

HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD AND QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE

Monday, 16 May 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy John Barker	Virginia Rounding
Keith Bottomley	Jeremy Simons
Dennis Cotgrove	Alderman Ian Luder (Ex-Officio Member)
Karina Dostalova	Graeme Smith (Ex-Officio Member)
Revd Dr Martin Dudley	John Beyer (Heath & Hampstead Society)
Clare James	Rachel Evans (RSPB)
Michael Hudson	Councillor Sally Gimson (London Borough of Camden)
Professor John Lumley	Philip Wright (English Heritage)
Barbara Newman	

Officers:

David Arnold	- Town Clerk's Department
Fern Aldous	- Town Clerk's Department
Sam Cook	- Remembrancer's Department
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Bob Warnock	- Superintendent of Hampstead Heath
Declan Gallagher	- Open Spaces Department
Richard Gentry	- Open Spaces Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Department
Philip Everett	- Ponds Project Director

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Fairweather, Councillor Melvin Cohen (London Borough of Barnet), and Maija Roberts (Open Spaces Society/Ramblers' Association).

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

There were none.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

RESOLVED – That the Order of the Court of Common Council 21 April 2016, appointing the Committee and approving its Terms of Reference, be noted.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Standing Order No 29, Virginia Rounding be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. A list of Members eligible to stand was read by the Town Clerk; Karina Dostalova and the Revd. Dr Martin Dudley both expressed an interest in serving as Deputy Chairman.

The result was as follows:

Karina Dostalova 7 votes

Revd. Dr Martin Dudley 6 votes

Karina Dostalova was therefore elected to serve as Deputy Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – that in accordance with Standing Order No. 30, Karina Dostalova be elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6.1 **HAMPSTEAD HEATH, HIGHGATE WOOD & QUEEN'S PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting on 14 March 2016 be approved.

Matters Arising

City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill

The Remembrancer advised that a House of Commons Committee would now be appointed to consider the Bill, including a petition against it by the Kennel Club. It was hoped that this would take place before the summer recess.

6.2 **HIGHGATE WOOD JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the meeting on 13 April 2016 be noted.

Matters Arising

Community and Events

The Chairman advised that the Community Day would take place on Sunday 4 September 2016.

7. **CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2016/17**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding the annual appointments to the various Committees and Consultative Groups.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) The appointment and composition of the following bodies be approved as follows for the ensuing year:-

- i) **Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee**

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)

ii) Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Professor John Lumley
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons

iii) Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group

Virginia Rounding (Chairman)
Karina Dostalova (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy John Barker
Professor John Lumley
Barbara Newman

iv) Keats House Consultative Committee

Dennis Cotgrove

v) Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee

John Beyer (Heath and Hampstead Society)

- b) The appointment of two officially nominated representatives of local schools from the Friends of Salusbury School and the Ark Franklin Primary Academy to the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group, be approved; and
- c) The additional appointment of an officially nominated representative of the Kensal Rise Residents' Association to the Queen's Park Joint Consultative Group, be approved.

8. 2016 TO 2019 OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces that provided Members with an outline of the Open Spaces Department's Business Plan for the period 2016 to 2019.

RESOLVED – That the Open Spaces Business Plan 2016-19 be noted.

9. PARLIAMENT HILL, GOLDERS HILL PARK AND HIGHGATE WOOD CAFÉ LEASES.

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that sought approval to the award of interim leases to the current incumbents of the Parliament Hill, Golders Hill Park and Highgate Wood Cafés and to establish a proposed way forward and consultation process for the future running of the cafés. It was emphasised by the Chairman and the Superintendent that there would also be full input from the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) and the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee in determining the way forward and the consultation process. The Superintendent added that the new Parliament Hill Fields Lido Café leaseholder had recently started trading and negotiations were currently underway with the approved new Queen's Park Café leaseholder.

Members first considered the recommendation to award interim leases to the current incumbents of the three cafés with a view to ensuring that the eventual long-term leaseholders could take possession during February 2018. The

Committee agreed to permit the City Surveyor to negotiate with the existing incumbents of the three cafés to renew each on the same principal terms as in the existing leases at a rent to be increased in line with inflation for a term expiring on 12 January 2018, in order to give time to consult the public and for Officers to prepare an Options Appraisal for each café.

The Committee then considered the guiding principles for the refreshment facilities. In addition to the proposed principles outlined in the report, Members suggested including measures for the following:-

- commitment to customer satisfaction;
- knowledge of area local to cafés;
- community cohesion;
- acceptable food hygiene rating;
- promotion of healthy eating;
- provision of a safe, relaxed and familiar environment.

The Superintendent advised that the creation of a Café Working Party with representation from this Committee and both the Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood Consultative Committees would enable a methodology for the appointment of long-term leaseholders to be established through appropriate consultation. The Working Party would review the suggestions made by this Committee and the Consultative Committees and all consultation outcomes in full.

The Committee considered and approved the appointment of Keith Bottomley as the Chairman's representative on the Working Party and recommended that an additional representative of the Golders Hill Park Café be appointed preferably from amongst the HHCC membership or, failing that, from amongst the lead petitioners. The Committee also considered the lead petitioners request for all five of them to be included in the Working Party but Members agreed that the membership of the Working Party should not exceed 11 in total. It was noted that all petitioners could attend the meetings of the Working Party, as they would be public meetings, but the named representative would be entitled to vote on a particular matter.

In response to Members' questions regarding the use of independent consultants, the Superintendent advised that separate consultants would be used for catering and the consultation process. In response to a Member's suggestion, the Committee agreed that the catering consultant would be appointed after the next HHHC meeting on 27 June 2016 but that the Superintendent would appoint a consultant specialising in consultation as soon as practicable. Members noted that an update regarding the comments received at that HHCC meeting would be reported to the next Committee meeting in July 2016.

RESOLVED – That:-

- a) authority be delegated to the Superintendent to agree catering leases with the three existing proprietors expiring 12 January 2018, in consultation with the City Surveyor and Comptroller & City Solicitor;

- b) the Comptroller & City Solicitor be instructed to complete the documentation for the three café leases;
- c) the draft guiding principles relevant to the provision of café facilities at Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood be progressed for further discussion and input from the Consultative Committees;
- d) a public consultation be undertaken to inform an Options Appraisal to guide future decisions on the café leases;
- e) members of the Highgate Wood Joint Consultative Committee be invited to attend the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (HHCC) meeting on 27 June 2016, to discuss the draft guiding principles and the proposed programme for public consultation;
- f) the establishment and membership of a Café Working Party be approved;
- g) Keith Bottomley be appointed as the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee's representative to the Café Working Party;
- h) the Superintendent be instructed to appoint both a Consultation (before HHCC on 27 June 2016) and a Catering Consultant (after HHCC on 27 June 2016), each to provide independent advice.

10. OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH PLAN 2016

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces that provided Members with the plans for Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) management across the North London Open Spaces for 2016. The Director added that the recent colder weather had resulted in fewer caterpillars than expected. The progress of the management plan would be reported back to the Committee in late 2016.

RESOLVED – That the OPM management plan for 2016 be noted.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided Members with an update regarding the following management and operational activities across the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park since March 2016:-

Property

- The Superintendent was pleased with the completed works to the Hill Garden and Pergola;
- Works to replace the oak timbers at the Pergola were expected to begin in August.

Planning

Members noted that the applicant wished to present the new proposals for Athlone House to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee on 27 June 2016 but the Committee suggested that they be invited to present on an alternative date instead as the Consultative Committee agenda for June was already very full.

Parliament Hill Viewpoint Sign

Artwork for the new skyline viewpoint sign had been produced in collaboration with the Heath and Hampstead Society. The panoramic sign would take four weeks to produce and could be unveiled with the Heath and Hampstead Society at an opening ceremony on 27 June 2016. The Chairman added that the afternoon of 27 June 2016 had also been identified as a possible date for an all Court of Common Council visit to the Ponds Project, the details of which would be circulated by the Town Clerk in due course.

Queen's Park

- Visitors were being asked to complete an online survey in relation to the types of events that could and should take place at the Park;
- An Open Gardens event hosted by the Queen's Park Area Residents' Association would be taking place at the Park soon.

Projects

- Consultations for the summer sports programme would start soon following discussions with the Sports Advisory Forum;
- The fleet and machinery board were aiming to generate funds for energy conservation through the sale of surplus vehicles and machinery;
- The 2017/18 fees and charges would be reported to this Committee in January 2017 in order that the Consultative Committee might be fully consulted in November 2016.

Constabulary

- A consultation regarding officer working hours was currently underway;
- In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the aim of the consultation was to provide an increased Constabulary presence at the busiest times of the day.

Staff Lodge Policy

In response to a Member's question, the Superintendent advised that the purpose of the policy review was to ensure all lodges were inhabited by staff with relevant skills and responsibilities.

RESOLVED – That the update regarding the management and operational activities across the Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park be noted.

12. HAMPSTEAD HEATH PONDS PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee received a joint report of the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project Director and the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update regarding the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project. Members received a presentation from the Ponds Project Director that included photographs of the work being carried out. The Project Director added that photographs of the Model Boating Pond and Catchpit sites taken by a drone were available to view on the [Ponds Project Blog](#).

Members were advised that the culvert at Hampstead No. 2 Pond had taken longer than expected but the Project remained on schedule and within budget. The Project Director added that there was a claim with the contractor going

through the appropriate legal process and the financial implications of this would be reported to the Committee once the case was concluded.

RESOLVED – That the Hampstead Heath Ponds Project update be noted.

13. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE FOR HIGHGATE WOOD**

The Committee received a report of the Superintendent of Hampstead Heath that provided an update regarding management and operational activities in Highgate Wood.

RESOLVED – That the Superintendent's update for Highgate Wood be noted.

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

There were none.

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

Events

The Chairman reminded Members that the Highgate Harriers Night of the 10,000m Personal Bests, which was a qualifying event for the Rio Olympics 2016, was taking place at the Heath on 21 May 2016.

Consultation and Committee Dates

The Chairman advised that the schedule of meetings for this Committee and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee was to be reviewed to improve levels of consultation with the Consultative Committee. It was suggested that both Committees should meet four times per year with the Consultative Committee meeting approximately four weeks before each meeting of this Committee. The Committee were supportive of this review and noted that it could come into effect during 2017.

In response to a Member's concerns regarding the representativeness of the Consultative Committee, the Chairman advised that its membership would be reviewed in due course in accordance with The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

16. **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 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**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2016 be approved.

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

There were two questions.

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

There was one item of other business.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

Chairman

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