

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Monday, 16 January 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at The Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood Place, NW5 1LB on Monday, 16 January 2023 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton KC (Chairman)
Nick Bradfield
John Foley
Merlin Fox
Matthew Frith
Colin Gregory
Michael Hammerson
Dr Gaye Henson
Simon Hunt
Helen Payne
Susan Rose
Richard Sumray
Jeff Waage
Steve Ripley
David Walton
John Weston

Officers:

Richard Chamberlain	- City Surveyor's Department
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Division
Declan Gallagher	- Natural Environment Division
Paul Maskell	- Natural Environment Division
Julie Fittock	- Natural Environment Division
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Division
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 7 November 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 7 November 2022 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

A Member (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee) noted apologies were sent for the last meeting.

A Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) noted that the figure quoted under good news for learning and participation were for both Hampstead Heath and West Ham Park and it was requested that these figures for next year be separated.

MATTERS ARISING:

- It was noted that there had been no suggested change for the Heath Extension playground name but would be appropriate to record the contribution of Olivia from the Wild Wooders.
- The Assistant Director noted that work on a strategic framework for the Natural Environment is in preparation and would be taken to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee. The Assistant Director confirmed that this would consider the recently approved Target Operating Model and consider how partners work together and engage with each other. It was noted a report on the strategic development would come to the Committee later in the year.
- The Chairman noted that a timeline would be useful to have in future.

3.2 Draft minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate and Queen's Park Committee be noted.

MATTERS ARISING:

- Concerning a discussion on energy price increases, the Assistant Director noted that the City of London Corporation had identified budgets to be transferred to various departments to consider any increase in energy costs and there was an expectation that a budget adjustment would be considered.

4. KENWOOD MASTERPLAN

The Committee received a presentation from English Heritage.

The Committee was informed that English Heritage was currently developing a masterplan for Kenwood. The plan would assess how Kenwood can best fulfil its potential as a cultural centre and a place of inspiration, relaxation, creativity and learning. This presents clear opportunities whilst the Natural environment strategic framework is developing, and the Assistant Director noted that she will work more closely with Curatorial Director at English Heritage in the next few months to make sure that the strategic developments between Hampstead Heath and Kenwood remains aligned.

The Chairman noted that historically Hampstead Heath and Kenwood were managed together, however, there was a role for joint working and supporting the work of each other.

In response to questions raised by Members, Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director, noted that English Heritage had reached out to many organisations and received engaged responses. Members were informed that English Heritage was keen for organisations to provide feedback once the document is shaped and would follow up with Members outside the Committee on collaborative working. The Director said it was important that Kenwood develop a sustainable financial model which enhanced the landscape and ensure that Kenwood was well equipped for any repairs if necessary. Members were informed that English Heritage was considering the environmental aspects of Kenwood on carbon reduction.

The Assistant Director welcomed the presentation and noted that moving forward it would be useful to have a timescale on the progression of the Kenwood Master Plan to better help feed into further discussion and collaborative working.

RESOLVED – That the presentation be noted by the Committee.

5. **SPORTS AND WELLBEING FORUM - DRAFT ACTION POINTS**

The Committee received a report of draft action points of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum.

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation), noted that a review of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum should be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

6. **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment, providing the Assistant Director's Update.

In response to questions raised by a Member (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association), the Assistant Director noted that the City of London Corporation was committed to the strategic priorities on climate change and action strategy. It was noted that consideration for strategy review was to ensure that nature recovery was considered a high priority.

In response to questions raised by a Member (Heath & Hampstead Society) the Assistant Director said the Target Operating Model was a way for the City of London Corporation to think about the ability to deliver on strategic priorities and considering how the division can work internally and externally with partners. The Chairman noted that information and updates would be provided as and when appropriate.

Athletic Track

A Member (London Council for Sport and Recreation), noted that part of the proposal that will also be part of the planning process with Camden was lighting. It was noted by the Committee that the recommendation was a raise in the height of the lights which would be more directional and will reduce the number of lighting columns and as such, this would reduce the span of the lighting. An additional option also noted was for the power of the lighting to be reduced in the evenings and only be increased for major events.

Swimming

The Committee was provided with an update on the Swimming Capital Project. It was noted that market uncertainty and cost increases were due to market conditions and inflationary issues countrywide. Members were informed that there was a lack of interest during the procurement process and as a result, another tender was run and the closing date was extended with 4 bids being received, however, at present the bids were above budget and contact had been made with contractors to agree processes going forward. It was noted that officers were working with the Chamberlain on pricing and discussions regarding additional funding streams were being explored. Members noted that work was ongoing to ensure a programme of construction can be carried out without impacting too much on the accessibility of the facilities.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

7. FEES AND CHARGES 2023-24

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning proposed fees and charges for a range of sports and services provided at Hampstead Heath for 2023-24.

The Committee noted that the report would be presented to the management Committee for decision. The Assistant Director noted that the increase was in line with benchmarking and based on cost recovery and to continue to facilitate participation, taking into account the rising costs of living.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

8. APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBER OF THE LONDON WILDLIFE TRUST

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED – That, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee support that Matthew Frith, nominated by the London Wildlife Trust, be appointed as a Member of the Management Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

9. HEATH HANDS JANUARY UPDATE

The Committee received the draft action points of the Hampstead Heath Sports & Wellbeing Forum from November 2022.

RESOLVED – That, the report be noted.

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

Questions were raised as follows –

- In response to a query regarding the vacancy of sports Members, the Town Clerk noted that Under Schedule 4 of the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) 1989 Order, consultation is not limited to the London Council for Sport and Recreation – it would be appropriate to consult any other bodies appearing to represent sporting interests as the City of London Corporation deems appropriate. The Clerk agreed to take this outside the Committee for consideration.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted the dates of the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

Chairman

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