

**KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2012**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD AT KEATS HOUSE, KEATS GROVE, LONDON NW3 ON TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 11:30 AM.**

**Present**

**Members**

John Scott (Chairman) (Ex-officio)

Vivienne Littlechild (Deputy Chairman) (Ex-officio)

Deputy Michael Welbank – representative of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee

Barbara Newman – representative of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

Nigel Steward - Heath and Hampstead Society

Lee Montague - Friends of Heath Library

Susan Kirby            )

Dr Hillas Smith        ) Friends of Keats House

Jean Haynes            )

**Officers:**

Jacky Compton	- Town Clerk's Department
Dr Deborah Jenkins	- Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department
Geoff Pick	- Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department
Mick Scott	- Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Dennis Cotgrove, Diana Gore, Dr Sally Brown and Marian Jolowicz.

**2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING**

There were no declarations.

**3. MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2011 were approved.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**Oil Store, Garden of Keats House** – The Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries stated that the City Surveyor had managed to obtain access to neighbouring properties to inspect the wall. The Director stated that the oil store would be made safe and hidden behind some trellis.

**John Keats Rose** – The Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries stated that he would need to obtain further information from, among others, the Friends of Keats House and report back to the Committee in due course.

**4. KEATS HOUSE EVENTS, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries relative to the progress since the last meeting in November 2011 in delivering Objective 1 of the Keats House Business Plan.

The Director referred to the various matters within the report and, in particular, discussed the level of visitor usages to the website, school visitors and the World Book Day event scheduled for March.

**RECEIVED.**

**5. KEATS FOUNDATION**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries relative to the progress since the last meeting in November 2011 in delivering Objective 2 of the Keats House Business Plan.

The Director stated that the key development since the last meeting had been that, following discussions between the Foundation and the Friends of Keats House, the Friends have agreed to join forces with the Foundation and wind up their own organisation.

**RECEIVED.**

**6. KEATS LETTER**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries summarising progress since the last meeting in November 2011 in delivering Objective 3 of the Keats House Business Plan.

In answer a question, the Director stated that the Keats Letter was currently stored at LMA for safe keeping and that periodically in the future it would return to Keats House for display.

**7. HEATH LIBRARY**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries updating the Committee on the position with regard to the Heath Library.

The Director stated that formal notice from Camden had been received that it intends to cease running a public library from the site and to surrender the lease in April 2012 and returning full responsibility for the site to Keats House Charity.

**RECEIVED.**

**8. KEATS HOUSE BUSINESS PLAN 2012-13**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries relative to the Keats House Business Plan for 2012/13.

**RECEIVED.**

**9. HERITAGE SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

The Heritage Services Director gave an update on the following:

Press and publicity – the Director stated that in a recent article in Time Out magazine Keats House was rated in the top three most romantic places in London to visit on Valentine's Day. It was also rated by the National Metro chain of newspapers as one of the five best literary houses in the world to visit.

Poet in Residence – The Director stated that this would be John Hegley for 2012.

**10. QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

**11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no other items of business.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members were reminded that the next meeting would take place at 1.45pm on Tuesday 18 September 2012 at Guildhall.

**The meeting closed at 12.40pm**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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