

**EPPING FOREST & COMMONS COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, 15 June 2023**

Minutes of the meeting of the Epping Forest & Commons Committee held at  
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 15 June 2023 at  
11.00 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Benjamin Murphy (Chairman)  
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)  
Deputy Graeme Doshi-Smith  
Jaspreet Hodgson  
Alderman Vincent Keaveny  
Deputy Philip Woodhouse  
Verderer Michael Chapman DL  
Verderer Paul Morris  
Verderer Nicholas Munday

**Officers:**

Emily Brennan	- Natural Environment Department
Jacqueline Eggleston	- Natural Environment Department
Ellen Fouweather	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Joanne Hill	- Natural Environment Department
Jo Hurst	- Natural Environment Department
Geoff Sinclair	- Natural Environment Department
Blair Stringman	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Ian Thomas CBE	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Thomson	- Natural Environment Department

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Gregory Lawrence and Verderer William Kennedy.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That, the Public and Non-Public Summary of the meeting held on 18 May be agreed as a correct record.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**4.1 Action Log**

There were no comments on the action log.

5. **EPPING FOREST GOVERNANCE PROPOSALS**

The Committee was informed the item had been removed from the agenda.

6. **WANSTEAD PARK PROJECTS UPDATE (SEF 13/23)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, concerning an update on various projects taking place in Wanstead Park.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

7. **VISITOR SURVEY (SEF 11/23)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, concerning a visitor survey for Epping Forest that had recently been commissioned.

The following was raised by the Committee:

- Members noted the increase in the number of visitors to Epping Forest and praised the Forests international importance, it was noted that the Communications team was working on a way to celebrate this. Discussion was raised as to the sustainability of visitors and the risk factors this entailed such as damage that could be inflicted.
- Members discussed the various possibilities for members of the public to contribute donations to Epping Forest. It was noted that card readers had been piloted in other Open Spaces areas such as at West Ham Park, but scalability for this type of electronic donation could be an issue for Epping Forest.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

8. **REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR EPPING FOREST CONSULTATIVE GROUP (SEF 08/23)**

The Committee was informed that the item had been deferred to the next formal meeting.

9. **EPPING FOREST - FUTURE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROPOSALS (SEF 12/23)**

The Committee was informed that the item had been deferred to the next formal meeting.

10. **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT LEARNING PROGRAMME AT EPPING FOREST**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, concerning Natural Environment Learning Programme at Epping Forest.

The Deputy Chairman gave praise to the Environment Department for there hard work on the learning programme at Epping Forest. Members noted the importance of education and behaviour around the Forest for people, especially during the summer season.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no urgent business.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 18 May be agreed as a correct record.

15. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

15.1 **Action Log**

There were no comments on the action log.

16. **1-YEAR FBT PEGRUM RENEWAL URGENCY**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

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

There were no questions.

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

One item of business was considered urgent and considered whilst the public were excluded.

**The meeting ended at 11.35am.**

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Chairman

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