

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 4 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park
Committee held at Hybrid - Virtual and Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing,
Guildhall on Wednesday, 4 May 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Timothy Butcher
John Foley
Alderman Gregory Jones QC (Deputy Chairman)
Alethea Silk
William Upton QC (Chair)
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
John Beyer
Emily Hills
Andrew McMurtrie

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Sally Agass	- Interim Director, Natural Environment
Joseph Anstee	- Town Clerk's Department
Edwin James Birch	- City Surveyor's Department
Laura Botelho	- Natural Environment Division
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Declan Gallagher	- Natural Environment Division
Richard Gentry	- Natural Environment Division
Stefania Horne	- Natural Environment Division
Paul Maskell	- Natural Environment Division
Jonathan Meares	- Natural Environment Division
Juliemma McLoughlin	- Executive Director, Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Cornelius, Alderman Prem Goyal, Pam Hampshire and Jason Pritchard.

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

There were no declarations.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 20 April 2022 for the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. William Upton, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year and took the Chair.

RESOLVED – That William Upton be elected Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30.

Alderman Gregory Jones, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – That Alderman Gregory Jones be elected Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the ensuing year.

Andrew McMurtrie moved a vote of thanks to Anne Fairweather, the immediate past Chair.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: that Members of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee express their sincere thanks to

ANNE FAIRWEATHER

FOR her outstanding service during the last two years as Chair of this Committee, the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group.

DURING her tenure as Chair, Anne has demonstrated strong leadership facing the most unprecedented period of the COVID 19 Pandemic, a difficult and challenging time for us all. With her strength and pragmatic approach, she was an inspiration to staff and Members, keeping sites open as only the respite for communities, supporting staff and highlighting the importance of the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park for physical and mental health for many thousands of Londoners and visitors.

ANNE has been a tremendous champion for Hampstead Heath, Queen's Park and Highgate Wood and their value for nature conservation.

PUBLIC open spaces are incredibly important for the health and well-being of communities, providing a number of opportunities for physical exercise, sport and recreation. Anne has been instrumental in initiating and supporting a real transformation of our open spaces' sport facilities and provision. A substantial investment of over £2.7m was secured for the improvements of our bathing ponds and the athletics track. By securing this funding, Anne left a legacy that will be recognised for generations to come.

WITH the talent of an innovative leader, Anne has been efficient and a real motivator focusing on getting things done and modernising services. Under her leadership, a new booking system has been introduced for swimming, with contactless payments, which have been essential during COVID at the bathing ponds and online donations to the Heath charity went live.

AS well as being important for health and well-being and recreation, open spaces play a significant role in preserving biodiversity and contributes to our pledges against climate change. With that in mind, the Committee wishes to place on record its particular thanks for the way in which Anne has championed nature conservation and supported environmental projects. Anne has supported restoration projects in response to the impact caused by the overuse of our open spaces during the pandemic, championed the implementation work planned in the Ponds and Wetland Conservation Plan and supported the installation of new biodiversity interpretation boards in partnership with the Heath & Hampstead Society.

THE role of Chair is particularly important in forging partnerships and strengthen the role of our green spaces as green infrastructure and cultural hubs for Londoners and local communities. Despite the restrictions imposed by the Pandemic, Anne has worked tirelessly, supporting events such as the Heath 150 Anniversary celebrations, the launch of the first Hampstead Heath Christmas Fayre and the re-instatement of large events such as the English National Cross Country Championship.

THROUGHOUT her term of office, Anne has managed the Committee's deliberations in a decisive and professional way, ensuring that the Committee executed its duties effectively and efficiently. In taking leave of their Chair, Members wish to highlight the fantastic achievements Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park have achieved, which is due to the leadership Anne has demonstrated as Chair.

FINALLY, in congratulating their former Chair upon a most successful term of office, her colleagues on the Committee wish to convey their thanks for her extremely dedicated service to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and wish continued good health and happiness in her future ventures.

6. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES, CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES AND GROUPS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding appointments to Committees and Groups for 2021/22.

RESOLVED, that –

- The terms of reference and composition of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee be noted;

- The terms of reference and composition of both the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be approved;
- The Chair and Deputy Chairman to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.
- John Foley be appointed to serve on the Keats House Consultative Committee, with the Chair to also attend in an ex-officio capacity
- The Chair be appointed to attend to observe Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meetings in an ex officio capacity.

The remaining vacancies on the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and the Queen's Park Consultative Group be deferred until the next meeting of the Grand Committee for appointment

7. **MINUTES**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 were approved as a correct record.

8. **FRONT LINE WORK UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on Golders Hill Park Zoo.

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

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Superintendent providing an update on matters concerning Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park.

The following points were made:

- A letter of representation had been submitted to the London Borough of Camden highlighting areas of concern with a proposed development at Murphy's Yard. Members heard from Officers that while it would be reasonable and necessary to ask for mitigation measures to be included in a S.106 agreement, the timing of the consideration of the planning application by the London Borough of Camden's planning committee meant that there might not be time to bring these measures before the Committee to be finalised. The Superintendent therefore requested that the Committee grant delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee, to commence and finalise suitable mitigation measures for the Murphy's Yard re-development in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission (if any).
- It was planned to create an events calendar across all open spaces and charities
- The Heath had been recognised as the fourth most valuable open space in the UK through research by the University of Exeter.
- The members of the Committee were invited to join the planned walk across the Heath with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee Members.

- Fundraising target for the Hampstead Heath Extension Playground (£40,000) and the bird and mammal shelters (£5,000) had almost been reached. In response to a question from the Chair on whether gift aid was being applied to donations, officers replied that the Chamberlain's and the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Departments were being consulted, and a report on the subject would be brought to the next Committee meeting.
- At a Members request, officers agreed to bring a report on the financial position to the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED, that –

- Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair to finalise suitable mitigation measures for the Murphy's Yard re-development in a S.106 agreement pursuant to the grant of planning permission.
- The update be received and its contents noted.

10. PARLIAMENT HILL ATHLETICS TRACK RESURFACING

Members received a report of the Executive Director Environment relative to the resurfacing of the Parliament Hill Athletics Track.

RESOLVED, that –

- The budget of £81,000 is approved to reach the next Gateway.
- That a costed risk provision of £30,000 is approved (to be drawn down via delegation to the Chief Officer).

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

The Chair, the Chair of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee and Officers provided Members with an explanation of the TOM, how it affected the Committee's relationship with Open Spaces and the proposed strategic timeline.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was none.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

There were none.

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

The Superintendent updated Members on plans to formalise arrangements for weddings at the Hill Garden and Pergola. Preliminary work was being undertaken in preparation for a procurement brief.

16. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2022 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 5.20 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Ben Dunleavy
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