chamberlain's Department
Michael Cogher	Comptroller & City Solicitor
Edward Wood	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	Operations Services Manager
Esther Sumner	Ponds Project & Management Support Officer
Philip Everett	Director of the Built Environment
Paul Monaghan	Department of the Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy John Barker, Councillor Melvin Cohen, Deputy Alex Deane, Alderman Ian Luder, Barbara Newman, Tom Sleight and Alex Sydney (English Heritage).

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Edward Lord as a returning Member to the Committee and thanked Dennis Cotgrove for his contribution to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park during his 14 years on the Committee. The Chairman also congratulated Councillors Melvin Cohen and Sally Gimson for their re-election in May 2014 to the London Boroughs of Brent and Camden respectively and thanked Alistair MacLellan for his services as Clerk to the Committee during the past year.

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

Edward Lord declared a non-pecuniary interest in Hampstead Heath matters as he was the current Chairman of the Amateur Swimming Association.

3. ORDERS OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL, 1 MAY 2014

RESOLVED – That the draft Order of the Court of Common Council, 1 May 2014, appointing the Committee be received and its Terms of Reference approved.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED - That in accordance with Standing Order No 29, Jeremy Simons be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing Order No 30, Virginia Rounding be elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. MINUTES

6.1 Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 April 2014 be agreed, subject to a typing error in the third paragraph of item 7 being corrected.

Matters Arising

The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

The Chairman noted that the sculpture had been moved to Golders Hill Park on 27 May 2014.

6.2 Minutes of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 30 April 2014, be noted.

6.3 Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 2 June 2014, be noted.

6.4 Minutes of the Queens Park Joint Consultative Group - to follow

The Chairman noted that the minutes of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group meeting held on 4 June 2014 would be received at the next meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

6.5 Notes of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group Seminar held on 13 April 2014

RESOLVED – That the notes of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group Seminar held on 13 April 2014 be noted.

6.6 Notes of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group Seminar held on 24 April 2014

RESOLVED – That the notes of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group Seminar held on 24 April 2014 be noted.

6.7 Notes of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group Seminar held on 10 May 2014

RESOLVED – That the notes of the Ponds Project Stakeholder Group Seminar held on 10 May 2014 be noted.

7. 2014/15 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Committee's annual appointments to the various Consultative Committees and a Joint Consultative Group.

RESOLVED: - That,

- a) the appointment and composition of the following bodies be endorsed as follows for the ensuing year:-
 - i) **Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**
Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
 - ii) **Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee**
Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Ann Holmes
Professor John Lumley
Barbara Newman
 - iii) **Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group**
Jeremy Simons (Chairman)
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)
Karina Dostalova
Ann Holmes
Barbara Newman
- b) Jeremy Simons be appointed as the representative to the Keats House Consultative Committee; and
- c) Tony Ghilchik be appointed as the local representative to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath reported that several meetings had been held to discuss the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project (HHPP) since the last meeting of the committee on 14 April 2014. These had included two Ponds Project Stakeholder Group seminars on a Saturday and Sunday – both followed by an additional session for anyone who could not attend the weekend sessions; a meeting with Brookfield Mansions residents; the Hampstead Heath Angling Society; the Kenwood Ladies Pond Association; Graham White (Senior Wetland Ecologist at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds); a meeting between the London Borough of Camden, City of London and the Heath & Hampstead Society to discuss emergency planning measures; and a meeting with London Borough of Camden's former Green Councillor, Maya D'Souza.

The Superintendent added that BAM Nuttall had completed their initial ground investigations and surveys on 15 May 2014, a fortnight ahead of schedule. Work undertaken included 15 bore holes and 34 trial pits. Some work had been postponed due to the nesting season and this would be completed in August 2014. Members were informed that the Camden Development Management Forum held on 5 June 2014 focussed on legal issues and no new information was provided. It was anticipated that the planning application for the HHPP would be submitted on 4 July 2014, after a further Stakeholder Group meeting on 26 June 2014.

Planning

The Superintendent reported that the Water House application had not been formally progressed by the London Borough of Camden since April. He understood that Camden had possession of the basement impact assessment and were discussing this with the developer.

The Superintendent added that the Archway Tower application had not been considered by the April meeting of the London Borough of Islington's Planning Committee and therefore the developer had appealed in May and resubmitted an application that had been deferred to the next meeting in June.

Members were informed that the Garden House site was up for sale and that a revised application for a smaller basement at Athlone House had been presented. There was little change from the original application and the concerns expressed by the City of London Corporation had not been addressed; therefore the City of London would be objecting to the revised scheme. The application for mixed development at Swains Lane had been amended in response to comments and objections to the Council.

Parliament Hill Athletics Track

The Superintendent noted that the athletic track showers had been repaired and replaced in time for the 10,000m event on 10 May. He thanked the City Surveyor's Department for their assistance with these repairs.

Parliament Hill Lido

Members were informed that repairs to the Lido Café roof were currently under way. The Superintendent is continuing to work with the City Surveyor to complete the re-instatement of the boundary walls in the autumn.

Pergola Belvedere and Hill Garden

The Superintendent reported that the Belvedere staircase was expected to be open to the public in approximately two weeks following repairs. Members were informed that the Camden Listed Building Consent Officer had agreed that harder render could be used at the Hill Garden shelter. Tanking works to the stairs would have to be completed first and therefore it was estimated that work could start on site in March 2015. The wall would then need approximately six months to dry out before the older damaged render could be removed and the new hard render applied.

Network Rail

The Superintendent reported that Network Rail proposals for both a new electricity substation and the installation of new boundary fencing along the southern perimeter of the Heath had been considered by officers. Network Rail had been advised that the location of the new substation was considered inappropriate to the wider setting of the Heath and that the design of the proposed boundary fencing was similarly not in keeping with the character of the Heath's surrounding landscape. He advised that Network Rail had yet to respond to this feedback. In response to a member's question regarding the issue of litter by the boundary fence, the Superintendent advised that this had been raised with Network Rail and it had been suggested that the design of the new fence was important for the prevention of litter build up.

Staffing

The Superintendent commented that he was satisfied with staff performance for the year 2013/14 and that three Heath staff had been awarded a grade of "outstanding" in the City of London Corporation's internal annual appraisal process. All staff had now set their 2014/15 objectives in liaison with their managers. He added that a Senior Zoo Keeper and Engagement Officer had been recently recruited to the zoo at Golders Hill Park.

Events

The Superintendent reported on recent and forthcoming events on the Heath, highlighting the success of the 10,000m event on 10 May which saw over 75 personal bests set by those taking part. He added that the Leisure and Events Manager was now working with the Highgate Harriers to submit a bid to the London Marathon Trust to secure funding for a repeat of the event in 2015.

The Superintendent went on to note that construction had been completed on temporary structures for the Affordable Art Fair which would open on 11 June, and be followed by Grow London on 19 June.

He added that Cancer Research UK's Race for Life was scheduled for 5 July and had proved one of the most popular fundraising events on the Heath to date, given it had seen over £175,000 raised for charity in the last year.

Members were informed of other forthcoming events on the Heath, including the City Dip on 11-12 July, the City of London Festival on 13 July, and the Give it A Go festival on 20 July.

Conservation Work

The Superintendent advised that injection treatment had taken place to control the spread of Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. He added that Poppy seeds were now emerging at Golders Hill Park. Members were also informed that clearance of storm damage from the period of bad weather between October 2013 and February 2014 had been completed.

Golders Hill Park Toilets

The Superintendent reported that the toilets near the play area in Golders Hill Park were still closed but that it was hoped new pumps would be installed soon in order for them to be repaired and reopened. In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the new pumps would provide a better service as they had sharper knives to cut through flushed waste.

In response to a further question from a Member, the Superintendent advised that it was a priority to reopen the toilets rather than install a temporary facility. The Chairman requested that the Superintendent kept Members of this Committee informed of the progress to the repairs.

To conclude, Members thanked the Superintendent for his comprehensive report and noted that at future meetings they receive a written as well as a verbal update on Hampstead Heath from the Superintendent.

9. GATEWAY 4C - DETAILED DESIGN: HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Open Spaces and the Director of the Built Environment regarding the Gateway 4c – Detailed Design of the HHPP.

The Director of the Built Environment noted that the report provided an overview of the current stage of the project. He added that, given no clear preference had been expressed for any of the options that had been presented during the non-statutory consultation and information giving stage, officers had based their recommendation for the detailed design stage on the fundamental principles of the project, such as the desire to minimise tree loss and reduce where possible the overall increase in height of the dams.

The Director of the Built Environment provided an update on the trees at risk in order to reflect the most up to date picture emerging from the detailed design work. He reported that the number of trees at risk at Highgate Number 1 Pond was likely to increase by 10 to 20. He added that the exact figures would be published in the coming weeks.

In response to a member's question, the Director of the Built Environment advised that a land survey was carried out around Brookfield Mansions which

indicated that water would not become high enough to reach these properties. He added that these results demonstrated an improvement on the current situation for Brookfield Mansions.

In response to a Member's question, the Director of the Built Environment explained that, subject to the parameters of this report being agreed by this Committee, a planning application would be submitted in July and a decision by the London Borough of Camden would be expected in late autumn 2014. He added that Gateway 5 – Authority to Start Work would be presented to this Committee in early 2015 but preliminary preparatory work may begin sooner. This schedule would be subject to change if a Judicial Review revealed any new information; if not, the City's application for planning permission would continue as planned.

A member of the Committee from the Heath and Hampstead Society expressed opposition to the recommendations laid out in the report, but it was:-

RESOLVED – That,

- a) the selection of Option 6 on the Highgate Chain (crest restoration works at Stock Pond and Ladies' Bathing; a 2.5m raising of the dam at Model Boating Pond; 1m raising of the dam at the Men's Bathing Pond; 1.25m raising of the dam at Highgate Number 1 Pond; and spillway works at all ponds and associated environmental mitigation measures), be approved;
- b) the selection of Option M on the Hampstead Chain (crest restoration and spillway works at the Vale of Health and Viaduct Ponds; a new 5.6m flood storage dam at the Catchpit; 1m dam raising at the Mixed Bathing Pond; installation of culvert spillways at Hampstead No. 2 Pond and Hampstead No. 1 Pond and associated environmental mitigation measures), be approved;
- c) the submission of a planning application to Camden Council for these works be approved;
- d) the current budget position of a provisional estimated outturn cost of £17.39M (which remains within the agreed budget of £15.2M +/- 20% at 2010 prices) and that a more accurate estimated outturn will be reported together with the approval of Agreed Maximum Price at Gateway 5 – Authority to Start Work, be noted;
- e) an increase in the fees budget of £428,500 be approved;
- f) delegated authority to the Director of the Built Environment to release up to £500,000 from the construction phase of the budget to fund enabling works prior to approval of Authority to Start Work by the relevant Committees, be approved;
- g) delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve the option for the Ladies' Bathing Pond facility, be approved;
- h) delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to approve any substantive changes to the scheme in advance of submission to the planning application, be approved; and

- i) delegated authority to the Director of the Built Environment to take such steps as may be necessary to give effect to the recommendations, be approved.

10. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014**

The Committee received a report of the Remembrancer on the Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The Remembrancer advised that the Act had completed its passage through Parliament and would introduce a broad range of methods to deal with anti-social behaviour at Hampstead Heath. Members were advised that the administration of fixed penalty notices was expected to start in autumn 2014.

Members were advised that a report regarding the introduction of Dog Control Orders at Burnham Beeches would be provided at the Committee meeting in November 2014.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11. **LADIES' POND FATALITY REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the fatality that occurred in the Kenwood Ladies' Pond on 4 August 2013.

The Operations Services Manager of Hampstead Heath noted that it has been a difficult period for all those involved in the incident and he thanked the Director of Open Spaces and other senior officers from Guildhall for their support whilst the Superintendent was on annual leave. Members were advised that this accidental death was the first to occur in over 37 years at any of the swimming facilities on Hampstead Heath while Lifeguards had been on duty.

The health and safety report concluded that the City of London was doing all it could to limit the hazards faced by swimmers in a natural water setting, but that ultimately the responsibility in responding to those hazards was the individual swimmer's. In response to a member's question, the Superintendent advised that chalk boards had been introduced to reinforce the safety messages and share relevant information with bathers such as water quality and temperature.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12. **WEDDINGS AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS AT THE HILL GARDEN AND PERGOLA**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath outlining proposals to begin offering weddings and civil partnerships at the Hill Garden and Pergola.

The Superintendent reported that useful feedback had been provided at the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee walk on 29 March 2014 and advised that officers intended to adopt a soft opening of the proposal to ensure its impact on the site and other visitors was kept to a minimum.

Members were informed that, under the Terms and Conditions of Booking, only two bookings per week would be taken, excluding bank holidays, with a limit of two Fridays and two weekend dates within any one month.

RESOLVED – That the proposals for the management of ceremonies and the charging structure, policy and terms and conditions for bookings, be approved.

13. OUTDOOR TRIPLES TABLE TENNIS TABLE

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought approval to install an outdoor triples table tennis table on the Heath for a cost of £2,700, discounted from £3,600.

The Operations Services Manager explained that the proposal was inspired by comments from the public following the success of similar initiatives at Queen's Park and Golders Hill Park. He advised that the proposed location of the table would be adjacent to the tennis hut, in keeping with the current use of that area. He added that the table would be installed in time to be launched at the 2014 'Give It A Go' Festival on 20 July 2014.

In response to a member's question, the Operations Services Manager advised that the colour of the triples table tennis table would be green.

RESOLVED – That the proposal to purchase and install the outdoor triples table tennis table as a permanent feature at Parliament Hill, be approved.

14. MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR PREACHER'S HILL

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought approval of the Management Work Plan for Preacher's Hill.

The Superintendent thanked the Hampstead Heath Ecologist and her team for producing the Management Work Plan. A member from the Heath and Hampstead Society expressed his support for the Plan.

RESOLVED – That the Management Work Plan for Preacher's Hill be approved.

15. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE ON HIGHGATE WOOD

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the Highgate Wood Update – April 2014.

Members were informed that the bark chipping in the playground would be replaced by Tiger Mulch to reduce the amount of time spent by staff on maintenance. The Superintendent advised that installation of the Tiger Mulch would begin shortly.

The Superintendent added that adjustments would be made to the timeline in the Heritage section of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) summary document following feedback from the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED – That the Highgate Wood Summary CMP be approved for adoption.

16. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE ON QUEEN'S PARK**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on the management and operational activities of Queen's Park.

The Superintendent advised that the City Gardens team would visit Queen's Park next week to lay new turf in the playground. He added that funding was currently being secured for new equipment to be added to the playground as part of the Third Phase installation to ensure that a wide range of ages were catered for.

RESOLVED – That the report be approved.

17. **QUEEN'S PARK CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought approval of the Queen's Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP).

The Superintendent reported that the CMP was broadly supported by the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group in the last meeting held on 4 June 2014.

RESOLVED – That the Queen's Park CMP be approved for adoption.

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

Members requested that the dates of Committee meetings, visits, and events up to the end of 2015 be circulated by the Town Clerk.

Members of this Committee also requested that the Town Clerk and Remembrancer made all Members of the Court aware of upcoming events at Hampstead Heath.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

21. **GATEWAY 4C - DETAILED DESIGN: HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT - APPENDIX 5: BUDGET**

The Committee considered the financial analysis of the joint report of the Director of Open Spaces and the Director of the Built Environment regarding the Gateway 4c – Detailed Design of the HHPP.

RESOLVED – That the report be approved.

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

There were none.

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 items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.05 pm

Chairman

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