

BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE
Monday, 9 December 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Residential Committee held at Guildhall on
Monday, 9 December 2013 at 11.30am

Present

Members:

Gareth Moore (Chairman)
Henrika Priest (Deputy Chairman)
Alex Bain-Stewart
Christopher Boden
David Bradshaw
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg
Ann Holmes
Michael Hudson
Vivienne Littlechild
Deputy Joyce Nash
Barbara Newman
Graham Packham
Stephen Quilter
Deputy John Tomlinson

In Attendance

Ade Adetosoye – Director of Community and Children’s Services
Alan Bennetts – City Solicitor
Eddie Stevens – Community and Children’s Services
Roger Adams – City Surveyors
Mark Jarvis – Chamberlain’s Department
Peter Lisley – Town Clerks
James Goodsell – Town Clerks
Barry Ashton – Community and Children’s Services
Helen Davinson – Community and Children’s Services
Michael Bennett – Community and Children’s Services

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Deputy Billy Dove, Jeremy Mayhew, Philip Woodhouse and Angela Starling

2 Declarations

David Bradshaw, Vivienne Littlechild, Deputy Joyce Nash, Barbara Newman, Stephen Quilter and Deputy John Tomlinson declared themselves residents of the Barbican Estate. The City Solicitor advised members holding a long lease on the Barbican Estate against voting on item 6 as they hold a pecuniary interest.

2 Minutes from the previous meeting

Subject to an amendment adding David Bradshaw to the list of attendee's, the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 16 September 2013 were approved

3. Draft Minutes of the Barbican RCC

The draft minutes of the Barbican Estate Residents Consultation Committee held on 25 November 2013 were noted.

4 Barbican Residential Committee's Terms of Reference

The Chairman was heard in respect of proposed amendments to the Committee's Terms of Reference. It was suggested that, as the Committee funds part of the Director of Community & Children's Services salary, it should be involved in the appointment of future holders of this post. In addition, as a budget neutral committee, the Chairman challenged the need for the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Community & Children's Committee to sit on this committee as an ex-officio member.

RESOLVED - that:

1. The Director of Human Resources who is carrying out a review of the appointment of Chief Officers should be made aware of this Committee's desire to be involved in the appointment the Director of Community and Children's Services; and
2. The Policy and Resources Committee be requested to consider the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Community & Children's Services Committee ceasing to hold ex-officio positions on the Barbican Residential Committee and that the Community and Children's Services Committee be informed accordingly.

5 Concrete Investigation and Repairs

Members considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services. Concern was raised by both resident and non-resident members that the Solicitor representing the Barbican Association had not commenced discussions with the City Solicitor to address the legal implications of the concrete works. It was therefore moved and subsequently agreed:

RESOLVED – that:

1. A meeting be convened on or before the date of the next Barbican Residential Committee. on Monday 17 March 2014, in order for a decision to be made before the next Ward Mote.
2. The papers presented to this meeting include the view of the Barbican Association and a summary of discussions between the Barbican Association and the City of London Corporation solicitors.

6 Revenue and Capital Budgets – Latest Approved Budget 2013/14 and Original Budget 2013/14 (Excluding Dwellings Service Charge Income and Expenditure)

Members considered a joint report from the Chamberlain and Director of Community & Children's Services. Members suggested that the report, in its current format, could be confusing for non-accountants and requested further clarity in future versions. While the template of such reports was set by the Finance Working Party, the Chamberlain agreed to pass the Committee's comments to the Director of Financial Services. Concern was also raised that revisions to the budget could take place without the oversight of the Committee. The Chamberlain agreed to include a reconciliation of the original to latest budget in future reports.

RESOLVED – that:

1. The provisional 2014/15 revenue budget be approved for submission to Finance Committee.
2. The Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, or non-resident member nominated by the Chairman, be authorised to revise these budgets, to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews, corporate projects and changes to the additional works programme.

7 Service Charge Expenditure and Income Account – Latest Approved Budget 2013/14 and Original Budget 2014/5

Members considered a joint report from the Chamberlain and Director of Community & Children's Services. Members were reassured that increases in energy costs had been kept down, in part, due to a tariff based on a long term agreement. The Housing Service Director agreed to bring a report the next meeting on legacy energy costs.

Regarding the consultation process, the Town Clerk explained that service charge expenditure and income accounts were presented initially to the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee, before a final decision was taken at Barbican Residents Committee.

RESOLVED - that:

1. The provisional 2014/15 revenue budget be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
2. The Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen or non-resident member nominated by the Chairman, be authorised to revise these budgets, to allow for further implications arising from departmental reorganisations and other reviews, corporate projects and changes to the additional works programme.

8 Car Park Charging

Members considered a report from the Director of Community and Children's Services. Concern was raised at the number of vacant car parking bays. Officers reassured member that they would continue to progress income opportunities for these bays, including possible storage facilities.

RESOLVED – that:

The recommendations be approved, subject to annual Committee review.

9 Update report

Members received a report from the Director of Community and Children's Services

10 Service Level Agreements

Members received a report from the Director of Community & Children's Services.

11 Progress of Sales and Lettings

Members received a joint report from the Chamberlain and Director of Community & Children's Services.

12 Annual Review of Recognised Tenants Associations

Members received a joint report from the Town Clerk.

13 Decisions Taken Under Delegated Authority/Urgency

The received a report of the Town Clerk.

14 Questions on Matters Relating to the Work of the Committee

There were no questions.

15 Any Other Business that the Chairman Considers Urgent

There were no items of urgent business.

16 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17 Non-public Minutes

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2013 were approved

18 Arrears Update

Members received a report from the Director of Community and Children's Services.

19 Fann Street – EC2 – Disposal Completion to Redrow Homes LTD

Members received a report from the City Surveyor.

20 Non-Public Questions on matters relating to the work of the committee

There were no questions

21 Any other business that the chairman considers urgent while the public are excluded

There were no items of urgent business

James Goodsell
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