

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE

Monday, 25 January 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)	Edward Lord
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Deputy John Barker	Barbara Newman
Keith Bottomley	Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)
Karina Dostalova	John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association)
Clare James	Philip Wright (English Heritage)
Michael Hudson	

Officers:

David Arnold	- Town Clerk's Department
John Park	- Town Clerk's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	- Open Spaces Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Department
Philip Everett	- Ponds Project Director

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Dennis Cotgrove, Graeme Smith, Councillor Melvin Cohen (London Borough of Barnet), and Martyn Foster (RSPB).

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

There were none.

3. HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2015 be approved, subject to the following amendment:-

Golders Hill Park

The size of the Zoo and Butterfly House would be reduced to incorporate a smaller number of species relevant to the wildlife of the Heath.

Matters Arising

City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill

The Bill had had its formal first reading in the House of Commons on 22 January 2016 and was due for a second reading on 1 February 2016. Petitions for or against the Bill would no longer be permitted after 15 February 2016.

Location of Committee Meetings

The dates for meetings to be held in the evening at the Heath and Guildhall were still being considered. Members were encouraged to attend a Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. The Town Clerk would circulate the details of the next Consultative Committee in advance of the meeting on 7 March 2016.

Proposal to Introduce Zippos Circus to Queen's Park

The Queen's Park Manager had begun consultations with local residents and user groups regarding the provision of other income-generating events at the Park.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk that sought approval to the proposed Committee Terms of Reference for subsequent submission to the Court of Common Council in April 2016.

Members agreed to remove reference to the annual funding and priorities agreed by the Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee in the additional responsibility relating to allocation of grants, in line with the same decision taken by other Committees. One Member (Edward Lord) abstained from voting for this amendment.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) the terms of reference of the Committee be approved for submission to the Court of Common Council in April 2016; and
- b) any further changes in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

5. OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT 2015/16 BUSINESS PLAN QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE UPDATE - QUARTER 3

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces that summarised the Departmental performance against the 2015-18 Business Plan as at the end of the third quarter of 2015/16.

The Open Spaces Departmental Business Manager advised that the Green Flag Awards achieved by Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park would be added to Appendix 1 of the report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on management and operational activities across the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since November 2015 and sought approval to an additional charge to hire the Hampstead Heath Rugby Pitch at 2:00pm kick-off times.

Members noted and considered the following matters:-

Property

Mixed Pond

Two temporary outside showers had been installed at the Mixed Pond. The start date for the Mixed Pond's operation as a Ladies' Pond until May 2016 was not yet confirmed.

Lido

The boundary walls at the Lido had recently been rebuilt. Planning and Listed Building consent had been granted for a new guard on top of the wall which would provide better security and aesthetics.

Planning

Athlone House

The sale of property had recently completed and the new owners had submitted a planning application to the London Borough of Camden (LBC) for refurbishment and an extension.

Heath House

The LBC were expecting to receive a planning application to convert the House into six separate apartments shortly.

Water House

The planning application was expected to be considered by the LBC's Development and Control Committee on 25 February 2016. The Superintendent would provide comments and representations to the LBC regarding the application by 4 February 2016.

Fees and Charges

In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the Hampstead Rugby Club had not been in contact regarding the 2016/17 fees and charges approved at the last Committee meeting but added that they may provide comments at the next meeting of the Sports Forum in February 2016. The Sports Forum and Consultative Committee, which both included representatives of the Hampstead Rugby Club, had been consulted during the process of developing the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17.

The Superintendent added that a report regarding the wider Open Spaces charging policy, which would include concessionary rates, would be submitted for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

Events

Members were invited to attend the Southern Counties Cross Country Championships being held at Parliament Hill from 11:00am on Saturday 30 January 2016.

Constabulary

A successful prosecution relating to cycling was taken to court in December 2015, where the offender was fined £133 and ordered to pay £350 in costs. The Superintendent also advised that an estimated 7,000 members of the public congregated on Parliament Hill to celebrate New Year's Eve. The Constabulary were on duty until 2:00am, and no major incidents were recorded. The Constabulary were now contributing to the wider London review of the impact of charging for viewing the New Year's Eve official firework display.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) the Superintendent's update be noted; and
- b) the proposed additional charge of £32.00 to hire the Hampstead Heath Rugby Pitch for 2:00pm kick-offs be approved.

7. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received a joint report of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Director and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update regarding the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. Members received a presentation from the Ponds Project Director regarding the work carried out and planned at the Model Boating Pond, Ladies' Bathing Pond, Stock Pond, Mixed Pond, and Hampstead Nos. 1 and 2 Ponds.

Members were advised that the £30,000 saving through value engineering for the new changing and lifeguard facility at the Ladies' Pond was likely to be offset by the provision of shutters omitted from the original design, which would be essential for security. The Project Director added that a visit to the Ladies' Pond site would be arranged during the next Committee walk on 4 March 2016.

The Committee thanked the Project Director and the Superintendent for the success of the project so far and for keeping it on schedule to be completed in October 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project update be noted.

8.

8.1 Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee Minutes

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 18 November 2015 be noted.

8.2 Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group Minutes

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group meeting held on 18 November 2015 be noted.

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

There were none.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

11. 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.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update from the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the proposed Lawn Tennis Association Partnership, implementation of the Open Spaces Department Learning Programme, and Café retendering at the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

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

There were none.

14. 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 closed at 2.50 pm

Chairman

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