

BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE

12 DECEMBER 2011

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE HELD AT GUILDHALL, EC2 ON MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2011 AT 11.30 AM.

Present

Members:

Non-Resident

John Spanner (Chairman)
Gareth Moore (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg
Michael Hudson
Jeremy Mayhew

Resident

Deputy John Barker
Peter Leck
Deputy Joyce Nash
Barbara Newman

Chris Punter
Angela Starling
John Tomlinson
David Bradshaw

Officers:

Julie Mayer

Peter Lisley

Mark Jarvis

David Bacon

Alan Bennetts

Howard Hillier-Daines

Joy Hollister

Eddie Stevens

Anne Mason

Mike Kettle

- Town Clerk's Department
- Town Clerk's Department
- Chamberlain's Department
- Chamberlain's Department
- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
- City Surveyors Department
- Community & Children's Services Department
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Rev Dr Martin Dudley

- Ex-officio

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Henrika Priest; Nicholas Cressey and Deputy Billy Dove.

Before commencing the business on the agenda, the Chairman welcomed the new Clerk to the Committee, Julie Mayer

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING

All Resident Members declared their general interest as residents of the Barbican Estate (this was a standing item).

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That:

- i) the public minutes and summary of the Special Meeting held on 6 October 2011 be approved as a correct record;
- ii) the minutes of the Residents' Consultation Committee meeting held on 28 November 2011 be noted.

Matters arising

Members noted the concerns raised at the Residents' Consultative Committee of 28 November 2011 in respect of car parking attendants. The Barbican Estate Manager advised that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

4. UPDATE REPORT

This report updated members on issues raised by the Residents' Consultation Committee on 28 November, along with updates on other issues on the Estate.

In respect of Item 4 (Barbican Area Street Scene Enhancement Strategy) members remained concerned about safety around Moor Lane/Silk Street and Milton Street junctions. The Barbican Estate Manager would follow this up with the Street Scene Team.

In response to a query about the staffing structure, the Housing Services Director was pleased to report a full establishment, with all savings targets having been met. Members noted that the concierge and parking services were particularly valued by residents. The Director would be pleased to arrange visits around the estate for both new and existing non-resident members.

In respect of the concrete testing to the tower blocks, a member suggested that the amount of scaffolding was excessive and could more netting have been used instead? The Housing Services Director agreed but had acted on the advice of a leading Health and Safety Consultant. Members noted that the works were progressing well but the scaffolding would need to remain in place until after the test results had become available. In response to questions about the nature of the testing, the Director advised that it would include hammer testing; carbonation of rods and alkaline testing. Members could view a full specification on request. A resident member living close by the works felt that the construction of the scaffolding had been relatively quiet and asked if similar consideration could be given when the scaffolding is removed.

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

There were no questions.

5. SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) REVIEW JULY 2011 – SEPTEMBER 2011

This report updated members on the review of the estate-wide SLAs for July to September 2011. The report contained comments from the House Officers and resident working parties and an on-going action plan for each of the five SLAs. Members asked if reviews could be removed, once completed.

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6. CAR PARK CHARGING POLICY

This report sought to extend the current charging policy for car parking on the Estate for a further three years. Fees for car parking had been reviewed between 2009 and 2011, based on the Retail Price Index (RPI).

The Housing Services Director reminded members that the last report on this matter had set out the findings from the Car Parking Strategy Working Group. The findings had included a comparison with other city parking charges and opportunities for maximising income. Some members were concerned at the number of empty bays and that, in the current financial climate, inflation might rise sharply. However, some expressed a view that the prices represented good value.

In concluding, members asked if the next review of the car parking policy could take place in one year and not three, as recommended in the report. Furthermore, the review should include a detailed report and analysis of research into local demand, utilisation, comparisons and income generation.

RESOLVED, that:

The current charging policy for car parking be reviewed after one year.

7. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

This report updated the Committee on its latest approved revenue budget for 2011/12 and sought approval to the proposed revenue budget for 2012/13, for presentation to the Finance Committee. Members were pleased to note a strong position on the accounts, compared to last year.

The Chamberlain's representative noted members' requests for a more 'user friendly' format. The Deputy Chairman of the Barbican Board (also a member of this committee) advised that this had been achieved in the presentation of

their accounts. There was a further request for miscellaneous items to be shown under headings.

RESOLVED, that:

1. That the latest approved revenue budget for 2011/12 be noted.
2. That the provisional 2012/13 revenue budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee, having been examined critically.
3. That the draft capital and supplementary revenue budget be approved.
4. That the Chamberlain be authorised to revise these budgets, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the BRC, to allow for any further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews.

8. SALES REPORT

This report advised members of the sales and lettings approved by officers since the last meeting.

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9. REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS (QUORUM)

This report sought a review of the number of non-resident members required to meet a quorum of 5 non-resident members. The committee had considered reviewing the quorum on various occasions during the last three years. Since April 2011, the Committee had carried 5 non-resident vacancies and been inquorate twice. The report sought approval to reduce the quorum to 3 non-resident members.

Some members felt that a quorum of three would result in a low ratio of resident to non-resident members and a more desirable solution would be for members to commit to regular attendance. The Town Clerk advised that the recommendation sought an interim solution. Although not ideal, its outcome would be more democratic than increasing the number of urgent decisions. Members also reflected on the merit of having Aldermen serve on the committee in previous years.

A compromise was proposed (by Mr Mayhew); seconded (by Mr Hudson); and carried that the quorum be reduced to 4 and not 3. This would be reviewed after 12 months, after which time the remaining vacancies might have been filled.

RESOLVED, that:

The Quorum for the Barbican Residential Committee be reduced from 5 to 4 members and that this be subject to concurrence with the Court of Common Council (at its April Meeting) and a review after 12 months.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The chairman paid tribute to the work of Mr Ian Burleigh, who had served as Chairman of the BRC between 2010 and 2011. Members noted that Mr Burleigh had also resigned from the Court. Therefore, the Chairman would write to Mr Burleigh to thank him for his past service.

The Chairman then asked the Committee to join him in formally recording thanks to Ms Sureka Perera, the former Committee Clerk to the BRC and RCC. Ms Perera would be leaving the Corporation of London on 23 December 2011, after 16 years of service. The Committee wished Ms Perera every success in the future.

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 of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item Nos.

Exempt Paragraphs

2;3

13-21

Part 2 – Non-Public Agenda

12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That,

- i) the non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 6 October 2011 be approved as a correct record.

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

There were no questions.

14. FORMER BARBICAN TENANTS – ARREARS WRITE OFF

A report of the Director of Community and Children's Service was resolved.

15. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER STANDING ORDER 41 (A)

A report of the Town Clerk was received.

16. PROPOSED WATERPROOFING WORKS TO NORTH WEST BARBICAN PODIUM

Members heard a verbal update from the Housing Services Director

17. BARBICAN ART CLUB

A Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services was resolved.

18. VACANT SHOP UNIT – LAUDERDALE PLACE

A Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services was resolved.

19. DEED OF VARIATION AND LICENCE RELATING TO A LEASE

A Report of the Director of Community and Children's Services was resolved.

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

There were no questions

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

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 13.00

CHAIRMAN

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