



Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Date: MONDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2025
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS, WEST WING, GUILDHALL.

Members:

Alderman Gregory Jones KC (Chairman)	Ella Mitchell, (Hampstead Rugby Club)
Liz Andrew, (London Natural History Society)	Helen Payne, (Friends of Kenwood)
John Arnoldi, (Heath Hands)	Harunur Rashid, (Black and Minority Ethnic Communities representative)
Nick Bradfield, (Dartmouth Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee)	Steve Ripley, (Ramblers Association)
John Etheridge, South End Green Association	Susan Rose, (Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Colin Gregory, (Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association)	Alethea Silk
Michael Hammerson, (Highgate Society)	Richard Sumray, (London Council for Sport and Recreation)
Dr Gaye Henson, (Marylebone Birdwatching Society)	Jeff Waage, (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Simon Hunt, (Open Spaces Society)	John Weston, (Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee)
Sharlene McGee, (Leonard Cheshire)	Michelle Martin Williams, Vale of Heath Society)

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1- Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
 - a) To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 16 September 2025. (Pages 5 - 18)
 - b) To note the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 21 October 2025. (Pages 19 - 28)
4. **APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MANSFIELD CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 29 - 32)
5. **GRANT FUNDING MODEL AND FUNDRAISING BRIEFING**

Officers to make a presentation.

For Information
(Verbal Report)
6. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS - VERBAL UPDATE**

Officers to present a verbal update.

For Information
(Verbal Report)
7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 13 January 2026.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-public Agenda

11. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) To agree the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 16 September 2025. (Pages 33 - 34)
- b) To note the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on 21 October 2025. (Pages 35 - 40)

12. REMARKETING OF CAFES AT HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 41 - 58)

13. REMARKETING OF SPACE AT PARLIAMENT HILL LIDO

Report of Executive Director, Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 59 - 66)

14. NON PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

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

HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE **Tuesday, 16 September 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 16 September 2025 at 5.30 pm

Present

Members:

William Upton (Acting Chairman)
Liz Andrew, London Natural History Society
John Arnoldi, Heath Hands
John Etheridge, South End Green Association (attended virtually)
Colin Gregory, Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association
Michael Hammerson, Highgate Society (attended virtually)
Dr Gaye Henson, Marylebone Birdwatching Society (attended virtually)
Ella Mitchell, Hampstead Rugby Club
Helen Payne, Friends of Kenwood
Susan Rose, Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee
Alethea Silk
Richard Sumray, London Council for Sport and Recreation
Jeff Waage, Heath & Hampstead Society

Officers:

Jack Joslin	- City Bridge Foundation
Joseph Smith	- Corporate Strategy & Performance
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Tom Hoyle	- Environment Department
Jo Hurst	- Environment Department
Andrew Impey	- Environment Department
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Zoe Williams	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Nick Bradfield, Alderman & Sheriff Gregory Jones and Michele Martin-Williams

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

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES

a) Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

A Member raised a typographical error on page 9 that "backs" should be changed to "banks".

The Highgate Society representative noted that they had not been contacted by Officers following their query about an archaeological strategy. Officers confirmed that they would be in touch with the Member following the meeting.

RESOLVED – That, the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meetings held on Tuesday 17 June 2025, as amended, were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

b) Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That the draft public minutes and non-public summary of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on Tuesday 16 July 2025 be noted.

c) Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum

The representative of the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR), also the Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum, noted a correction to their name under item 2.

The LCSR representative acknowledged that concerns had been raised by sports clubs regarding delays in the approval process for events. They emphasised the importance of maintaining positive relationships with these clubs and expressed hope that such issues would be resolved promptly moving forward. The Chairman added that an event scheduled at the Lido had to be cancelled due to these delays and queried whether the issue stemmed from staffing shortages or challenges with the implementation of new systems.

Officers responded that measures were being taken to ensure all events, including those that had previously operated outside of the formal event policy, now followed the appropriate approval process. This was to ensure that activity levels on the Heath remained manageable, health and safety standards were upheld, and spaces were used appropriately. They acknowledged that staffing levels had contributed to the delays, but assured Members that applications were being processed as quickly as possible, and that this new event had been approved and occurred successfully. Officers also reiterated their appreciation for the work of the athletic clubs on Hampstead Heath and affirmed their commitment to supporting these organisations.

It was also raised that sports clubs at Hampstead Heath had not been able to access the facilities to provide tea and coffee when using the athletics track, on the grounds of health and safety issues. Officers responded that they were engaged with the athletics club about such issues and explained that they needed a license to use the kitchen and continue serving teas and coffees. They noted that they will support the club through this process, and they were working with them to review the request. The representative of the Hampstead Rugby Club noted that it would be helpful to know a timeframe for when such arrangements could be in place.

The LCSR representative noted that the relevant Officer from the Environment Department had not attended recent Pro-Active Camden meetings. In response, the Chairman requested that a substitute Officer be arranged to attend in cases where the assigned Officer is unavailable. Officers explained that their absence from the last two meetings was due to a scheduling conflict with City Corporation Committee meetings, and the Officer who would normally attend as a substitute was on annual leave at the time.

The Member also queried whether it would be possible to hold a young-persons Park Run at Hampstead Heath, in addition to the regular Saturday morning event. Officers explained that the Park Run, which was organised by volunteers, was already operating over capacity each week. They noted that before they explored other activities on the Heath, their priority was to ensure the current activities had the appropriate safeguards in place.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum were noted.

d) Matters arising

The Committee noted that the Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, William Upton KC had been asked to continue to act as Chairman of the Consultative Committee whilst the Chairman, Alderman & Sherriff Gregory Jones KC, was engaged in his Shrieval role

4. **APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM ENGLISH HERITAGE** The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appointment of a Member to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED – That, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee support that Simon Cranmer, nominated by English Heritage, be appointed as a Member of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTORS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided Members with an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since its last meeting.

Priority 1: A mosaic of natural habitats is maintained and flourishes

Officers noted that 10 small leaky dams had been installed on the Heath Extension and allotment streamline along the edge of Cohen's Field. They acknowledged that these projects had been supported by volunteers from Heath Hands. Officers further explained that they had engaged with Conways to alter the profiles of the pathways in the East Heath so that surface water from rain was

deflected onto the grass and into Hampstead Number 1 pond, rather than flowing down the pathways and onto East Heath Road.

The representative for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association noted their request that Officers provide a paper at a future meeting on water management issues at Hampstead Heath.

The Chairman noted the positive news regarding the works to remove the Model Boating Pond causeway and requested a further update. Officers responded that they had not yet received approval from the London Borough of Camden as they had requested further information about benefits to biodiversity. Officers confirmed that this had delayed the timeline for beginning the project and they were staying in contact with the contractor to ensure works could begin as soon as there was permission to proceed.

The representative for the Highgate Society noted the sighting of an Alder Moth Caterpillar and Purple Emperor Butterfly at Hampstead Heath as detailed in the report.

Priority 2: Heritage aspects and landscape character are maintained

The representative from the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR) requested an update on capital funding and any bids being made for the Hill Garden Pergola project. Officers responded that, while no capital funding had yet been allocated, an expression of interest had been prepared for submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. They noted that feedback would be sought from a fundraising consultant prior to submission, and that if invited to submit an application following the submission of the expression of interest, the full process to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was expected to take approximately one year. The LCSR representative raised concern that this would lead to further deterioration and queried whether it could still be used during this period. Officers responded that City Surveyor's department had the budget to continue with their stabilising works in the short term and were actively engaged in the project.

The Chairman asked whether the fundraising consultants would be reporting on this matter. Officers responded that a draft fundraising report was being considered by Officers, however this did not specifically consider the Hill Garden Pergola. Regarding the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), Officers explained that this would ideally be completed before the expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was submitted. They noted that the CMP was a welcome development as it would outline the future plans for the care of the facility. Officers explained that this work should support any application for funding.

The Chairman asked for an update on the appointment of a Business and Development Manager. Officers responded that they had successfully appointed a Head of Development and Partnerships who would be introduced to the Committee in due course.

Priority 3: A balance is maintained between visitor activities and the conservation of natural, built and heritage values

The Chairman raised that planning permission had been granted for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Lido. They noted that this project would be carried out through funding from the Climate Action Strategy.

Regarding the recent International Biodiversity of Pollards conference, the representative for the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association (HGSRA) asked whether there was new information to learn from this conference about pollarding. Officers provided further information about the conference and noted that their Tree Team worked with Burnham Beeches each February to develop their skills in managing veteran trees and helping with Burnham Beeches' Beech Pollards.

The Highgate Society representative queried whether the conference produced any new information that could help in maintaining the ancient pollards in Highgate Wood. Officers noted that this was not part of the subject matter discussed in the conference, but they could discuss these matters with the Member following the meeting. They noted that Dr Helen Read MBE would shortly be publishing a book on the management of veteran pollards which might contain some useful information in this area.

Priority 4: Improved physical health, mental health and emotional well-being

The Chairman noted their congratulations to the staff for the completion of the Ponds Accessibility Project.

The Chairman asked for an update about the repairs at the Parliament Hill Lido. Officers responded that they would be meeting with the City Surveyor's department in the coming week to conduct a detailed assessment of the wall. They assured Members that if there were any immediate danger to staff and the public, the City Surveyor's department would carry out any necessary mitigation that the engineer recommended. Officers further noted that the cost for dismantling and rebuilding the wall would be significant and subject to listed building consent and available funding. The Chairman asked whether there would be a contingency fund available to cover this work or if it would create a delay for other projects. Officers noted that they could have the City Surveyor's department provide a detailed answer to this in the upcoming Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting.

Regarding the Ponds Access project, the HGSRA representative noted that they hoped the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee would have the adequate opportunity to contribute to the process. Officers confirmed that they would be consulting with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee at a high level, however they could not take on detailed feedback on the questions in the consultation as these would be guided by the expert consultants. The Member asked whether there was an expected timetable for the related exercises within the City Corporations Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee and the publication of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission's (EHRC) guidelines. Officers advised that they did not have specific information regarding the City Corporation's timetable for the work in question but confirmed that it was being treated as a priority. They noted that the City Solicitor had advised this project would be carried out independently to the Ponds Access project.

It was explained that the City Corporation's review of its gender identity policy would follow a formal review process, which would commence once the revised statutory guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) had been published. Officers also noted that the outcome of the consultation on the Ponds Access project would not be available until mid-December at the earliest.

The LCSR representative noted that it remained unclear, following the charity review, whether responsibility for the matters in question lay with the charity or the City Corporation. They emphasised that the issues raised were of significance to both parties. In response, Officers advised that the City Solicitor had confirmed the City Corporation held responsibility for these matters, and that they did not fall within the remit of individual City Corporation charity committees. Officers further clarified that the consultation was being funded through the City Corporation's central budget, rather than the charity's budget.

Priority 6: Diversity and equality

The Chairman asked whether there was a further update on the sandpit at Golders Hill Park. Officers responded that they were working with the London Borough of Barnet to get an agreement in place, as they would be providing a significant amount of NCIL funding. The HGSRA representative expressed their concern about the delay in this project.

Priority 7: Increased sense of collective ownership and personal responsibility &

Priority 8: Visitor behaviour is pro-environmental

The representative for the Heath & Hampstead Society commented that concerns had been raised about unauthorised activity in non-swimming ponds over the summer period, noting that this had caused destruction of nests and breeding sites. The Member asked whether such activity had increased over the years, and how it could be dealt with in the future. The Member suggested that the ponds strategy review consider how they could encourage people to respect the conservation ponds. Officers responded that while they were uncertain on whether activity in the non-swimming ponds had increased, they shared the Members concerns about the damage that this caused and noted this was not appropriate behaviour. They commented that the recruitment of four additional Constables may help this but acknowledged that it was a much larger issue that needed to be reviewed separately. Officers agreed to include this matter as part of the review of the existing ponds strategy.

The LCSR representative reiterated ongoing concerns regarding swimming in non-swimming ponds and the limited constabulary presence at Hampstead Heath. They expressed particular concern about the broader health and safety implications for the public, noting that the current level of constabulary was insufficient to respond effectively to incidents at the ponds. It was highlighted that the lack of visibility and presence on site contributed to inappropriate behaviour taking place. The Member suggested that the Committee consider pressing for a further review of constabulary staffing levels at Hampstead Heath.

Officers acknowledged that the City Corporation's restructure two years ago had significantly impacted resources available to North London Open Spaces. They noted that a right-sizing exercise was required to assess the staffing levels

needed to support business-as-usual operations. This exercise would inform both the business planning process and the funding request for the following financial year. Officers further explained that as part of the business plan they would be conducting a review of the Constabulary, once a full year had passed under the current staffing arrangements. It was noted that Officers were actively monitoring all relevant incidents and breaches of by-laws on the Heath to ensure that any future requests for additional resources were supported by robust data. The Member noted that there needed to be more enforcement around the Heath and acknowledged that the lack of this was partly a problem of resourcing.

The representative for the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee raised concern that there was not a clear way in which the public could report incidents in at Hampstead Heath. They noted that while they could phone the Constable on duty, there was not a guarantee that they would answer. They also commented that the Metropolitan Police were not familiar enough with the grounds at Hampstead Heath to assist effectively, particularly if an incident occurred whilst it was dark. The representative for Friends of Kenwood agreed and noted that if the staffing levels in the Constabulary improved it could prove beneficial to have English Heritage involved due to the constabulary's presence on Kenwood Lands.

Officers acknowledged that there was public signage on how to contact the Constabulary at Hampstead Heath. They noted that once additional Constabulary had been hired, they would consider expanding the hours of Constables on duty. Officers also assured the Committee that while the Constabulary cannot enforce at Kenwood, they would provide them with as much support as possible. Officers commented that the new information hut at Parliament Hill may be helpful as a new central point of contact.

Priority 9: People treat the Heath and other visitors with respect

The representative of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association (HGSRA) asked how concerns at West Heath were being addressed. Officers responded that they were committed to a partnership approach and noted that, at the conclusion of the previous meeting with Hampstead Heath partners, it was agreed that all parties could contribute to managing the issue. Officers explained that during a recent walk-through with the Metropolitan Police, the focus had been on tackling the most serious illegal activity and identifying ways to support individuals affected by drug use on the Heath. They added that the next step would be to agree among various parties what a shared approach would look like. The Member emphasised the importance of continuing to communicate a clear message of reassurance from both the Constabulary and the Metropolitan Police regarding personal safety on Hampstead Heath. Officers confirmed their commitment to maintaining and promoting this message.

Priority 10: Responsible management

The HGSRA representative commented that it was unfortunate to see Legionella had been found in the Heath Extension changing rooms and requested further details. Officers acknowledged that this had been a recurring issue, noting that substantial funds had been spent on cleansing and testing the water systems.

They explained that the problem stemmed from the infrequent use of the changing rooms, and it required significant staff time to flush the system weekly. Officers assured Members that they were actively working with the City Surveyor's department to identify a permanent solution. They acknowledged that, if a solution was not found, the potential closure of the facility may need to be considered. However, this was not the preferred outcome.

Members also were informed that the changing rooms systems were disinfected on 23-24 August, and it would take 2 to 3 weeks to receive the test results back. The Chairman requested that the London Council for Sport and Recreation (LCSR) raise the matter at the sports forum to explore whether volunteers could assist with flushing the systems. The LCSR representative agreed to do so but noted that resolving the issue typically required technical expertise. Officers also mentioned ongoing discussions with engineers to assess whether adjusting the water temperature could help mitigate the problem.

Cafe remarketing

Officers provided an update to Members of the remarketing of the cafes on Hampstead Heath. They noted that the deadline for the submission of bids was 24 September 2025 and following this, submissions would be reviewed and recommendations reported to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. They emphasised there were a number of factors that would be considered in this process, and it would not be a solely profit-driven exercise.

The representative for the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee noted that they had been contacted by members of the Cafe working party from 2016 who had expressed concerns about the remarketing of the cafes. The Member noted that the Parliament Hill Cafe was a valued space in the local area, appreciated for its accessibility and affordability. They explained that it would be beneficial for the community's trust in the process to provide the criteria that was being considered in the remarketing. The Member emphasised that the process should be undertaken carefully, cleanly and openly.

The LCSR representative noted that it would be important to also publish the weighting of the criteria. The representative of the South End Green Association agreed with these points, noting that local groups had expressed their concerns that the exercise has begun without consultation. They also sought assurance from Officers that no decision would be taken before the Consultative Committee's additional meeting in November.

Officers responded that they recognised the community value of the current cafe and the element of social cohesion that it brought to the area. They noted that they were eager to build upon this legacy. Officers explained that criteria being considered in bids had been publicly shared in a news release, and they had welcomed participation from everyone, including the current operators. As it was a remarketing of the cafes, and not a public procurement, Officers noted that they would not be sharing the weighting of the criteria. They explained that this decision was taken at the advice of the agents who specialised in food and beverages. Officers assured Members that they had issued a press release about the cafes remarketing and contacted the current operators to inform them

in advance of the process taking place. Officers also confirmed that any paper presented to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for decision would be considered by the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee first.

In response to a further query about public attendance during the discussion of the cafes in the additional meeting, Officers confirmed that the matter would be discussed in non-public session as it was a commercial transaction.

The Chairman expressed surprise at the Café Working Group's interest in being involved in the current process, noting that there had been no contact from the group since the matter was last considered in 2016. He further clarified that the Café Working Group did not hold a formal role in this process.

The Chairman explained that the process was being undertaken was to ensure that the City Corporation as corporate trustees were serving the best interests of Hampstead Heath. They noted that cafe businesses must expect to be subject to scrutiny, regardless of their relationship with the community. They noted that if the current operators felt they were the best option they should try to represent this in their proposal.

Events update

Officers thanked the Heath and Hampstead Society for running the Natural Aspect Summer Concert in August, as well as the annual kite event. They recognised the significant number of volunteers that it took to make this happen.

The representative of the Hampstead Rugby Club also noted that the 26th Hampstead Heath Duathlon was held in September and expressed their gratitude to Officers for facilitating this.

Update from the City Surveyor's department

The HGSRA representative commented that, while understanding of the transition to the Grant Funding Model was progressing, further discussion would be required as the process continued. They emphasised the importance of clarifying how the local budget interacted with the City Surveyor's department's budget. While they acknowledged that the appendix to the report was more legible than previous iterations, they noted that it remained high-level and expressed a desire for greater detail regarding operations and prioritisation.

The representative from the Heath & Hampstead Society agreed, suggesting that the presentation could be improved by clearly highlighting information specific to Hampstead Heath. They expressed concern about fluctuations in funding, noting that anticipated themes driving these changes were not clearly explained. They asked for clarification on the reasons behind the annual increases and decreases in funding for Hampstead Heath, and whether this variability posed a risk under the Grant Funding Model moving forward.

Officers explained that the Finance Transformation Lead within the Chamberlain's Department was working closely with the Superintendents to implement a new system that would enable clearer identification of the main operating costs in terms within the local risk budget. They noted that the transition

to this system was being used as an opportunity to right-size the budget and try to build operating costs into the budget framework. Officers further explained that the existing methods of financial governance and reporting had made it challenging to transparently track how costs were allocated and where funding had come from.

Where fluctuations in the budget were observed, Officers clarified that these were often due to external funding streams, such as the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP). They further commented that the ongoing Natural Environment Charity Review would examine how other budgets that directly impact the charities were governed and managed.

Officers further commented that they held monthly meetings with the City Surveyor's Department about the delivery of the CWP. In terms of prioritisation, they explained that they had engaged with the department to ensure appropriate priorities were discussed.

Officers acknowledged that the CWP was a significant undertaking for the City Surveyor's Department, who had been upskilling and collaborating with the Environment Department to ensure smooth delivery. Officers emphasised that projects were only progressed when there was sufficient oversight to ensure quality outcomes.

Officers also confirmed that the City Surveyor's Department had found sufficient funding to repair the water fountains on Hampstead Heath. They explained that they were working with the Heath & Hampstead Society on finding an appropriate design that worked with Hampstead Heath, as a member of Heath & Hampstead Society was generously partially funding this overall project, and this was likely to be installed over winter.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

6. HEATH HANDS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of Heath Hands, which detailed recent highlights, and its work towards its strategic objectives.

The representative of Heath Hands provided an introduction to the report. The Chairman suggested that a new name be considered for the information hut. The Heath Hands representative responded that they would welcome suggestions.

The representative from the Heath & Hampstead Society noted that previous discussions had included the potential redevelopment of the Parliament Hill Café to incorporate a visitor centre. They commented that the information hut could serve as a useful indicator of public interest in such a facility and presented an opportunity to explore new ways of engaging visitors on the Heath.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

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

Fundraising consultants

The representative of the Heath & Hampstead Society commented that they had had a useful meeting with the fundraising consultants. They queried whether the fundraising consultant's report would be available to consider in the proposed additional meeting. Officers confirmed that they could include this in the agenda to consider, potentially as part of the report on the Grant Funding Model framework.

Venue for Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meetings

The Chairman asked for an update on the process for moving the venue of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meetings to Hampstead Heath, noting that the Committee had expressed an interest in this in the past. The Town Clerk explained that a site assessment had been carried out to assess whether the site at Parliament Hill would meet the accessibility criteria required to hold a City Corporation Committee meeting at this location. Following this assessment, the Assistant Town Clerk had advised that it would not be appropriate to move the meetings to this venue until the accessibility concerns could be adequately addressed. They also advised that there would not be funding available from the Member Services budget to provide catering and Officer transport to this alternative location, and the Environment Department would not have the budget to absorb these costs.

The Chairman queried whether Members of the Consultative Committee could claim their expenses for travelling to Guildhall. The Town Clerk responded that they would confirm this with the Member after meeting.

The representative from the London Council for Sport and Recreation expressed concern, noting that they had attended various meetings at Parliament Hill and that the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee had previously met there and at other nearby venues. In relation to health and safety, the Member emphasised that their primary concern was with the issues present on Hampstead Heath itself, rather than those associated with the meeting venue. They added that enabling more Members to attend in person was important, and every effort should be made to facilitate this. The representative of Heath Hands commented that they would be interested to see a cost comparison of what was spent on Member's transport to Guildhall, compared to transporting Officers to Hampstead Heath.

The representative of Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee commented that they believed they were more exposed to danger on public transport to Guildhall than they would be walking to Parliament Hill.

The Chairman noted that these comments would be fed back to the Town Clerk's department, and they would ask for further analysis of the issue.

The HGSRA representative queried whether the necessary remedial works that were needed to improve the safety of the building at Parliament Hill could be

addressed by the City Surveyor's department. Officers from the Environment Department commented that the cost of the infrastructure improvements required could not be absorbed through the local risk budget, however they were not able to speak to these works being undertaken by the City Surveyor's department.

The Chairman suggested that this matter be discussed by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee as to where the priorities were within the budget. The Chairman also suggested that a note from the Town Clerk be circulated to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee for Members to fully understand the issues raised.

Environment Department staffing announcement

It was announced that the Head of Conservation, Jonathan Meares, would be retiring at the end of January 2026. Officers and Members noted their gratitude for Jonathan's support to the Heath and Committee over the years. Officers confirmed that they had been actively recruiting for a new Head of Conservation.

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

There was no urgent business.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman noted that an additional meeting was likely to be held on the week commencing Monday 3 November. The Town Clerk explained that the date and time of this meeting would be sent to Members once it had been confirmed. The Chairman explained that the subjects discussed in the meeting would be the cafe remarketing, the Hampstead Heath Ponds, and the Grant Funding Model framework.

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, Page 14 to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

a) Draft Non-Public Minutes of Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 17 June 2025 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

b) Draft Non-Public Minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held on Tuesday 16 July 2025 were noted.

c) Matters arising

One matter was discussed.

12. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions raised in non-public session.

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

There was no urgent business raised in non-public.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Zoe Williams
Zoe.Williams@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE **Tuesday, 21 October 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 21 October 2025 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Gregory Jones KC (Chairman)
William Upton KC (Deputy Chairman)
John Beyer
Simon Burrows
Karina Dostalova
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE
Jason Groves
Wendy Mead OBE
Alethea Silk
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP (Ex-Officio)

In attendance:

Deputy Timothy Butcher - attended virtually
James St John Davis (Ex-Officio) - attended virtually

Officers:

Niranjan Shanmuganathan	- Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Joseph Smith	- Corporate Strategy and Performance
Lisa Ward	- Corporate Strategy and Performance
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director, Environment
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Tom Hoyle	- Environment Department
Jo Hurst	- Environment Department
Andrew Impey	- Environment Department
Marguerite Jenkin	- Environment Department
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Jonathan Meares	- Environment Department
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department
Zoe Williams	- Town Clerk's Department

MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, wished to express their condolences to the London Wildlife Trust and the family of Matthew Frith, a representative of the London Wildlife Trust who served on the Committee from the beginning of 2023. The Chairman noted Matthew Frith's contributions to the work of the Committee.

The Chairman presented the Deputy Chairman with his framed Vote of Thanks.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Arjun Mittra.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

a) Draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 16 July 2025 be approved as an accurate record, subject to the inclusion of Wendy Mead OBE in the apologies.

b) Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 16 September 2025 be noted.

Matters Arising

The Deputy Chairman noted the request from the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee to hold a meeting at the Parliament Hill venue at Hampstead Heath and requested that this be further investigated. The Executive Director, Environment responded that they would further consider this with the Town Clerk's Department and contact the Chairman and Deputy Chairman with an update.

A Member raised a query regarding who was invited to attend the meetings of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, and the walks at Hampstead Heath. Another Member, also a previous Chair of the Committee, responded that the Chairman and one other Member from the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park (HHHWQP) Committee sit on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, and all Members of the HHHWQP Committee were invited to attend the walk.

c) Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum

RESOLVED – That, the minutes of the previous Hampstead Heath Sports and Wellbeing Forum meeting held on 24 April 2025 be noted.

4. APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF ENGLISH HERITAGE

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk, seeking approval for the appointment of a new external Member, nominated by English Heritage, to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

A Member requested that some biographical information about Mr Cranmer be provided to the Committee prior to their first meeting.

RESOLVED – That, Simon Cranmer, nominated by English Heritage, be appointed as a Member of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the consideration of business relating to Hampstead Heath, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH

5. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (HAMPSTEAD HEATH)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on matters relating to Hampstead Heath since the last Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting.

The Assistant Director presented the report, noting that North London Open Spaces had recently been awarded five gold medals at the London in Bloom awards.

A Member noted their congratulations to the Zoo apprentice who passed their Level 2 Animal Care and Welfare apprenticeship with distinction.

In response to a Member's query regarding progress on the Hill Garden Pergola, Officers noted that they were preparing a submission to the National Lottery Heritage Fund on which they were receiving specialist advice. They noted the newly appointed Head of Development and Partnerships had also been working on this and considering a larger fundraising effort. Officers explained that they could not confirm an anticipated timeline at this stage, and an update would be provided once this was available.

A Member, also a representative of the Heath & Hampstead Society, noted their thanks to staff for supporting the recent events at Hampstead Heath, including the Natural Aspect Summer Concert and the Kite Display at Parliament Hill.

The Deputy Chairman requested an update on the works at the Model Boating Pond. Officers reported that planning permission had been granted by the London Borough of Camden in the previous week. They were in the process of finalising documentation outlining the anticipated biodiversity improvements resulting from the works. Officers explained that they aimed to secure consent to commence works in the following week, with the contractor expected to begin on 10 November. The Deputy Chairman expressed concern regarding the delay in obtaining planning permission and queried whether similar issues were anticipated in future interactions with the London Borough of Camden.

The Deputy Chairman also raised a query regarding the proposed stewards' huts and the recent planning application submitted to the London Borough of Camden. Officers explained that the upgrades were necessary to accommodate new hardware associated with the updated booking system, and to provide a more secure and suitable working environment for stewards at the Men's and Mixed Ponds. They further clarified that the planning application had been submitted by a member of staff earlier than originally intended or authorised by management. Officers noted that they had contacted individuals who had objected to the submission, and that some objections had since been withdrawn following the provision of additional information that would have been included in the initial application that provides helpful context. They noted that they were working with a planning consultant to ensure they were engaging with the London Borough of Camden appropriately and were in touch with anyone that had made a representation in this process.

Regarding water fountains at Hampstead Heath, Officers noted that the City Surveyor's Department had identified the funds to undertake the improvement project. They also informed the Committee that a member of the Heath & Hampstead Society had generously agreed to fund part of this project, and a plaque would be installed on the infrastructure to acknowledge this. The Committee acknowledged its thanks to the donor.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

6. HEATH HANDS UPDATE

The Committee received a report of Heath Hands, which detailed recent highlights, and its work towards its strategic objectives.

The Deputy Chairman queried whether the information hut would continue to be used throughout the winter. Officers responded that following the successful pilot they understood that the information hut would continue to operate during the weekends. It was noted that they would report back at the next meeting regarding a long-term plan.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE (HAMPSTEAD HEATH)

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment which sought to assure the Committee that risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department and its Natural Environment Division were satisfactory and meet the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and the Charities Act 2011.

Noting the risks identified under work related stress, a Member commented that this stress should be taken into account when considering the charity's budget and the Natural Environment Charity Review. The Executive Director, Environment confirmed they would be taking staff welfare into account as part of the review.

A Member noted concern about the increasing instances of anti-social behaviour identified in the report. They commented that it would be useful to maintain an

ongoing monitor of this at future Committee meetings. The Member also requested further detail on the decline in the condition of assets at future meetings. The Chairman noted that it was disappointing to see the increase in anti-social behaviour, the significant increase in the use of drugs and needles at West Heath, and the need to provide supplementary security in the Lido.

Regarding the budget pressure risk noted in the risk register, the Deputy Chairman queried how the extension of the target date would affect the action taken to mitigate the risk. Officers explained that the revised timeline was influenced by two key factors; the implementation of the Grant Funding Model in April 2026 which would impact the understanding budgets in the short term; and the recent appointment of the Head of Development & Partnerships, whose fundraising impact would take time to have effect. Officers noted that the revised target deadline would provide time to assess how these factors would impact the budget.

In response to a query about the new Head of Development & Partnerships, Officers confirmed that the remit of their role had a broad definition, and they would be considering all available opportunities for fundraising, including legacy fundraising. The Chairman noted that although previous efforts had been made to set up accounts for charitable fundraising, this was the first time a dedicated fundraising officer had been appointed. They commented that this change would require a shift in culture at the City Corporation and consideration should be given to ensure the appointment was as productive as possible.

RESOLVED – That, Members confirmed, on behalf of the City Corporation as trustee, that the register appended to this report satisfactorily sets out the key risks to the Hampstead Heath charity and that appropriate systems were in place to effectively identify and mitigate risk.

8. **OPERATIONAL FINANCE PROGRESS REPORT Q1 2025/26 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on the operational finance position as at period 3 (April – June) 2025/26 for the Hampstead Heath charity and set out the charity's revenue operating budget position to date and projected year-end outturn, current live capital projects and outstanding debt position.

Officers presented the report, noting an error that reference to 'latest approved budget' should be referred to as the budget going forward.

A Member queried whether the charity received filming fees from Hampstead Heath. Officers responded that the majority of filming fees that were coordinated by Officers in the Natural Environment division was retained by the respective charities. They noted that they were in discussion about how the financial arrangements operated where other support was provided. Officers explained that they were exploring a 'menu of services' model, which would outline both core and optional services along with the associated fees.

The Chairman asked whether the transition to the grant funding model would impact such financial arrangements. Officers responded that they were exploring a range of workstreams as part of the transition, including the development of service level agreements with various providers. They explained that this would help improve clarity around service expectations and enable effective monitoring of service delivery.

A Member noted that recharges made up a large portion of the expenditure. They queried whether this could be mitigated under the grant funding model by securing services locally. Another Member noted that the City Bridge Foundation's experience in developing service level agreements had been prolonged, largely due to the complexity and timing involved. They also emphasised the importance of ensuring that locally secured services met a consistent standard of quality.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

9. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 - HAMPSTEAD HEATH

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which presented a draft version of the Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 for Hampstead Heath charity.

A Member commented that they had spotted a number of errors in the annual report and financial statements which included incorrect dates and typographical errors. Officers responded that this was an early draft of the annual report and there would be an updated version circulated to the Committee that was in its final stages of completion. The Chairman requested that, in future, Officers notify them in advance when an updated version of a report was intended to be provided.

The Member requested that the names of Committee Members be included in the report to reflect the Committee's oversight of the charity. They noted that this suggestion had been raised in previous years and that similar practices had been adopted in other charities' annual reports. Officers acknowledged the recommendation and confirmed they would consider it and follow up to ensure it was taken into account in future reporting. The Member further commented that, whilst the City Corporation was the corporate trustee, including the names of the members on this Committee would provide greater transparency and clarity for readers seeking to understand who was responsible for running the charity. The Chairman requested that Officers report back to them in the interim once they consider how this information would be presented in the report.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK

10. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (HIGHGATE WOOD)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on matters relating to Highgate Wood since the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee's previous meeting.

Regarding the Kiln Project at Highgate Wood, the Deputy Chairman noted the issues that they had faced in determining how the Kiln would be displayed and queried whether these could be addressed within the existing project budget. Officers responded that there was insufficient funding to realise the aspiration of a fully rebuilt or renovated information hut to house the Kiln. They explained that the project was funded solely by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and while they had hoped to supplement this with funding from the Cyclical Works Programme, the anticipated costs exceeded the available funding. Officers further noted that they were prioritising urgent repairs to the roof of the existing structure to ensure the Kiln was protected from the elements.

A Member noted they had not had a visit to Highgate Wood as a Member of the Committee and requested that this be arranged in the future.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

11. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT (QUEEN'S PARK)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on matters relating to Queen's Park since the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee's previous meeting.

The Deputy Chairman requested an update on the Queen's Park Splash Pad project and its start date. Officers confirmed that the public fundraising campaign was launched in the summer and £12,101 had been raised to date. They also noted that Flannery Equipment had supported the preparation of an HS2 bid application, which they intended to submit by the end of the week. In addition, an application had been made to the Community and Environment Fund. Officers explained that the HS2 grant application process involved a six-week turnaround period, including a meeting with a panel.

The Deputy Chairman noted that there was not a fundraising target advertised when the fundraising campaign was promoted at Queen's Park Day. Officers responded that they had since advertised a target of £100,000 on social media posts. They further commented that they had visited splash pads within the Greater London area to further understand the operating costs of the splash pad and day to day maintenance. They explained that any funding raised from bids and the public in excess of the £100,000 target would go towards further work on the above ground space and the ongoing cost of maintaining the facility.

Regarding the timeline for works on the splash pad, Officers noted they were reluctant to provide any estimated dates before the funding was secured. They also noted that they would need to go through the City Corporation's "Gateway" process and procurement processes as part of this. The Deputy Chairman requested that an update be provided on the splash pad as soon as possible. Officers further explained that the time to confirm the result of the HS2 bid

application would be dependent on when it was submitted as the panel met every six weeks.

The Chairman noted that the City Corporation should also be utilising Community Infrastructure Levy support as the surrounding local authorities benefit from the open space. They commented that assistance from Members would be useful in progressing with this.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

12. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE (HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK)

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment which sought to assure the Committee that risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department and its Natural Environment Division were satisfactory and meet the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and the Charities Act 2011.

A Member raised concerns about the increase in anti-social behaviour at Highgate Wood. Officers acknowledged the issue, noting that while the situation was less severe than at Hampstead Heath, there had been a general rise in anti-social behaviour across the open spaces. They assured the Committee that appropriate measures would be implemented to manage such behaviour proactively and consistently across all sites.

The Chairman requested further examples of the types of anti-social behaviour occurring in the area, noting the importance of understanding the nature of the incidents to develop effective responses. Officers confirmed that they would review the matter and provide more detail in the next report. They also reassured the Committee that there had not been a significant increase in drug use at Highgate Wood, and that the observed behaviour was primarily related to members of the public refusing to follow directions given by Officers.

In response to a Member's query regarding the position of the Constabulary. Officers confirmed that interviews were being arranged for the appointments of four additional Constables at Hampstead Heath and they had received a strong response from the job advertisement. They further explained that the current size of the Constabulary did not allow for full-day patrols at Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, although regular patrols continued at Highgate Wood. Officers noted that the appointment of the additional Constables would enable a more proactive approach in these areas, and that the impact of the increased staffing would be reviewed after one year.

RESOLVED – That, Members confirmed, on behalf of the City Corporation as trustee, that the register appended to this report satisfactorily sets out the key risks to the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park charity and that appropriate systems were in place to effectively identify and mitigate risk.

13. OPERATIONAL FINANCE PROGRESS REPORT Q1 2025/26 - HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEENS PARK

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which provided an update on the operational finance position as at period 3 (April - June) 2025/26 for the Highgate Wood & Queen's Park charity and set out the charity's revenue operating budget position to date and projected year-end outturn, current live capital projects and outstanding debt position.

Officers noted that since the report was produced, they had undertaken a Quarter 2 revenue forecast in which the £6,000 underspend had increased to £19,000, due to payroll adjustments and a £5,000 underspend in premise expenditure.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

14. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 - HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEENS PARK**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment which presented a draft version of the Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 for the Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Kilburn charity.

The Chairman noted that the same comments applied as those discussed under item 9 and confirmed that an updated annual report would be circulated in due course.

RESOLVED – That, Members noted the report and its contents.

15. **UPDATE ABOUT HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK ADDITIONAL MEETING**

The Chairman noted that invitations had been sent to Members for an additional meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee on Monday 8 December. It was also noted that there would be an additional meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on Monday 17 November.

16. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Regarding the meeting venue for the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Deputy Chairman noted that this matter would need to be addressed and followed up on.

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

There was no urgent business to be considered.

18. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That, the following matters related to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions did not apply. The following items contained sensitive information which it was not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under

paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and would be considered in non-public session.

19. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

a) **Non-Public minutes of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 July 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

b) **Non-Public minutes of The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the previous Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee held on 16 September 2025 be noted.

20. **CAFES - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update on the Cafes from Officers of the Environment Department.

21. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS - VERBAL UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update on the Hampstead Heath Ponds from Officers of the Environment Department.

22. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Three questions on matters relating to the work of the Committee were discussed.

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

One matter of urgent business was discussed.

The meeting ended at 6.34pm.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Zoe Williams
Zoe.Williams@cityoflondon.gov.uk

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee – For Discussion	Dated: 17 November 2025
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee – For Decision	08 December 2025
Subject: Appointment of the Member of Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee	Public report: For Decision
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Town Clerk
Report author:	Zoe Williams, Town Clerk's Department

Summary

Approval is sought for the appointment of a new external Member of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, nominated by the Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee, to represent local interests.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

- a) That Dr Victoria Holt, nominated by Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee, be appointed as a Member of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

Main Report

Background

1. Ellin Stein, the previous Member nominated by Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee as a representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee stepped down from her role as representative in February 2025. As a result, a vacancy is available on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. The Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee has expressed their desire to fill the vacancy.
2. Dr Victoria Holt is a General Practitioner and has been a dedicated user of Hampstead Heath for over 20 years. She regularly runs and swims at the Heath and frequently visits the area's playgrounds with her family. Since 2012, Dr Holt has participated annually in the Heath Duathlon and has been a near-weekly participant in the Park Run since 2017, where she also volunteers. During the first wave of the COVID-19 lockdown in summer 2020, she joined Park Run volunteers in clearing rubbish from the Heath on Saturday mornings. Dr Victoria Holt has also served as Health Lead for Welcome Syrian Families and then West Hampstead Welcomes, both Home Office Community Sponsorship initiatives. In this role she was involved in introducing Syrian refugees to Hampstead Heath.

Current Position

3. Under Schedule 4 to The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989, eight Members shall be appointed after consultation with the Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents' Association, the Heath and Old Hampstead Society, the Highgate Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the Highgate Society, the Joint Amenity Groups of Hampstead, the South End Green Association, the Vale of Health Society, and such other bodies appearing to the City to represent local interests as it considers appropriate.
4. Following correspondence with the Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee, it was recommended that Dr Victoria Holt would be a suitable alternative person to be a representative on the Consultative Committee, representing similar local interests. Subsequent discussions have taken place with Dr Victoria Holt, and she has indicated that she is willing to take on the role if this meets with approval.
5. Given that the Consultative Committee and the Management Committee contain Members nominated by the eight local groups specifically named in Schedule 4 to the 1989 Order, this is considered to be a sufficient level of consultation.
6. There is a statutory framework for the appointment of external Members and the terms of reference delegate authority to the Management Committee to exercise all of the City Corporation's powers and duties relating to Hampstead Heath.

Proposal

7. Following consultation with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, that Dr Victoria Holt, nominated by Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee, be appointed as a Member of the Consultative Committee, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Financial implications – None.

Resource implications – None.

Legal implications – Contained within the body of this report.

Risk implications – None.

Equalities implications – None.

Climate implications – None.

Security implications – None.

Zoe Williams

Governance Officer

Town Clerk's Department

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