

## **CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 14 June 2021**

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held  
virtually on Monday, 14 June 2021 at 11.30 am

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Deputy Wendy Hyde (Chair)	Vivienne Littlechild
Jeremy Simons (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Munsur Ali	Alderman & Sheriff Professor Michael Mainelli
John Bennett	Andrew Mayer
Peter Bennett	Jeremy Mayhew
Deputy David Bradshaw	Deputy Barbara Newman
Thomas Clementi	John Petrie
Mary Durcan	Judith Pleasance
Tracey Graham	Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Alderman David Graves	Deputy Tom Sleigh (Ex-Officio Member)
Caroline Haines	James Tumbridge
Graeme Harrower	Mark Wheatley
Deputy Tom Hoffman	Dawn Wright

### **In Attendance**

#### **Officers:**

Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
Nick Bodger	- Culture and Visitor Development Director, Town Clerks
Tim Harris	- Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department
Leanne O'Boyle	- Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Phillips	- Town Clerk's Department
Charlotte Scott	- Culture, Heritage and Libraries Department
Graham Nickless	- CHB - Accountancy
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department
Carol Boswarthack	- Community and Children's Services
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Christopher Earlie	- Head of Tower Bridge, Open Spaces Department
Rob Shakespeare	- Open Spaces Department

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Stephen Haines, Ann Holmes, Wendy Mead, Graham Packham and Henrika Priest.

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

There were none.

3. **MINUTES - 29 MARCH 2021**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **MINUTES - 30 APRIL 2021**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

5. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee's forward plan was noted.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES, CITY ARTS INITIATIVE**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive in respect of the appointment, composition and terms of reference of the Benefices Sub-Committee and Keats House Consultative Committee, and the appointment of representatives to the City Arts Initiative.

RESOLVED, that –

1. the appointment, composition and terms of reference of the Benefices Sub-Committee be agreed and the following Members be appointed to the Sub-Committee, with the Chair and Deputy Chair as ex-officio Members. The membership was extended from 10 Members to 12 Members for the ensuing year.

- Simon Duckworth
- Deputy Kevin Everett
- Caroline Haines
- Deputy Stephen Haines
- Ann Holmes
- Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
- Alderman Gregory Jones
- Deputy Edward Lord
- Stephen Quilter
- Deputy Richard Regan
- James de Sausmarez
- Ian Seaton

2. the appointment, composition and terms of reference of the Keats House Consultative Committee be agreed and the following Members be appointed to the Committee, with the Chair and Deputy Chair as ex-officio Members:

- Dawn Wright
- Vivienne Littlechild

3. the following Members be appointed to the City Arts Initiative:

- Barbara Newman
- Dawn Wright

## 7. **RE-OPENING UPDATE**

Chief Officers were heard in respect of the updates on re-opening City attractions and services. The following updates were noted:

### Cultural and Visitor Development Director

The Guildhall Art Gallery reopened on 2 June, which was delayed due to the Fishmonger's Hall inquest. A temporary display from the Worshipful Company of Joiner Sealers has launched in the gallery. The Noel Coward Art & Style exhibition opened on 14 June. School groups had booked for Amphitheatre tours for June and July, and officers were planning autumn school visits. Family events continued online, and an on-site family event was scheduled for July.

The City Information Centre was operating on Saturday and Sunday only, and in May also opened for both bank holidays.

Outdoor Arts Programme launched on 13 June on Tower Bridge with 'Inside Out' which saw thousands of visitors coming to see the photos displayed on the bridge. The Outdoor Arts Programme also has a number of activities that fall under Vibrant Offer recovery plans including an extensive outdoor exhibition programme; Guildhall lunch markets with extended evening markets in summer; and lunchtime music partnerships.

A number of highlights from the summer programme were noted, including co-commissions with Greenwich and Docklands Festival; Guildhall Yard cinema would restart in August; cultural events in the Yard celebrating Latin American culture; and a Mela Bangladeshi New Year celebration located in Aldgate Square.

With respect to marketing and development, the focus was on promoting to the domestic tourism market, in collaboration with a number of partners including London & Partners, the Central London Alliance, Visit Britain, and England's Historic Cities, as well as publicity campaigns on bus stops and radio campaigns.

Culture Mile had just completed the pilot Imagine Scheme and Members would receive the links to these films following the meeting.

### Head of Tower Bridge & the Monument

Since the last update to the Committee, visitor attractions had opened on 17 May. Tower Bridge saw 6000 visitors during half term, and on Sunday 13 June reached visitor capacity (with Covid restrictions). There had been filming opportunities, including the 'Inside Out' event on Sunday. Front-line services continued to operate, including for security and raising the bridge for river traffic.

### Director of London Metropolitan Archives

The LMA reopened on 10 May, offering access to original archives for a limited number of researchers who had pre-booked. The LMA was fully booked until the end of July. Online resources had been enhanced to mitigate the reduced number of onsite visitors. The outdoor exhibition on football, A Capital Game, which was displayed in Guildhall Yard, was off to a good start and would relocate to Aldgate Square later in the week. The Lord Mayor planned to attend the exhibition.

### Head of Barbican & Community Libraries

The libraries have offered services in some way, shape or form throughout the pandemic. As restrictions eased in April, visitors have been allowed into the premises in limited numbers with limited browsing times. There had been issues due to a ventilation system, with failures at both Shoe Lane and Artizan Street libraries, however these have been resolved and all libraries are now operating. The libraries were not expecting to fully open until later in July, in light of recent announcements, however they are consistently extending services and hours where possible and when safe to do so.

### Principal Curator, Keats House

Keats House reopened on specific days from 20 May, with strict visitor numbers and booking times to ensure visitor confidence and safety. These limitations would remain for the foreseeable future but additional opening times will be added when possible. The shop was fully open with a new till system which had been installed prior to reopening. Walk-up ticket sales are permitted subject to availability. Keats House was also working with Cultural and Visitor Development on outdoor initiatives, including commemorating the anniversary of passing of the Hampstead Heath Act. Arrangements have been made with Keats Community Library to deliver a number of COVID-secure events for Hampstead Summer Festival in the garden of Keats House. In autumn 2021, the Keats200 outdoor exhibition would be displayed in a number of locations around London, to coincide with Open House London and Keats's birthday celebrations.

## **8. CITY ARTS INITIATIVE - RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE**

Members considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth in respect of the City Arts Initiative Recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee. Members were informed that the Asphalt Art had not yet been designed and commissions were in progress, however similar examples would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

RESOLVED, that – Members ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations in relation to the proposals as follows:

1. Asphalt Art: approve a series of artworks to be installed across five sites in the City, subject to approval of designs from the City Arts Initiative and ongoing consultation with Planning and Highways;

2. The Potter Family - 5 Pemberton Row: approve a Blue Plaque to be installed on 5 Pemberton Row subject to planning permission and Listed Building Consent.

9. **REVENUE OUTTURN - 2020/21**

Members received a report of the Chamberlain in respect of the Revenue Outturn for 2020/21.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

10. **KEATS HOUSE SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020/21 AND PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS**

Members received a report of the Director of Open Spaces in respect of the Keats House summary of achievements in 2020/21 and plans for the future periods. Members were informed that Keats House was working to respond to the various initiatives in the City Corporation, such as the Charities Review and the Target Operating Model, to ensure that it was aligned with these objectives.

With respect to recovery from the impact of the pandemic, it was anticipated that domestic visitor recovery would be seen over the course of the next year, and that international visitor recovery would follow in two or three years. During the pandemic, Keats House had developed ways to engage online with visitors both domestic and international, and the move to virtual engagement allowed for Keats200 programming to have a wider reach.

RESOLVED, that – Members:

1. note achievements at Keats House as summarised in Appendix 2 and how the service continues to meet the priorities, aims and objectives outlined within the Corporate Plan 2018/23, the City Corporation's Cultural Strategy, the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2021/22 and the objectives of the Keats House Charity; and,
2. note the future priorities for Keats House in 2021/22 and subsequent years, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

11. **DRAFT MINUTES - KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the Keats House Consultative Committee meeting on 10 May 2021 be received.

12. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive in respect of the decisions taken under urgency procedures since the committee's last meeting.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

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

There were none.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

Deputy Tom Sleight, who serves on the committee as an ex-officio Member as Chair of the Barbican Centre Board, addressed the allegations of racism at the Barbican Centre. Deputy Sleight advised the Committee that these allegations were being taken very seriously, and that a sub-committee had been established to address them. The sub-committee's Terms of Reference were being developed to review various processes, including HR, and to ensure the right people were positioned in the Barbican to address institutional racism. Deputy Sleight would keep the Committee informed of developments going forward.

15. **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 items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

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

There were none.

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

There was none.

19. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that – the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

20. **CONFIDENTIAL UPDATE - CULTURAL AND VISITORS SERVICES**

The Cultural and Visitor Development Director was heard in respect of a confidential matter.

21. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - TOM PROPOSALS**

Members considered a confidential report of the Director of Community & Children's Services.

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

There were none.

23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION**

There was none.

**The meeting ended at 1.05 pm**

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Chair

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