

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 19 June 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at
Parliament Hill Conference Room, Parliament Hill Staff Yard, Parliament Hill Fields,
Hampstead Heath, NW5 1QR on Monday, 19 June 2017 at 7.00 pm

Present

Members:

Karina Dostalova (Chairman)
Anne Fairweather (Deputy Chairman)
Bradfield
Braverman
John Etheridge
Colin Gregory
Michael Hammerson
Dr Gaye Henson
Helen Payne
Thomas Radice
Susan Rose
Ellin Stein
Richard Sumray
Simon Taylor (Hampstead Rugby Club)

Observing:

Carol Dukes (in place of Ray Booth)
Stewart Purvis (in place of Ellen Solomons)

Officers:

- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
- Operational Services Manager
- Projects and Management Support Officer
- Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager
- Leisure and Events Manager
- City Surveyor's Department
- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ray Booth (Barnet Mencap), Nigel Ley (Open Spaces Society) Harunur Rashid (BAME representative) Steve Ripley (Ramblers' Association), Ellen Solomons (Vale of Health), David Walton (Representative of Clubs using the Heath) and John Weston (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee).

The Chairman introduced herself, noting that the previous Chairman, Virginia Rounding, had not been returned following the recent City Elections. Members

of the Committee expressed their thanks for the contribution Virginia Rounding had made to the management of Hampstead Heath.

The Town Clerk noted that Joanne Mould (London Wildlife Trust) had retired from the Committee and a replacement would be appointed in due course.

The Town Clerk further noted that Caroline Dukes was in attendance in the place of Ray Booth, and Stewart Purvis was in attendance in the place of Ellen Solomons.

2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment.

Item 7 – Model Boating Pond Options Appraisal

The Marylebone Bird Watching Society supported Option 2 (creating a sanctuary) as the aim of the organisation was to protect birds.

Be amended to,

Item 7 – Model Boating Pond Options Appraisal

The Marylebone Bird Watching Society supported Option 2 (creating a sanctuary) as the option was in line with the aims of the organisation, namely the protection of birds and the promotion of their habitat.

Matters Arising

Heath Hands Summary Report

The Chairman noted that it was Dan Braverman's (Heath Hands) last meeting. She expressed thanks on behalf of the Committee for the excellent contribution he had made to Heath Hands and voluntary work on Hampstead Heath, and invited him to provide a further update on the work of the Hands.

Mr Braverman noted that the total number of hours contributed by volunteers had been 11,424 over 488 volunteer sessions. He added that progress had been made in converting Heath Hands into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and registered charity, with the application to the Charity Commission being approved.

4. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SPORTS ADVISORY FORUM MINUTES**

Members received the minutes of the Sports Advisory Forum meeting held on 22 May 2017 and the following points were made.

- A Member (Sports Advisory Forum) noted that the Night of the 10,000m had been a huge success, with attendance including a number of famous names from the athletics world. Moreover, the Forum had considered the Cross-Country pilot on the Heath Extension and wished

to express its support to the event becoming an annual fixture on the Heath.

- A Member (Hampstead Rugby Club) requested that the Rugby Club be given advance notice of dates that would affect their fixtures list.
- A Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association) noted that his organisation supported the Cross-Country event provided the featured age groups did not change.

5. CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME BID 2018/19

Members considered a report of the City Surveyor regarding the Cyclical Works Programme Bid 2018/19 and the following points were made.

- The City Surveyor noted that Appendix A detailed the works that were going to be submitted to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for approval.
- In response to a question, the City Surveyor noted that the term 'bow wave' was an acknowledgement that the City of London Corporation faced a backlog of funding for cyclical works, hence the inclusion of desirable works as Appendix B. Works on Appendix B would move to Appendix A in future years once the work became necessary.
- In response to a question, the City Surveyor noted that the relatively small allocation of funds for a drainage survey was due to the fact only small parts of the Heath were surveyed each year.
- In response to a question, the City Surveyor noted that pond desilting referred to works to ponds across the Heath and the funds would be prioritised in relation to ecology and water quality. Works are being progressed in relation to the Hampstead Number 2 Pond and the Mixed Bathing Pond which will be funded from the current Cyclical Works Programme.
- In response to a question, the City Surveyor noted that £133,000 for works to public toilets was a best estimate.
- In response to a question, the Operational Services Manager confirmed that spending on the Golders Hill Park Zoo was in line with medium to long term ambitions for the Zoo.

6. OPEN SPACES & HERITAGE BUSINESS PLAN 2017/18

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Open Spaces & Heritage Business Plan 2017/18 and the following points were made.

- The Superintendent noted that Members had seen previous iterations of the Business Plan at their January and March meetings.

- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that the Business Plan was linked to the Heath Management Plan by Key Actions outlined within the report.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that the Open Spaces Bill was relevant to the Heath given it would have an impact on the City's ability to lease property, licence events and commercial activities and enable the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that the objective to develop volunteering across all City of London Open Spaces reflected the desire to broaden engagement with the general public and potential volunteers.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that the delivery of education across the Open Spaces had been centralised and that a bid to secure funding over the long term would be considered by the City's Policy and Resources Committee shortly.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that it was a longer term objective for greater synergies between the Heath and Keats House to be realised. The City's Open Spaces Department had only recently in February 2017 taken over responsibility for this aspect of the City's heritage portfolio and therefore it had not been possible to identify the full scope of potential synergies in this iteration of the Business Plan.
- A Member commented in relation to Keats House that John Keats had met Samuel Taylor Coleridge on Merton Lane, and that this could be factored into any heritage walks on the Heath in future.
- A Member commented that any heritage materials drawn up following the Open Spaces & Heritage merger could provide background to why the Heath had been 'saved' by the Hampstead Heath Act 1871 and the history behind the various structures on the Heath.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered the Superintendent's update report and the following points were made.

Management Plan Engagement

- The Superintendent noted that the engagement exercise finished that evening and that 1,200 responses had been received to date. Once the exercise finished, an analysis of responses from the workshops, pop-up stands, online submissions and the further 17 July meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee would be carried out.

Cycling

- The Superintendent noted that the Highgate Wood and Conservation Manager had been tasked with developing the specification for the shared use paths for cyclists and pedestrians. A working group of stakeholders would be formed to consider proposals and would hold its first meeting in September 2017.

Cafes

- The Superintendent noted that the Lido Café was performing well under its new operators and had served around 2,800 swimmers the previous Sunday. In response to a question, he replied that there had been a couple of incidents at the Lido facility that had required the involvement of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary but none that had required the involvement of the Metropolitan Police.

Eruv

- The Superintendent noted that he would welcome the views of Members on the proposed Eruv. He noted that the applicant had liaised with The London Borough of Haringey and was confident that the wires could be deployed along street lamps. Overall no new infrastructure was needed on the Heath in the Haringey area to support the deployment of an Eruv – it would simply join the boundary wall at the Kenwood Nursery. It would require one 4 metre pole in the Camden area. Members supported the proposal and raised no objections.

Planning

- The Superintendent noted that he and representatives from the Heath & Hampstead Society would be meeting Camden Planning Officers regarding the Jack Straws Castle application during the week commencing 26 June 2017.
- The Superintendent noted that the London Borough of Barnet had acknowledged the City's objection to the Golders Green Station Planning Brief, and that Barnet accepted the number of objections received meant the Brief would require a number of revisions.
- A Member noted that a fresh application had been submitted for 42 Hampstead Lane.
- In response to a question the Superintendent replied that he had visited the Water House and the new applicant was willing to listen to the City's concerns. The Superintendent emphasised that priorities for the City were the Construction Management Plan and the affect construction traffic would have on trees and public access along Millfield Lane. A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation) suggested the applicants approach to dealing with the new Water House planning application could be used as an exemplar for developers proposing works adjacent to the Heath.

Hampstead Heath Ponds Project

- In response to a question, the Superintendent replied that the archaeological report had been due in May 2017, and so he would contact the Museum of London Archaeological Service to request that it be made available as soon as possible.
- The Superintendent noted that the project had won the Institute of Civil Engineers London Civil Engineering Award for Community Benefit in May 2017.

Oak Processionary Moth

- The Superintendent noted that Heath staff continued to discover nests on the Heath and Members would be updated further on a regular basis. Nests situated in busy areas of the Heath would be fenced off.

Drones

Members discussed a tabled version of proposed guidance regarding the use of drones on the Heath.

- Two members noted that the guidance simply stated the law, not the policy of the City of London Corporation regarding the use of drones on the Heath. It was noted that English Heritage had adopted a zero tolerance policy regarding drones on their sites.
- The Superintendent noted that the use of drones was governed in law by Air Navigation Orders (ANOs). The Royal Parks manage drone flying through Park Regulations. Many bodies that had banned drones had no ability to enforce those bans using ANOs.
- The Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager noted that his team had dealt with c. 30 drone incidents during the period April 2016-March 2017. Drone incidents were ultimately enforced by the Metropolitan Police on behalf of the Civil Aviation Authority.
- In response to a question, the Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager noted that the policing of drones under anti-nuisance byelaws had been considered by judged unworkable in practice.
- The Superintendent confirmed that the guidance dealt with the issue of commercial filming using drones.
- A Member suggested that the guidance should explicitly reference guidance from the Civil Aviation Authority.

- The Superintendent confirmed that it would be possible to apply for an additional byelaw in relation to Model Aircraft and Drones and this should be considered in the future.
- The Superintendent noted that the comments of Members would be factored into the guidance and once the Management Committee have had the opportunity to consider the guidance, the document will be made public and reviewed after 12 months. Regular updates would be provided to Members in the meantime.

8. EAST HEATH CAR PARK RESURFACING

Members considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding East Heath Car Park Resurfacing, and supported Option 2 – Asphalt and Chip Finish.

9. ANNUAL REPORT ON HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSTABULARY FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2016 TO 31 MARCH 2017

Members considered an annual report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath regarding the Hampstead Heath Constabulary and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Constabulary and Queen's Park Manager replied that robberies involving mopeds was extremely rare on the Heath, and moreover the use of mopeds was contrary to the Heath byelaws.
- In response to a question, the Superintendent noted that naturism on the Heath was contrary to Heath byelaws.
- In response to a question, the Leisure and Events Manager replied that the Moscow State Circus have been issued a licence to use the Fairground site in late September. This circus doesn't involve animals.

10. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT - EDUCATION PROJECT PROGRESS REPORTS

Members considered progress reports for the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Education Project. The Superintendent noted that further funding was being sought from the City's Policy and Resources Committee to continue the project which, if unsuccessful, would mean the project would conclude in October 2017.

11. QUESTIONS

Harry Hallowes

A Member (Highgate Society) referenced the recent release of a film based on Harry Hallowes and requested an update on the status of the land that had belonged to Harry. The Superintendent replied that the land was now held in trust by two charities, which had appointed a Surveyor to provide them with advice. He noted that the City had suggested Harry's land be transferred to the Heath, on the understanding that the City respect the wishes of Harry who

wanted an orchard ('Harry's Orchard') to be established on the plot. Ultimately the decision on the future of the land was one for the two charities.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
BBC Countryfile One Man and His Dog

The Leisure and Events Manager noted that it was proposed that the BBC Countryfile One Man and His Dog feature on the Heath in September 2017. The event would involve one day of filming – likely a Saturday – and a few days of set up activity prior to filming. Overall the City welcomed the event given it would provide an opportunity to showcase the Heath, but it would involve a number of issues including ensuring appropriate temporary fencing was installed to safeguard the sheep, and that the event did not encroach on the Sparrows Den wildflower meadow. Members welcomed the initiative.

Meeting Hospitality

Members agreed that the meeting hospitality was best provided at the conclusion of each meeting rather than prior to the meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting would be on 17 July 2017 at 7.00pm in the Parliament Hill Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm

Chairman

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