

EPPING FOREST JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 April 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee held at remotely at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Graeme Doshi-Smith (Chairman)	Anthony Thomas
Benjamin Murphy (Deputy Chairman)	Jenifer White
Peter Anderson	

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Antoinette Duhaney	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Thomson	- Superintendent, Epping Forest
Jo Hurst	- Open Spaces Department
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Open Spaces Department
Helen Robertson	- Centre Manager, FSC
Mark Castle	- Chief Executive Officer, FSC
Andrew Pratt	- Head of FSC West & Wales, FSC

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received in advance of the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee.

The Chairman noted that Sylvia Moys, who had been a member of the Committee for a number of years, had resigned from her position on the Court of Common Council and therefore no longer served on the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee. Further to this the FSC Centre Manager informed the Committee that Geoffrey Brown was no longer serving on the Committee as he had stepped down from his role on as an FSC Trustee. The Committee thanked these Committee members for their years of service on the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee and invaluable contribution to the work of the Committee.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee be approved as an accurate record.

4. **EPPING FOREST FIELD CENTRE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
FSC EPPING FOREST REPORT: 2019**

The Committee received a report of the Epping Forest Field Centre Manager which provided a summary of the work undertaken by FSC Epping Forest in 2019. The Epping Forest Field Centre Manager noted the number of visitors received in 2019 and explained that the academic visitors were still primarily studying geography but that an increased number of science visitors were observed. In addition, the Epping Forest Field Centre Manager provided a list of events held in 2019 and explained that a financial report would be provided in the non-public section of the agenda.

In response to a query from the Chairman the Epping Forest Field Centre Manager explained that FSC had been working closely with schools with a connection to the City of London Corporation and would be continuing this going forward. The Deputy Chairman added that the Education Board had agreed to consider this as part of its remit and requested further details on how the FSC was acting on sustainability. The Epping Forest Field Centre Manager explained that 2030 had been agreed as the target for net zero carbon emissions from the FSC and noted that education remained the key for the public to visit Epping Forest in a more sustainable manner.

The Director of Open Spaces, in response to a question from the Chairman, informed the Committee that the Epping Forest holiday lets had documentation included on their location regarding FSC as a local attraction.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

5. **EPPING FOREST FIELD CENTRE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
FSC EPPING FOREST REPORT: 2020**

The Committee received a report of the Field Studies Council (FSC) Epping Forest Field Centre Manager on the annual report for 2020. The Field Centre Manager noted that 2020 was clearly an extremely difficult year for the Epping Forest Field Studies Centre with the COVID19 pandemic presenting a number of extremely challenging situations for the sector. A summary of the effect the various lockdowns and the review of school examinations had on the FSC was provided. In addition, the Field Centre Manager commented that, despite the challenges, over five thousand learning visits had been completed and the Centre was up to twenty five percent of the normal visitor numbers. The Chairman commended on the work of the Epping Forest Field Studies Centre to continue operating in the difficult period effected by COVID19.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **EPPING FOREST FIELD CENTRE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
FSC EPPING FOREST: 2021 PLAN**

The Committee received a report of the Field Studies Council (FSC) Epping Forest Field Centre Manager on the FSC Epping Forest Plan for 2021.

The Field Centre Manager provided details of the various resources which the FSC had provided online with a continued focus on science education but with

an increased focus on geography. It was added that the FSC was hoping, with the lifting of social distancing restrictions, to be welcoming the previously enjoyed number of visitors. However, it was noted the aim was simply for more visitors than the previous year. In response to a question from the Deputy Chairman the Town Clerk agreed to circulate the links to these online resources to the Committee, once provided by the FSC.

The Chairman commented that with the issues relating to the holidays abroad there would likely be an increased number of families holidaying more locally which could be explored as options for more visitors to the FSC. The Field Centre Manager responding that the nature wildlife offer was being developed and would be published once the social distancing restrictions can be lifted.

In response to a query from the Deputy Chairman the Field Centre Manager explained that there were a range of education products from the FSC for students transitioning from GCSE to A level.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions received in the public session.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Director of Open Spaces informed the Committee of a number of opportunities for cooperation between the City of London Corporation and the FSC including the deer management strategy and timber classroom.

The Field Centre Manager noted that the 23rd of June would be the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Epping Forest Field Studies Centre and notified that a suitable event to celebrate this would be likely held on this date.

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.	Paragraph
No. 10,11	3

10. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Epping Forest Joint Consultative Committee were approved as an accurate record.

11. **EPPING FOREST FIELD CENTRE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
FSC EPPING FOREST: 2019-2021 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Field Studies Council (FSC) Epping Forest Field Centre Manager on the FSC Epping Forest: 2019-2021 Financial Performance Report.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions received in the 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 considered in the non-public session.

The meeting closed at 11.55 am

Chairman

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