

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 15 November 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 15 November 2017 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Michael Hudson
Ruby Sayed
Oliver Sells QC
Deputy John Tomlinson
John Beyer
Councillor Melvin Cohen
Sam Cooper

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	Town Clerk's Department
Paige Upchurch	Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	Chamberlain's Department
Chris Bell	Chamberlain's Department
Colin Buttery	Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Esther Sumner	Open Spaces Business Manager
Richard Gentry	Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Declan Gallagher	Operational Services Manager
Yvette Hughes	Hampstead Heath Business Manager
Lucy Gannon	Project Management and Support Officer
Abigail Tinkler	Learning Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from William Upton, Rachel Evans, Councillor Sally Gimson, Maija Roberts and Graeme Smith.

Members agreed that the order of items on the agenda be varied so that items for decision were considered first.

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

There were no apologies.

3. MINUTES

3.1 17 July 2017

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2017 were approved as a correct record subject to a typographical correction.

3.2 27 September 2017

The note of the inquorate meeting held on 27 September 2017 was received. Members noted that the meeting had, in effect, been cancelled due to a number of apologies received after notice of the meeting had been published, and requested that the wording of the note be amended accordingly.

RESOLVED, that the note of the inquorate meeting be received.

4. A COMMUNITY VISION FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Members considered Item 10 next, a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding a Community Vision for Hampstead Heath, and the following points were made.

- A Member commented that the consultation process followed during the formulation of the vision document had in his opinion worked well.
- In response to a suggestion from a Member that the fact the City of London Corporation both owned as well as managed the Heath be made clearer, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman both noted that it was in their view positive that the local community around the Heath felt a sense of ownership, and therefore the inclusive language of the vision document should be retained.

Sam Cooper arrived at this point of the meeting.

- In response to a comment from a Member that initiatives on the Heath often aroused divisive opinions, the Chairman noted that a lot of effort was put into managing and mediating opposing views and groups. For example, a Cycle and Pedestrian Working Group had been convened to ensure that both pedestrian and cycle users on the Heath could use paths and cycleways on the Heath to their satisfaction.
- A Member noted that the vision document was in his view a phenomenal piece of work and an excellent distillation of the City's aspirations for the Heath over the coming years. He suggested however that a caveat should be placed on the vision to make clear that it was subject to the requisite resources being available from the City of London Corporation.
- A Member agreed, noting that it would be helpful to ensure that financial sustainability was embedded within the vision.

- A Member noted that similar points had been discussed by stakeholders during the drafting process and the view had been taken that the vision document was intended as ‘poetry’ compared to the ‘prose’ of items such as the Heath’s 10-year Management Plan, with contained the level of financial detail Members were referring to.
- In response to a question from the Chairman, Members confirmed they were happy to approve the recommendation set out within the report subject to the comments made by Members.

RESOLVED, that Members approve the proposed Community Vision statement for Hampstead Heath.

The Committee adjourned for five minutes at this point of the meeting.

5. FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

Members considered Item 11 next, a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding Fees and Charges for 2018/19 and the following points were made.

- The Superintendent noted that the report had been discussed by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee at its meeting on 9 October 2017, and the minutes of that meeting were within the papers before Members. The Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen’s Park Consultative Group had been consulted on the proposals by email and no adverse comments had been received.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Superintendent replied that increased charges to deter parking for longer than four hours was intended to discourage ‘commuter parking’ and promote short term parking for those intending to visit the Heath. The Superintendent agreed to provide feedback to Members on whether the charging produced the intended effect.

John Tomlinson left at this point of the meeting.

- In response to a question from a Member, the Superintendent replied that the new Block Booking charge was intended to encourage a greater range of sports clubs to use facilities on the Heath.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Superintendent confirmed that he would be considering the use of payment apps as part of the review of improved payments arrangements at facilities on the Heath.
- In response to a request from a Member, the Superintendent agreed to set out the various income streams for the Heath in tabular form.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Note the views of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Highgate Wood Consultative Group, and Queen's Park Consultative Group.
- Agree the proposed fees and charges for 2018/19.

6. DEVELOPING A DIVISIONAL PLAN FOR HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD, KEATS HOUSE AND QUEEN'S PARK

Members considered Item 12, a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding developing a Divisional Plan for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Keats House and Queen's Park and the following points were made.

- The Chairman noted that this was an early draft of the plan that was before Members for comment ahead of the final draft being submitted to the Committee for approval in early 2018.
- The Superintendent noted that the draft plan had been discussed at the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee at its meeting on 9 October 2017 and that the plan would be updated in light of comments made at that meeting. The final version of the plan would include a three-year forward plan, greater clarity on deadlines for respective workstreams, and a column detailing progress on each item.

RESOLVED, that Members note the work being undertaken on drafting the Divisional Plan.

7. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Members considered Item 5 next, the appointment of a representative to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee. Members agreed that the Chairman serve as the Committee's representative, with the opportunity to serve being made available to any new Members joining the Committee during the course of the 2017/18.

RESOLVED, that Karina Dostalova be appointed to the Keats House Consultative Committee.

8. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2017/18 & 2018/19

Members considered item 6 next, a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces regarding Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and the following points were made.

- The Chamberlain noted that the increased figure for cyclical works outlined within the report was subject to approval by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting in January 2018.
- A Member noted that the latest revenue budget for 2017/18 should be considered as a proposed budget and not as a 'latest approved budget'

as described within the report. Moreover, the Member noted that it would be better practice for the two budgets for 2017/18 and 208/19 to be presented to Members as two distinct reports or distinct sections within the report.. The Chamberlain agreed to feed his comments back and stated that the current format of the report had been requested by Members particularly of Finance Committee. In response to a comment from a Member, the Chamberlain noted that the charity accounts would be reported to Members in February 2018.

- In response to a question from a Member, the Superintendent replied that the Hive was a proposed education space that was currently at Gateway 1/2 in the City's project process. The project was temporarily on hold as unforeseen costs had been identified thanks to the fact that the building originally intended for the Hive needed to have its roof strengthened so it could bear solar panels. Officers were therefore considering whether other built assets on the Heath could house the Hive instead.
- The Chairman noted that the potential for the Hive, once completed, the generate income would be considered in the forthcoming Hampstead Heath Asset Review.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Note the provisional 2018/19 revenue budget and confirm that it reflects the Committee's objectives.
- Approve the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- Authorise 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, and note that any changes over £50,000 will be reported to Committee.
- Note the Building Repairs and Maintenance asset verification exercise being undertaken by the City Surveyor and agree that any minor changes to the 2017/18 latest approved budget and the 2018/19 original budget arising from this exercise be delegated to the Chamberlain.
- Approve the draft capital and supplementary revenue budget.

9. QUEEN'S PARK CAFÉ TENDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY REQUEST

Members considered item 14 next, a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding a request for delegated authority to award a three-year lease for Queen's Park Café.

RESOLVED, that Members granting delegated authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Committee to

award a three year lease for the Queen's Park Café following the completion of the tender process.

10. MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

10.1 17 July 2017

Members considered item 4(a) next, the minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative meeting held on 17 July 2017.

RESOLVED, that the minutes be noted.

10.2 9 October 2017

Members considered item 4(b) next, the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 9 October 2017.

RESOLVED, that the minutes be noted.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Members considered item 9 next, an update report of the Superintendent regarding matters affecting Hampstead Heath and the following points were made.

City of London (Open Spaces) Bill

- The Director of Open Spaces noted that the Bill had been delayed by the June 2017 General Election but had now passed both the First and Second Reading in the House of Lords. It would now be considered at Committee in the Lords, which could take up to a couple of months. He noted that if and when the Bill became an Act, it would enable the City to deliver improved commercial services in its Open Spaces, such as longer term leases for its cafes.

Cycling

- The Superintendent noted that the consultant's report referenced within the report had now been completed, and would be discussed at the meeting of the Pedestrian and Cycling Working Group at its meeting on 28 November 2017.

Planning

- **Wallace House, Millfield Lane.** The Superintendent briefed Members on a new planning application not referenced within the report concerning Wallace House in Millfield Lane. He noted that it was a basement development that would potentially affect drainage from the Ladies' Pond, and representations would be made accordingly.

- **William Ellis School.** The Superintendent briefed Members on a planning application not referenced within the report concerning a major £30m development at William Ellis School on Highgate Road. He noted that the Operational Services Director sat on the community consultation group for the development, and representations would be made on the forthcoming planning application.
- **The Water House, Millfield Lane.** The Superintendent noted that officers would be meeting with the developer to determine how best to protect veteran and mature trees on Millfield Lane during the construction period.
- The Superintendent noted that officers enjoyed effective collaboration with local stakeholders and societies when responding to local planning applications affecting the Heath.

Constabulary

- The Superintendent noted that New Year's Eve was proving increasingly popular on the Heath, in particular on Parliament Hill. Consideration would therefore be given to service levels such as opening hours of public lavatories.

Koi Herpesvirus (KHV)

- The Superintendent noted that the Hampstead chain of Ponds had been reopened and disinfectant provided for anglers to clean their nets and rods with. Discussion was underway on whether the Highgate chain of Ponds could be safely reopened for fishing. Heath anglers had established a Facebook group to improve communication.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

- The Superintendent noted that the Ponds Project had already won three construction awards and had been nominated for a further three. Moreover the new changing facilities at the Ladies' Pond had been nominated for the Camden Design Awards.
- Members noted that the number of awards won for projects on the Heath should be reported to a future meeting of the Court of Common Council.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent was heard on Item 13 next, regarding matters concerning Highgate Wood and Queen's Park and the following points were made.

- The Highgate Wood Community Day had been held on 3 September 2017, with the dog show and monkey climbing nets proving especially popular.

- The draft Woodland Management Plan for Highgate Wood would be submitted to the Highgate Wood Consultative Group for comment at its meeting on 22 November 2017.
- The Queen's Park Day had been held on 17 September 2017 and had been well attended.

13. DRAFT DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19 - OPEN SPACES

Members considered item 7 next, a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the draft Departmental Business Plan for 2018/19 for Open Spaces and the following comments were made.

- The Director of Open Spaces noted that the draft plan was part of a move towards producing a high level plan that better reflected the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan. The plan was at draft stage, and officers continued to work on drafting desired outcomes. Members were invited to comment on the current iteration ahead of a final Departmental Business Plan being submitted to Members for approval in early 2018.
- In response to comments from a Member, the Director agreed to clarify the meaning of symbols and acronyms within the plan, and correct some typographical errors.
- The Deputy Chairman welcomed the draft plan but requested that the Director consider simplifying the overall strategic objectives and over time embedding the newly adopted Community Vision for the Heath in the Business Plan. In response, the Director noted that much of the vision would be reflected in the Divisional Plan, rather than that Departmental Plan.

RESOLVED, that the draft Departmental Business Plan be noted.

14. YEAR 1 REVIEW OF LEARNING IN OPEN SPACES

Members considered item 8 next, a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Year 1 Review of Learning in Open Spaces.

RESOLVED, that Members

- Note the success of the learning programme in the first year of delivery and support its continued delivery into years 2 and 3 of the current funding.
- Note the issue of not achieving funding from external sources and the risk this presents to the programme.

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

There were no questions.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

17. 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 of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

18. ANNUAL WAIVERS REPORT 2016/17

Members considered an annual report of the Chamberlain regarding Annual Waivers for 2016/17.

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

There were no questions.

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

Members considered three items of other business.

The meeting ended at 5.34 pm

Chairman

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