

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 18 May 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 18 May 2015 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy John Barker
Karina Dostalova
Ann Holmes
Clare James
Edward Lord
Professor John Lumley
Virginia Rounding
Jeremy Simons
Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)
Martyn Foster (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds)
Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden)
John Beyer (Heath and Hampstead Society)
Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association)

Officers:

David Arnold	Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Paul Double	City Remembrancer
Nigel Lefton	Remembrancer's Department
Sam Cook	Remembrancer's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	Open Spaces Department
Esther Sumner	Open Spaces Department
Paul Monaghan	Department of the Built Environment
John Park	Public Relations Office

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Melvin Cohen, Deputy Alex Deane, Revd Dr Martin Dudley, Barbara Newman, Philip Wright (English Heritage).

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

Ann Holmes declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matters relating to the Highgate Wood café as she knew the owner personally.

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

RESOLVED – That the draft Order of the Court of Common Council, 23 April 2015, appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference, be noted.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing Order No 29, Virginia Rounding be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Is RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing Order No 30 (3(a)), Jeremy Simons be appointed Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**: THAT at the conclusion of his term of office as their Chairman, the Members of this Committee wish to extend to

Jeremy Simons

their sincere thanks and appreciation for the extremely able and competent manner in which he has presided over their deliberations and the detailed interest he has shown in all aspects of the work of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee.

Jeremy's tenure as Chairman has largely coincided with the planning and implementation of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. The Chairman's term started early on in the Project and he has skilfully steered the ship through these choppy waters, with skill, expertise and humour. Throughout the Project process, Jeremy has encouraged wide consultation and promoted extremely thorough community involvement in helping to design the scheme. His commitment to the project, which is now well underway, has been unerring.

Jeremy took up a monthly column called 'View from the Heath' for the Ham and High, for which he immediately started drafting passionate and accurate commentaries. He used the piece to full effect, keeping Heath users and local residents up to date with key milestones in the Ponds Project as well as including lighter and more informative observations on heritage and wildlife and on day to day operational issues such as the Heath Constabulary and the problems of litter.

Jeremy has given great support to Heath events, representing the City with great enthusiasm at the many events held across the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. He took on the Mayor of Camden at table tennis – a true clash of the Titans – with gusto. He has keenly launched events such as the Give it a Go Festival and his support for sport has been particularly welcomed. He also made a very entertaining speech at the inaugural Night of the 10,000 Personal Bests, an event that brought an extremely high standard of athletics to

the Heath. He presided over a record breaking Conker Championships for which the Heath received a prestigious Guinness World Records award. Jeremy's interest and passion for the arts drove his persistence in helping to get Jake and Dinos Chapman's sculptures, 'The Good, the Bad, the Ugly', installed at Golders Hill Park.

An array of important projects have started or progressed during Jeremy's term as Chairman. He has shown great interest in the Roman Kiln Project to return a 2,000-year-old kiln to its original home in Highgate Wood, which has received much local support. Wild About Hampstead Heath, the innovative partnership with RSPB, has also blossomed and new education facilities have appeared across the Heath; GROW London and weddings and civil ceremonies hosted at the Pergola and Hill Garden have occurred for the first time. Jeremy has also overseen a period of success at Queen's Park, which was awarded the Green Flag in 2014, and at Golders Hill Park, which received a Gold Award and was named as category winner for London in Bloom 2014.

He represented the City at the Diamond Jubilee Festival at Golders Hill Park, attended by over 6000 party-goers and the splendid Shree Muktajeevan Pipe Band. Rain and high wind prevented the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon but Jeremy successfully unveiled the Diamond Jubilee weather-vane on top of the bandstand. In 2013, Jeremy welcomed both the Lord Mayor and the Mayor of Brent to Queen's Park, who both jointly planted an Oak Tree to mark the 125th year of the City's management of the Park.

Finally, Jeremy Simons will be remembered as a Chairman possessing a sharp, analytical mind, being hugely supportive of officers, with an excellent ability to lead Committees and meetings with skill and sensitivity. Officers in the Open Spaces Department with whom Jeremy has worked so closely will miss the regular sight of him cycling to and from the Heath and Highgate Wood, particularly in one of his many panama hats! Staff are also extremely grateful for the essential support and care for staff welfare provided by Jeremy during difficult times such as severe storm events and the tragic deaths in 2013 and 2015.

The Committee now wishes to place on record its recognition of his distinguished contribution to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park during the past three years, and look forward to his continued contribution to the Committee during the years to come.

6. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2015/16**

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

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) the appointment and composition of the following bodies be approved as follows for the ensuing year:-
 - i) **Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**
Virginia Rounding (Chairman)

Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)
ii) **Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee**

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)
Ann Holmes
Professor John Lumley
Barbara Newman

iii) **Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group**

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)
Karina Dostalova
Ann Holmes
Barbara Newman

- b) Jeremy Simons be appointed as the representative to the Keats House Consultative Committee; and
- c) The appointment of an officially nominated representative from Barnet Mencap to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be approved.

7. MINUTES

7.1 **Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015 be approved.

Matters Arising

The Superintendent of Hampstead Heath updated the Committee regarding the following matters:

East Heath Car Park

Quotations for the works were currently being obtained. The car park would remain closed for two to three weeks once the works were expected to start after summer 2015.

Parliament Hill Outdoor Gym Proposal

The London Borough of Camden were currently shortlisting contractors to install equipment and a report would be submitted to this and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee in July 2015. The Town Clerk added that a Camden Outdoor Gyms Evaluation document would be circulated to Members after the meeting.

Kite Hill

The phased landscape improvement works were progressing and the QR code for the strategic view would be available on the Hampstead Heath website shortly. A meeting would be taking place soon to discuss the new sign with the Heath and Hampstead Society.

Filming

In response to the Chairman's question, the Superintendent advised that the filming company who asked permission to film on the Heath during April 2015 were allowed to do so and a good fee was received.

7.2 Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That the draft public minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015 be noted.

The Superintendent advised that he would arrange a meeting with members of the Joint Consultative Committee who were also Councillors to appoint a Highgate Wood Park Champion. The outcome would be reported to this Committee in July 2015.

8. **RESOLUTION OF THE OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS COMMITTEE**
RESOLVED – That the resolution of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee on 20 April 2015, regarding Equipment Funding Offers, be noted.

9. **PROMOTION OF A CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION (OPEN SPACES) BILL**

The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer that sought approval for the promotion of a City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill to clarify and expand the management powers available to the Corporation, to increase opportunities to generate revenue for the benefit of the Open Spaces, and to strengthen enforcement powers.

The Remembrancer advised that this would go through Parliament as a Private Bill where it would be examined by a Committee in each House. The Director of Open Spaces added that some of the management powers proposed for inclusion in the Bill were already reflected in the running of other open spaces such as the Royal Parks.

In response to Members' questions, the Remembrancer advised that lease extensions would be subject to rate reviews and that powers would be increased to deal with anti-social behaviour. He added that the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee would be consulted further on the proposals in July 2015.

RESOLVED – That the recommendation, subject to the concurrence of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council, that a City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill be promoted to seek legislative changes, be approved.

10. **DEPARTMENT OF OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2015-18**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces that sought approval for the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015-18. Members were advised that the Business Plan focussed on delivering charitable objectives and four departmental objectives:

- Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of sites
- Embed financial sustainability across activities by delivering identified programmes and projects
- Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging learning and volunteering offer
- Improve the health and wellbeing of local communities through access to green space and recreation

RESOLVED – That the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015-18 be approved.

11. WAYLEAVES REVIEW

The Committee considered a joint report of the Superintendents of Epping Forest, Burnham Beeches and Stoke and City Commons, and Hampstead Heath that sought approval to put in place a more structured and uniform approach to charges and management of Wayleave agreements.

The Deputy Chairman noted that additional Council Tax bandings could be calculated based on the current charge for a band D property.

RESOLVED – That Option 2 which links the charging of Motorgates to Council Tax bandings, and increases Handgates from £5 per annum to £10 per annum, be approved.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on management and operational activities across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since the Committee's last meeting in March 2015.

Firstly, the Committee expressed their thanks to all Heath staff for dealing with the recent tragic death at the Men's Pond with care and consideration.

Members were then provided with updates on the following matters:

Lido

Scaffolding would be removed from the Café roof on 27 May and works were due to be completed on 29 May. A non-slip safety surface was to be installed at the paddling pool also on 29 May.

Events

1,200 spectators were present at a successful Night of the 10,000 metre Personal Bests on 16 May. The winning time of the Men's event was just 28 minutes and 40 seconds.

In response to a Member's question, the Public Relations Officer would look into the possibility of a Members update so all Members of the Court of Common Council were aware of upcoming events at the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

In response to another Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the events diaries had generated a good amount of donations during the Easter fairs and at the tennis hut but that better facilities for people to put their donations were required elsewhere.

Heath Hands

The 2014/15 data for Heath Hands' volunteer hours would be circulated by the Superintendent after the meeting.

Conservation and Ecology

The wildflower meadows on Dukes Field, the Heath Extension and the Old Hockey Pitch had struggled due to the cold and dry weather in April 2015.

Parliament Hill

Refurbishment of the tennis courts had been completed and they would re-open to the public on 25 May.

In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the strategic view area at Kite Hill had not yet been marked but this would be discussed in the upcoming meeting with the Heath and Hampstead Society, who were providing a capital contribution for a new sign at the site. Work on the site would start in autumn 2015, after the busy summer period.

Ranger Team

A sink hole appeared near the Vale of Health on 24 April and investigations were currently being completed in consultation with the City Surveyor's Department.

Swimming

The recent underwater survey at the Men's Pond diving board indicated that the jetty was strong enough but plates needed to be fitted and a frame installed. It was hoped that the Men's Pond diving board would be back in use by the time of the next Swimming Forum in June 2015.

Queen's Park

A Member noted the success of the newly installed donations box in the Children's Farm. The Superintendent added that similar boxes would be installed at the Golders Hill Park Zoo, as well as the Lido paddling pool. Members noted that there was already a donations box in the Butterfly House at Golders Hill Park.

RESOLVED – That the Superintendent's update report be noted.

13. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided Members with the update on the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project.

The Superintendent advised that the Community Working Group had met three times already and discussions had been useful. The Section 106 Agreement with the London Borough of Camden also required three apprentices to be employed, final selection for which would take place shortly. However, one of the apprenticeships was being re-advertised due to an initial lack of interest.

The Superintendent also advised that an area by the Viaduct Pond had been closed since 14 May and that there had been a slower rate of stone and sheet pile deliveries than planned because the small lorries appropriate for the Heath were difficult to procure. Sheet piles needed to be installed soon but only half of the necessary equipment had been delivered due to the slower rate. This had,

however, allowed regular Heath users to become slowly accustomed to the Project works.

In response to a Member's question regarding the Serpentine Swimming Club, the Superintendent added that a shared dialogue at the next Swimming Forum would be welcomed.

In response to Members' questions regarding the Education Project, the Superintendent advised that a good debating exercise had been carried out amongst local secondary school students but it had been difficult to get schools involved in science and engineering based learning opportunities. He added that an Education Project report would be submitted to the next Committee meeting in July 2015.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) authority be delegated to the Director of Open Spaces in consultation with the Chamberlain to agree the release of the remaining specific risk provisions identified within the Risk Register and the provisional sum identified;
- b) authority be delegated to the Director of Open Spaces in consultation with the Chamberlain to authorise the transfer of the budget for some reinstatement activities to Hampstead Heath to enable some of the smaller scale reinstatement works such as planting, to be undertaken in-house if felt to be appropriate and cost effective as the Project progresses; and
- c) these changes in delegated authority be effective from 1 August 2015.

14. CYCLING IN HIGHGATE WOOD

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the enforcement of the Highgate Wood Byelaw that currently imposed a ban on cycling in the Wood. Members were advised that this was Byelaw 11, not 10 as stated in the report.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) The recommendations of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 22 April 2015 regarding the cycling ban within Highgate Wood be noted; and
- b) Byelaw 11 be maintained and enforced but children under the age of 12 be allowed to ride a bicycle under close supervision.

15. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In response to a Member's question, the Town Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group was to be held on Wednesday 10 June 2015.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The Chairman advised that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee dinner would be held at Trinity House on Monday 12 October 2015. Invitations would be circulated to all Members in due course.

17. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT FINANCE UPDATE
RESOLVED** – That the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project finance update be noted.
18. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF
THE COMMITTEE**
There were none.
19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was none.

The meeting ended at 12.40 pm

Chairman

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