

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 9 February 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held in a Hybrid format via Teams and Committee Room 3, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Anne Fairweather (Chair)
William Upton QC (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy David Bradshaw
Michael Hudson
Wendy Mead
Jason Pritchard
Deputy John Tomlinson
John Beyer
Councillor Marcus Boyland
Emily Hills
Caroline Haines (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Juliemma McLoughlin	- Executive Director of Environment
Beth West	- Interim Director of Open Spaces
Stefania Horne	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Jonathan Meares	- Highgate Wood, Conservation and Trees Manager
Declan Gallagher	- Operational Service Manager
Paul Maskell	- Leisure and Events Manager
David Cobb	- Sergeant Hampstead Heath Constabulary
Katherine Radusin	- Personal Assistant to the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman Prem Goyal, Pam Hampshire, Councillor Richard Cornelius and Yianni Andrews.

The Committee welcomed the new Superintendent to her first meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1 of December 2021.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes previous meeting held on the 1st of December 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **UPDATE FROM FRONT LINE STAFF MEMBER**

The Committee received an update from the Sergeant working at Hampstead Heath who provided an update from the point of view of front-line staff working at Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. Responding to a Member's question the Sergeant noted that the work undertaken by staff at the Heath to find lost children had been amongst the most rewarding he had been involved in.

Following a request from a committee member the Executive Director Environment confirmed that an update on Fixed Penalty Notices would be circulated to the committee member accordingly.

RESOLVED- That the update noted.

5. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2022/23**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan for 2022/23.

Replying to a Member's concern on the Red Risk for the Open Spaces the Executive Director Environment explained that the risks were across the whole Division and, therefore, provided more information on the risk relating to Wanstead Park reservoirs. The Member instructed Officers to do everything possible to resolve these issues promptly.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE: APRIL TO SEPT 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021/22 Six month performance update April to September 2021.

Members commented that it was not helpful to receive a report finalised in December at committee in February. Further to this the Chair requested that the governance relationship with between the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Committee with the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee be assessed to resolve this reporting issue.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **TOM UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Executive Director Environment on the Target Operating Model (TOM) and its relation to the management of Hampstead Heath. The Executive Director Environment explained the phased process for advancing the TOM programme for the Environment Department, the opportunities for realignment and approve processes, review of assets and charities and highlighted the ambitious five-year plan which would be brought to the Committee for consideration.

The Chair highlighted the need to keep committee members external to the Court of Common Council informed on the progress of the TOM as it related to Hampstead Heath. The Deputy Chairman clarified that the proposed rationalisation of north London open spaces would only effect staff working patterns and not the governance of Hampstead Heath.

Responding to a query from the Deputy Chairman the Executive Director Environment confirmed that the consultation would begin in the Spring.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment which provided updates from the Superintendent since December 2021.

The Executive Director Environment explained that the water fountain requested by the Greater London Authority was not supported by Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee as it was not considered to be in-keeping with the character of the Heath.

A Member noted that an effective communications campaign was needed to ensure the public are aware of the rules regarding dog walking and fixed penalty notices at Hampstead Heath. The Superintendent confirmed that Officers would work with the Corporate Affairs Team and the Communication Officer working locally to establish an effective communications policy, adding that there was clearly going to be a bedding in period.

Followingly a request from a member of the committee the Superintendent confirmed that the feasibility study for the proposed mosaic would be sent to the member in question.

The Committee discussed their concern regarding the possible impact of the proposed development at Murphy's Yard to Hampstead Heath. The Chair noted that effective mitigation of this impact will be vital for the future of the Heath. The Superintendent noted that there was clearly a lot to consider regarding this development and explained that City of London Corporation would be engaging with the appropriate planning frameworks. It was added that the Committee would be consulted on the correct policy for the City of London Corporation to take regarding this. The Deputy Chairman that now was the chance to make proper recommendations but ensure there was further room for discussion, he

added that he was keen to see the draft letter listing the City of London Corporation's concerns on the Murphy's Yard development before it was finalised.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

9. **2022 SWIMMING SEASON**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the 2022 Swimming Season. The Superintendent introduced the report and explained the recommendation to continue with the balanced approach between free flow and pre-booked sessions. The Chair highlighted that this policy would continue to be reviewed regularly with the increased data collected via the pre-booking system with a formal review report to be brought to the Committee May.

RESOLVED- That the proposed 2022 swimming arrangements, as set out in para 10 and appendix 1 be approved.

10. **HAMPSTEAD HEATH SWIMMING FACILITIES - SAFETY, ACCESS AND SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities Safety, Access and Security Improvements. The Superintendent informed the Committee that the improvement works were due to begin in the December 2022 with an aimed finish date of May 2023 however it was added that every attempt would be made to finish before this date. The Chair explained that these improvements were part of the agreement when swimming charges were approved and highlighted the need to improve disability access.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. It was approved that the Gateway 3/4 (Options Appraisal) report to be pushed back to June 2022; and
- II. That further fee drawdown of £79,000 to support RIBA stage 3 design in facilitating the Gateway 3/4 report be approved; and
- III. That it was noted that if the additional fee request be approved the total fee drawdown to date would be £133,000 (excluding Risk) and £143,000, (including Risk); and
- IV. That the projected completion within the Gateway 2 report of May 2023 is unchanged by this delay be noted.

11. **GOLDERS HILL PARK ACCESSIBLE CAR PARK OPTIONS APPRAISAL**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Golders Hill Accessible Car Park Options Appraisal.

A Member commented that it would be helpful to arrange a visit to Hampstead Heath for any new members appointed to the Committee after the election as an introduction to the work of the Committee and to better understand the site. The Deputy Chairman agreed but suggested that Highgate Wood and Queen's Park also be included. The Director of Open Spaces agreed to establish a Member's visits schedule which would cover all the open spaces appropriately.

RESOLVED- That Members agree to implement recommendations 1 & 2, as set out within the report (appendix 1) and in para 3.

12. **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME PROJECTS 2022-23**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Annual Work Programme Projects 2022-23.

RESOLVED- That Members agreed the draft Hampstead Heath Annual Work Programme Projects for 2022-2023 (appendix 1).

13. **FEES AND CHARGES 2022-23 & 2023-24**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Fees and Charges 2022-23 and 2023-24.

The Chair clarified to the Committee that the only charge to be agreed within the report for 2023-24 referred to weddings and civil ceremonies and was included as a reflection of the longer pre-booking period for these events.

RESOLVED- That Members agreed the proposed fees and charges for 2022-23 and 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

14. **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on the 24 of January 2022.

RESOLVED- That the draft minutes be noted.

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

There were no questions received in the public session.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

Deputy John Tomlinson informed the Committee that, as he was not intending to stand in the upcoming elections, this would be his last meeting of the Committee. Deputy Tomlinson stated that it had been a real pleasure serving on the Committee and thanked Officers and Members for their brilliant work supporting the Heath which, he added, was a highly valued public asset. Similarly, the Chair noted that this was her last meeting of the Committee thanking Officers and Members for their support and commenting that she had enjoyed serving as Chair of a Committee with the responsibility for such a highly valued open space. Following a suggestion from the Deputy Chairman the Committee formally recorded their thanks to the Chair noting the difficult period which her tenure covered with the effect of the COVID pandemic on the Heath.

17. **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 of business on

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

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

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

19. 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.

20. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on confidential action taken.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 6.07 pm

Chair

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