

BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE
Thursday, 9 May 2024

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 9.15 am

Present

Members:

Mark Wheatley
Deputy Anne Corbett
Helen Fentimen OBE JP
John Foley
Steve Goodman OBE
Andrew McMurtrie - *In the Chair*
Ceri Wilkins

In attendance:

Sandra Jenner – Chair of the Barbican Estate Residents’ Consultation Committee (BRCC)
Jim Durcan – Deputy Chair of the BRCC
Adam Hogg – Chair of the Barbican Association

Officers:

Judith Finlay	-Executive Director, Community and Children’s Services
Pam Wharfe	-Interim Assistant Director, Housing and Barbican
Dan Sanders	-Assistant Director, Barbican
Michael Gwyther-Jones	-Community and Children’s Services
Damon Ellis	-Community and Children’s Services
Stephen Johnson	-Community and Children’s Services
Michael Gwyther-Jones	-Community and Children’s Services
Julie Mayer	-Town Clerk’s Department

Andrew McMurtrie was moved into the Chair until the appointment of the Chair at agenda item 5, which was uncontested.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderwoman Susan Pearson and Timothy McNally.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT

The Committee received the Order of the Court dated 25th April 2025, appointing the Committee and approving its Terms of Reference.

4. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN: TERM OF THE CHAIR OF THE BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk, which reported the outcome of a decision, taken under delegated authority, in respect of extending the term of the current Chair by one year. The Town Clerk advised that the decision set out below had also been ratified by the Policy and Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council.

Action taken:

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the serving Alderwoman and Deputy Chair of the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) agreed to propose, to the Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council, that Standing Order 29(2) be waived for the Barbican Residential Committee for the 2024/25 Civic Year, on the basis that the Barbican Residential Committee is at a critical stage in overseeing the Barbican Estate Office Transformation Programme and related projects, and that continuity of leadership on the Committee is crucial for the successful delivery of the recommendation by Independent Consultants, Altair.

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIR (Uncontested)**

Being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Mark Wheatley be appointed as Chair of the Barbican Residential Committee for 2024-25.

6. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR (Uncontested)**

Being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, it was RESOLVED, that – Anne Corbett be appointed as Deputy Chair of the Barbican Residential Committee for 2024-25.

7. **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BARBICAN ESTATE RESIDENTS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2024 - TO FOLLOW**

The Chair of the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee (BRCC) introduced the minutes from the Special Meeting, which had considered a public version of Agenda Item 9 (Repairs and Maintenance Contract – Procurement Stage 1 Report) and highlighted the following points:

- a) The extension of Mark Wheatley's Chairmanship by one year had been welcomed by the Committee.
- b) The Committee would have preferred for the Barbican Estate to have a separate report to that of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Estates.
- c) The Barbican and Golden Lane water penetration contracts would be treated differently, in order to avoid competing resources, but they would be subject to the same procurement exercise, in order to achieve economies of scale.

- d) Members felt the heavy redaction on costs was inappropriate, given that residents pay the service charges. During the meeting, it was agreed that Working Group Members would be provided with the financial information, which would eventually be shared with the BRCC. The officer explained that the redaction had been necessary to protect the integrity of the tender process.
- e) The BRCC would have liked to see references to the Altair Review in the report. The Executive Director explained that the Transformation Board was the result of an Altair recommendation. The report was seeking to look forward rather than reflect but Members were assured that lessons had been learned. One of the actions from the Transformation Board had been to split the Housing Director into HRA and Barbican operations.
- f) The report could have been more candid in terms of the circumstances leading to the difficult legacy passed on to the Estate's new management. The Executive Director advised that more background information had been provided in earlier iterations of the report.
- g) The timeline appears robust and tested and risk would be incorporated later.
- h) The biggest challenge had been to the percentages but they had been reviewed in a meeting arranged the following day, which some BRCC Members had been invited to. Members noted that this would be covered during the presentation of the report at item 9 on the agenda.
- i) The Chair was very pleased to report that the spirit of recent BRCC Meetings had been far more interactive and purposeful.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item	Paragraph
9	3

9. HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS - PROCUREMENT STAGE 1 REPORT

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services.

The meeting ended at 10.20 pm

Chairman

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