

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, 27 June 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at the Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Hampstead Heath at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)	Susan Rose (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)	Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association)
John Etheridge (South End Green Association)	Ellin Stein (Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Neighbourhood Association Committee)
Colin Gregory (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Richard Sumray (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society)	Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Helen Payne (Friends of Kenwood)	David Walton (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath)
Mary Port (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Stewart Purvis (Vale of Health Society)	
Thomas Radice (Heath and Hampstead Society)	

In attendance:

Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Keith Bottomley (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee Member)
Jon Sheath (Jon Sheath Associates)

Officers:

Fern Aldous	- Town Clerk's Department
David Arnold	- Town Clerk's Department
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Services Manager
Meg Game	- Ecologist
Lucy Gannon	- Projects and Management Support Officer
Richard Gentry	- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
Esther Sumner	- Open Spaces Business Manager
Philip Everett	- Project Director, Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap), Susan Nettleton (Heath Hands), and Harunur Rashid Khan (Bangladeshi Social Forum).

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

David Walton (Representative of Clubs using Facilities on the Heath) declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 as a member of the London Heathside Athletics Club.

3.1 **Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 be approved.

Matters Arising

Events

The Events Policy would be considered at the next meeting following consultation with members during September 2016.

Golders Hill Park

A new Zoo Team Leader had been recruited from the Zoological Society London. The New Team Leader would now engage with users to develop a new set of objectives for the Zoo.

3.2 **Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

The Committee received the draft public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 16 May 2016. The Superintendent advised that the unveiling of the new Parliament Hill viewpoint sign had been delayed until September 2016 at the earliest. A date would be circulated once finalised.

Members noted that it was useful to receive these draft minutes so it was agreed that the Town Clerk would circulate a link to them after each Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting.

RESOLVED – That the draft public minutes of the Committee meeting held on 16 May 2016 be noted.

3.3 **Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum**

The Committee received the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 16 May 2016. The Chairman of the Forum congratulated Heath staff on a very successful Highgate Harriers Night of 10,000m event. The Leisure and Events Manager added that he had received a congratulatory letter from Lord Sebastian Coe thanking them for the event.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 16 May 2016 be noted.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update on management and operational activities across the

Heath since March 2016 and sought input from members regarding a review of the consultation arrangements. Members considered the following matters:-

Consultation

- The Chairman stressed the commitment of herself, the Deputy Chairman and the Superintendent to improving consultation arrangements, in order to make it as effective as possible, in the best interests of the Heath and its users.
- The Superintendent opened discussions by acknowledging that the Heath could not function properly without a well-informed, active and fully representative consultative committee.
- The Superintendent added that he wished to increase the levels of forward planning and consultation for the development of regular committee reports that could be adjusted for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee (Management Committee), taking into account Consultative Committee members' comments after each meeting.
- The Management Plan, which would be reported regularly to and discussed with the Consultative Committee, would become more outcomes-focused so that members were aware of the steps taken since the previous meeting and the steps to be taken before the next.
- Members were supportive of a change from three Consultative Committee and six Management Committee meetings to four meetings of each per year, with Consultative Committee meetings held approximately four weeks beforehand to allow feedback to be reflected in reports to the Management Committee – this should be piloted for a one-year period if agreed by the Management Committee.
- Some members (London Council for Sport and Recreation, Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) suggested that reports to the Consultative Committee could be clearer on what members needed to comment on to allow the Management Committee to infer clear recommendations from Consultative Committee minutes as well as in the amended reports to the Management Committee.
- Some members (Friends of Kenwood, Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee) proposed that Consultative Committee minutes could include the results of members' votes on required decisions, although others suggested that voting was unnecessary as minutes should record the range of views and include a clear consensus on each decision, representation and/or recommendation summarised by the Chairman at the end of each item.
- A member (Vale of Health Society) suggested that separate minutes of Management Committee meetings that specified when the views of the Consultative Committee had been taken into account could be provided to the Consultative Committee.
- In response to a member's (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) question regarding written representations from Consultative Committee members, the Superintendent advised that the existing practice was that members could circulate their comments concerning certain agenda items via the Town Clerk in advance of each meeting.

- Members noted that the Consultative Committee walks were a valuable exercise, which should continue to be held two or perhaps nine days before each meeting with details of members' discussions at the walk to be circulated by the Superintendent via the Town Clerk at or before the following meeting.
- In response to a member's (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) request, the Open Spaces Business Manager advised that the upcoming Departmental Business Plan could be reported to the Consultative Committee for feedback.

Representation

- The Chairman raised the matter of representation on the Consultative Committee and noted that, for instance, young people and families were currently not represented within the membership of the Committee.
- Most members suggested that the current membership represented a variety of Heath user groups who could engage with a wide range of users – one member (Hampstead Garden Residents' Association) added that members of the wider public from the groups represented on the Consultative Committee could be invited to observe one meeting annually.
- One member (Representative of Clubs using facilities on the Heath) queried his capacity to consult with and represent all of the various clubs across the Heath and the challenge of ensuring two way communication between the groups he represents and the Consultative Committee.
- The addition of local Ward Members was raised by the Deputy Chairman but members noted a selection process would be difficult as the Heath was situated across two London Boroughs and a large number of Ward areas – the Chairman added that the London Boroughs of Barnet and Camden were both represented on the Management Committee and the Deputy Chairman suggested that local schools could be approached to include parents and young families.
- A member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) suggested that other user groups could be consulted on certain matters where necessary on an ad hoc basis.
- A member (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee) suggested that a Hampstead Heath projects blog (similar to the Ponds Project blog) could be introduced, as well as increased advertising of the Consultative Committee, including how to contact members, on notice boards and online.

Planning

- A presentation from the developers regarding the planning application for Athlone House on Thursday 30 June, 10:00 – 11:00am at the Parliament Hill Staff Yard meeting room.
- A member (Highgate Society) added that the proposals did not involve increasing the area of the basement at Athlone House.

Open Spaces Learning Team

- The appointments had been made to all the roles based on Hampstead Heath.
- In partnership with the Learning Team, the Superintendent was exploring opportunities to utilise the Hive to support the Secondary learning provision, which would involve the conversion of redundant football changing rooms to create two indoor classrooms as well as an outdoor learning space – a report would be prepared for the next meeting.
- Heath Hands were thanked for their contribution to the Kenwood Education Garden which was viewed as a great success.

Benches

The Superintendent confirmed that the waiting list would be closed and a more detailed report would be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

Conservation

Following discussions on the Consultative Committee walk two days previously, plans to re-site the fencing approaching South End Green ten metres further back behind the plane trees would be taken forward. In addition, the Superintendent would discuss with the City Surveyor changing the fence to a cleft chestnut post and rail fence and the Heath team would plant a mixed native hedge along the fence line.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) The Superintendent's update of management and operational activities across the Heath be noted; and
- b) Members' views regarding consultation arrangements be noted.

5. PARLIAMENT HILL, GOLDERS HILL PARK AND HIGHGATE WOOD CAFE LEASES

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the guiding principles relevant to the provision of café facilities at Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood and the creation of a Café Working Party to co-ordinate the public consultation of all three café leases.

The Chairman advised that a number of draft guiding principles for the new refreshment facilities had been developed and were being reported to the Consultative Committee for further consideration. She added that ensuring high Food Hygiene Rating scores and staff being paid at or above the London Living Wage were non-negotiable and would therefore not be discussed as part of the consultation.

Members noted and considered the following matters:-

- The guiding principles would feed into the deliberations of the proposed Café Working Party.
- A member (Highgate Society) suggested that too many guiding principles could cause them to become too prescriptive or restrictive.
- A member (Vale of Health Society) highlighted the importance of ensuring that the principles resulted in a level playing field for the incumbents and any new applicants.

- Following a short presentation from the consultation and engagement consultant, members noted that community engagement would be an important part of the process.
- Members believed that the proposed membership of the Café Working Party was too heavily weighted towards City Corporation Officers without enough local community involvement, which would be provided by the addition of the other lead petitioners – members therefore suggested that three petitioners (one for each café) be included on the Café Working Party.
- The Consultative Committee appointed Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) and John Etheridge (South End Green Association) to the Café Working Party with a particular brief to represent Golders Hill Park and Parliament Hill Cafés respectively, and noted that Michael Hammerson (Highgate Society) may be the Highgate Wood representative, unless there are any other expressions of interest from the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee.
- The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that Keith Bottomley would be her representative on the Café Working Party.
- A date for the first Café Working Party meeting would be circulated as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) the minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen’s Park Committee meeting held on 16 May in relation to the update on café leases, be noted;
- b) Nick Bradfield (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) and John Etheridge (South End Green Association) be appointed to the Café Working Party as representatives of the Consultative Committee, with particular interest in and knowledge of Golders Hill Park and Parliament Hill Cafés respectively.

6. **CROSS COUNTRY PILOT ON THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH EXTENSION**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding a young athletes’ cross-country race to be piloted on the Hampstead Heath Extension in 2016/17. The Operational Services Manager advised that the chances of any potential damage to the ground caused by the race had been considered minimal as the race was for young runners and would be held in an area ideal for sporting activities. A member (Hampstead Rugby Club) added that the use of the Extension could promote an area of the Heath that young users might not have previously been aware of. The Committee also noted that a letter had been produced by the Heath and Hampstead Society in support of the pilot event, provided it met certain criteria. The Sports Advisory Forum were supportive of the letter and the event.

RESOLVED – That the holding of the event on the Heath Extension as a pilot, using the identified route to ensure that no permanent damage is caused, be supported by the Consultative Committee.

7. **MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN FOR SMALL TUMULUS FIELD**

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that informed members of a detailed work plan for managing Small Tumulus Field.

In response to members' questions that had been posed during the Committee walk, the Ecologist advised that the purple-leaf plane tree and the oak tree were not being removed.

RESOLVED – That the Small Tumulus Field Management Work Plan be noted and approved.

8. **PONDS PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee received a joint report of the Ponds Project Director and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided updates on progress, budget and the risk register for the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project.

RESOLVED – That the Ponds Project progress report be noted.

9. **HABITAT RESTORATION OF THE BOATING POND AND TUMULUS FIELD**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that outlined the restoration work to be undertaken to create an attractive and ecologically more valuable landscape surrounding the Model Boating Pond and Tumulus Field. The Superintendent added that the habitat restoration proposals had been reported to the Community Working Group and their feedback had been taken into account.

In response to a member's (Highgate Society) question, the Ecologist advised that hedgerow and tree planting would be carried out along the western habitat boundary.

RESOLVED – That the habitat restoration proposals for the Model Boating Pond and Tumulus Field be noted.

10. **ANNUAL REPORT ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2015 TO 31 MARCH 2016**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the performance of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary during the period 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, which members noted would be re-submitted to the next meeting for further consideration. The Superintendent added that the work of the Terrence Higgins Trust would continue and be reviewed annually. The Constabulary would continue to implement the Engagement, Education and Enforcement Plan for the period 2016/17.

The Superintendent added that a further report on the use of drones on Hampstead Heath would be submitted to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be deferred to the next Consultative Committee meeting, but that the continuation of the partnership with the Terrence Higgins Trust be supported.

11. **2016-19 OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces that outlined the aspects of the Department's Business Plan for the period 2016 to 2019 that related to Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. The Superintendent advised that the progress being made towards the Business Plan, as well as the proposed objectives for the 2017-20 Business Plan, would be reported to the next Consultative Committee meeting, in order that the members might contribute at an early stage to the development of the Plan. A member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) suggested that progress regarding the increasing risk of the impact of housing and highways development be reported back to the Consultative Committee during this consultation process.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and a further report be submitted to the next Consultative Committee meeting.

12. **CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME BID 2017/18**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor regarding the Cyclical Works Programme Bid 2017/18. A member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) suggested that the principles and the priorities for the programme of works that were being proposed should be provided, along with more detail regarding the prioritisation of work and the framework methodology.

RESOLVED – That the report of the City Surveyor regarding the Cyclical Works Programme Bid 2017/18 be noted.

13. **OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH PLAN 2016**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the plans for Oak Processionary Moth management across London and the South East during 2016.

RESOLVED – That the Oak Processionary Moth Plan for 2016 be noted.

14. **QUESTIONS**

There were none.

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

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee dinner would be taking place on Monday 10 October 2016, with details of the location and time to be circulated shortly.

Members thanked Mary Port for her contribution to the Consultative Committee during her years of service and conveyed to her their good wishes for the future. The Committee then welcomed Nick Bradfield who would be joining the Consultative Committee as the member representing the Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED – That the date of the next meeting, to be held on Monday 7 November 2016, be noted.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman

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