

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 8 December 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 8 December 2025 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Gregory Jones KC (Chairman)
William Upton KC (Deputy Chairman)
John Beyer
Councillor Marcus Boyland
Deputy Timothy Butcher
Simon Burrows
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE
Jason Groves
Pauline Lobo
David Williams
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP (Ex-Officio Member)

In attendance:

Simon Cranmer (attended virtually)
Aleatha Silk (attended virtually)

Officers:

Marguerite Jenkin	- Chamberlain's Department
Helen Flavell	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Joseph Smith	- Corporate Strategy and Performance
Susannah Behr	- Environment Department
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Tom Hoyle	- Environment Department
Andrew Impey	- Environment Department
William LoSasso	- Environment Department
Isobel Tucker	- Environment Department
Zoe Williams	- Town Clerk's Department

Guest:

Louie Gazdar, Davis Coffer Lyons (Items 15 to 17)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Karina Dostalova, Wendy Mead OBE, and James St John Davis.

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

No declarations were received.

3. MINUTES

a) Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

b) Draft Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 November 2025 be noted.

c) Matters arising

The Chairman welcomed Susannah Behr, recently appointed Head of Development and Partnerships, and Simon Cranmer, newly appointed Member of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee.

The Chairman noted farewell to Andrew Impey, Deputy Director, Natural Environment and thanked him for his work on the Committee.

Officers noted that due to time constraints, the Natural Environment Charities Review – Grant Funding Model Principles Proposal report had been circulated to Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee outside of the regular meeting cycle and feedback had been requested via email. They explained that this feedback would be noted during item 13.

4. APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MANSFIELD CONSERVATION AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE HAMPSTEAD HEATH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which sought approval for the appointment of a new external Member of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, nominated by the Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee, to represent local interests.

RESOLVED – That, Dr Victoria Holt, nominated by Mansfield Conservation Area Advisory Committee & Neighbourhood Association Committee, be appointed as a Member of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, in accordance with the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

5. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS – 2026/27 – HAMPSTEAD HEATH

Consideration of this paper was deferred until the following meeting.

6. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS - VERBAL UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update on the Hampstead Heath Ponds Consultation from Officers of the Environment Department. Officers noted that the consultation had closed and a report was being drafted by the consultant. They estimated that an early draft of the report would likely be available in early January 2026.

A Member queried whether the reports in the various stages of this matter would be considered in public or non-public sessions of Committee meetings. Officers responded that this had not yet been decided, however it was likely that the first

stage would be considered in public session, and the second stage would be considered in non-public session.

In response to a query regarding the timing of the upcoming report in relation to the next HHHWQPC meeting on 3 February 2026, the Chairman advised that it may be necessary to convene an extraordinary meeting. They noted that this would be confirmed with Members in due course.

7. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS – 2026/27 – HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK

Consideration of this paper was deferred until the following meeting.

8. REMARKETING OF CAFES - VERBAL UPDATE

The Committee received a verbal update on the remarketing of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Cafes from Officers of the Environment Department. Officers explained that a remarketing process had been conducted for the 5 cafes across Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. They noted that this was undertaken to provide greater clarity and long-term security for cafe operators and for open space charities, while supporting investment in the sites and enhancing the visitor experience.

Officers also noted that they were aware of an online local petition that objected to the City Corporation putting these cafes out to tender. They noted that the petition was created in 2016 during the previous retendering exercise and the majority of the signatures dated back to that timeframe.

In response to a query from the Deputy Chairman, Officers confirmed that while this petition was not formally submitted to the Court of Common Council in accordance with the internal corporate governance procedure set out in the Standing Orders of the City Corporation, they had nevertheless reviewed and considered the petition.

The Chairman acknowledged that, although the submission did not set out a clear proposal, it would be taken into account and given appropriate weight in the Committee's considerations. Other Members commented that signatures dating from 2016 should not form part of the current process. A Member noted the underlying message was that local residents wanted a café that resonated with their local identity, and that should be taken into consideration.

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

The Deputy Chairman requested that Queen's Park Day was considered as an item on the agenda at the next Committee meeting. Officers responded that this matter would be addressed in a fees and charges report. The Deputy Chairman noted that they also wanted this discussion to address a broader question on the City Corporation's approach to the event.

A Member noted that a planning application had recently been made to the London Borough of Camden for a development on Regis Road, south of Hampstead Heath. They noted concern that this would affect the view from Hampstead Heath and the statutory view from Parliament Hill. Officers confirmed that they were aware of this planning application and would be engaging with a planning consultant to ensure Hampstead Heath was protected.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business to be considered.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That, the following matters related 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 did not apply. The following items contained sensitive information which it was 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 would be considered in non-public session.

12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

a) Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the previous Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee meeting held on 21 October 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

b) Non-Public Minutes of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the previous Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee meeting held on 17 November 2025 be noted.

13. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARITIES REVIEW – GRANT FUNDING MODEL PRINCIPLES PROPOSAL

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment and the Chamberlain.

14. REMARKETING OF SPACE AT PARLIAMENT HILL LIDO

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment.

15. REMARKETING OF CAFES AT HAMPSTEAD HEATH

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment.

16. REMARKETING OF CAFE AT HIGHGATE WOOD

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment.

17. REMARKETING OF CAFE AT QUEEN'S PARK

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment.

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

There were no questions relating to the work of the Committee.

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

One matter of urgent business was discussed.

The meeting ended at 7.32pm.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Zoe Williams
Zoe.Williams@cityoflondon.gov.uk