

**MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.
TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2007**

Councillors Beynon, Dobbie, Oatway and Whyte

NOMINATED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

Ms. J. Hutchinson : Alexandra Residents' Association
 Mr P. Wastell : Alexandra Residents' Association
 Ms. M. Myers : Muswell Hill and Fortis Green
 Association
 Ms J. Baker : Palace Gates Residents' Association
 Mr. D. Frith : The Rookfield Association
 Mr. F. Hilton : The Rookfield Association
 Mr. D. Liebeck (Chair) : Warner Estate Residents' Association
 Mr H. Aspden : Warner Estate Residents' Association

Also in attendance:

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION
APSC15.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (IF ANY)</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Ms Lacroix and Councillor Portess, and for lateness and possible non attendance from Councillors Demirci and Patel, who were attending a Licensing Sub-Committee of the Local Authority (which had been scheduled to take place prior to this meeting date being confirmed).</p> <p>NOTED</p>
APSC16.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Nil Items.</p>
APSC17.	<p>MEMBERSHIP: TO NOTE ANY CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Clerk to the Committee – Mr Hart advised the meeting that Councillor Portess had been appointed by the LB Haringey at its Full Council meeting on 16 July 2007 to the remaining vacancy of Council wide appointee on the Statutory Advisory Committee.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
APSC18.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>(i) Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee – 3 July 2007</p>

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Mr Hart advised that a revised set of minutes had been tabled which had picked up on some minor typing errors since the minutes had been circulated.

The Chair asked if there were any points of accuracy.

Mr Frith advised that in effect the minute reference APSC13 was incorrect in its sentiments as it had not fully stated Mr Frith's views which he had asked to have formally endorsed.

Mr Frith went on to explain that he maybe had not been as clear as he might have in that in respect of a number of recommendations put to the Board in the Autumn of 2006 and the subsequent response of the Board to those recommendations on 14 November 2006 – he was asking that the Advisory Committee request the Board, in terms of its responses of 14 November 2006 – to confirm to the Advisory Committee how they were going to ensure the implementation of the responses.

The Chair in response to Mr Frith advised that as the original reference to the Board on 3 July 2007 had only been received by the Board on 16 July 2007 he felt that it was appropriate to resubmit this reference to the Board on 30 October 2007.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee held on 3 July 2007 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings subject to the following amendment:

APSC 13 - that in respect of a number of recommendations put to the Board in the Autumn of 2006 and the subsequent response of the Board to those recommendations on 14 November 2006 – that the Advisory Committee request the Board, in terms of its responses of 14 November 2006, to confirm to the Advisory Committee how they were going to ensure the implementation of the responses.

Matters Arising

Mr Aspden referred to the circulated map – ref in page 5 of the minutes and thanked officers for its supply. In response to clarification to whether the formal letter to the Charity Commission had been included with the minutes of the meeting Mr Hart confirmed that this was the case.

Mr Aspden also commented that the 2 other recommendations put to the Board on 16 July 2007 had been responded to and thanked officers for the efforts now that the bus stop had been reinstated.

NOTED

- (ii) Alexandra Palace and Park Board – 16 July 2007

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The Chair asked if there were any points of clarification or comment.

Councillor Oatway expressed her concerns that it appeared to be the case (especially with the previous discussion) that the Board only appeared to pay 'lip service' to the recommendations of the Advisory committee and that she felt that the Board needed to address this issue and take full account of recommendations put to it by this Committee. This comment was echoed by a number of those present.

The Chair responded that as observer on the Board he had previously and would continue to emphasise the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, and that he would ensure that these sentiments were conveyed to the Board on 30 October 2007.

In response to questions from Mr Aspden in relation to the 'Club' presentation the General Manager – Mr Loudfoot confirmed that these discussions related to a deputation from the Cricket Club to the Board which had outlined embryo proposals by the club for expansion of the buildings at the club as well as the improved usage of the grounds by schools, touching on the likely new heartlands school facility using the grounds in the future. There were no concrete proposal and the Cricket club would be reviewing its concepts and intentions prior to making any formal submission.

NOTED

APSC19. FUTURE OF THE ASSET – UPDATE (VERBAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, ALEXANDRA PALACE, AND CONSULTANT TO THE BOARD) TO ADVISE THE COMMITTEE ON PROGRESS.

The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.

At this point in the proceedings Councillor Oatway asked if Mr Holder – Consultant Development Manager – clarify his position in relation to the Board and Charitable Trust as there had had been some misconceptions within the public arena.

In response Mr Holder advised the meeting that he was appointed and employed on a consultancy basis as Consultant Development Manager to the charitable trust with a remit to ensure the implementation of the proposed lease and project plan with the proposed lessee – the Firoka Group. For the record Mr Holder advised that he was not employed or worked in any capacity for the Firoka Group.

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Councillor Oatway thanked Mr Holder for his clarification. In respect of the fact that there was a verbal update to be given Councillor Oatway felt that it would be appropriate given the gravity of the current situation that Members should have received a written report to consider and asked that in future this be provided. This sentiment was shared by Councillor Whyte.

Mr Holder and Mr Loudfoot advised that whilst this was possible the Committee had to recognise that by the time a report was written and sent out – at the point of the meeting the report would be considerably outdated and would require much updating.

The Chair, whilst accepting that this may be the case thought it would be appropriate to at least have a written report prior to the meeting.

The Chair then asked Mr Holder for an introduction.

Mr Holder, in apologising that he had been away on holiday and not in Court to hear the judgement of the judicial review, advised that he had been informed by those who had attended the Court hearing that the judge had concluded that the consultation had not been dealt with as agreed and stated by the Ministerial requirements for consultation on the future of the asset in that the Charity Commission had not carried out full consultation in the spirit of those sentiments and therefore the order issued by the Charity Commission was flawed and therefore quashed. The judgement was based on the narrow argument of the issue of the lease and project agreement not being available to interested parties during the consultation process. Mr Holder however stated that until there was a full transcript of the judgement he was not in a position to comment further at this point.

The Chair thanked Mr Holder for his introduction.

The Committee then discussed the outcome of the Judicial Review and the judgment, as well the implications for the Trust and the Council, and the role of the Advisory Committee – the main points of the discussion being:

- The need for Members of the Committee to have sight of the full judgement and transcript of the court hearing in order to have a clear understanding of the actual sentiments of the judgement as opposed to hearsay comment and speculation, and confirming by Keith Holder that the judgement had been centred on a narrow point in relation to the lease and project agreement not being available in the public domain;
- Clarification of the likely sight of the project plan and lease in light of the judgement, with the removal of only clear commercially sensitive information only and how this would be made available by the Charity Commission;
- Whether the Charity Commission would appeal against the judgement and the likelihood of this not being the case and the Charity Commission's ensuing plans to make the redacted lease and project plan available to those who may request it., and also the issue of handling and responding to public consultation process to be embarked upon in light of the judgement;
- The question of the costs awarded against the Trustees and the sentiments to why this had been the case, and whether there were to be counter

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actions against the cost issue by the Board of Trustees.

- The unconfirmed sentiments expressed by the Judge in relation to the actions of the Trust Solicitor ;
- That the letter sent to the Charity Commission by the Chair of the Advisory Committee on its behalf in relation to the original representation process which had not been acknowledged, neither a response given to the sentiments contained therein, although assurances from the Charity Commission that this had been the case;
- That a number of the sentiments of the judgement in respect of the supply of the lease and project plan had been mirrored by the Advisory Committee previously in its requests for sight of the lease and project plan and the refusal to disclose such information, though recognising that under FoI requests the lease had been supplied in a much redacted form and was available on the 'Save Ally Pally ' website, and that it be noted that the Chair – in his capacity as observer to the Board and 1 elected Councillor representative had received a full copy of the lease but had been unable to share its contents;
- That the judgement had clearly stated that the consultation process adopted by the Charity Commission had been flawed and therefore the new consultation process would be dealt with in different manner;
- The current position of the Firoka Group and whether they would continue and the implications should they withdraw from the process
- The decision of the special Board meeting of 10 October 2007 and clarification of this decision that the Board noted the outcome of the judgement, reaffirming its strategy, specifically pertaining to the further negotiations with the Firoka Group, and confirming the intention of the Board to continue negotiations with the Firoka Group should the Firoka Group wish to
- That at no point would the Board be renegotiating or revising the existing project agreement and lease and that its details stood as agreed by the Board in July 2006;
- That the time expiry notice set by the Firoka Group was 17 October 2007 and that until that point it would not be known what the intention of the Firoka Group would be;
- In response to clarification from Councillor Whyte Mr Holder confirmed that the negotiated lease and project plan was specifically pertaining to agreement between the Board and the Firoka Group and therefore was only relevant to those 2 parties;
- That the Advisory Committee would respond directly to the Charity Commission with its views in the likely further consultation process and concerns expressed that the Advisory Committee would not forward its concerns and views via the Board as well and the Chair's comment that this would also be the case;
- Confirmation by Keith Holder of the overall process embarked on by the Charity Commission during the previous process detailing the advertisement in The Times and Local press, advertisement via the Palace etc and Libraries in Haringey during the 5 week period from late November to early January 2007; and
- The need for either a special meeting of the Advisory Committee and Urgency Panel of the Committee following further decisions of the Board in relation to the future of the asset in the forthcoming weeks.

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In conclusion it was:

RESOLVED

- i. That the Advisory Committee recognise the need to have sight of the transcript and judgement in respect of the Judicial Review in order to be able to comment further on the actual comments expressed during the hearing and summing up;
- ii. That the concerns of the Advisory Committee as detailed be noted in terms of the previous lack of disclosure of information pertaining to the lease and project agreement which had been requested by the Advisory Committee, which had subsequently been recognised within the Court judgement;
- iii. That future update reports to the Advisory Committee be in written form in the future, recognising that the actual written report may require considerable update at the meeting itself;
- iv. That a meeting of the Urgency Panel of the Advisory Committee be convened as required in the near future to consider any required development in respect of the future of the asset, with a full meeting of the Advisory Committee to be convened on its rising to endorse any matters or to be informed of the deliberations of the Urgency Panel.

**APSC20. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDED LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
UPDATE (REPORT OF THE PARK MANAGER) - TO UPDATE ON PROGRESS**
The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.

In a succinct introduction to the circulated report Mr Evison gave a brief update of each of the areas of HLF work and answered points of clarification. Mr Evison TABLED plans submitted by the operators of the Grove, and Lakeside Cafes in relation to plans for low level fencing, and awnings which they intended to install in the near future. There had been checks made to the Local Authority Planning Service and it was confirmed that the proposals did not required any planning permission.

In discussing and welcoming the proposals the Committee asked that it be supplied with better design drawing once submitted to the General Manager. The Committee also asked that it be impressed on the Lakeside Café operator that the outside awning must be non-smoking.

The Committee sought clarification as to a number of issues including:

- The parking space increase by 2 spaces and the issue of parking usage in the carpark by commercial vehicles, and continuing issues re Buckingham Lodge parking arrangements;
- The issue of speed restrictions across the Palace roads and the incidents of buses and cars speeding and whether some action could be taken and issues of Police enforcement for breaches;
- The success of the Information Centre and the steady stream of visitors during the summer period to now – and the efforts of 3 volunteers – who were members of this Advisory committee, and the Committee's thanks to those volunteers for their efforts;

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- The matter of the conservation area's shabby and somewhat tatty appearance and the need for improvement and some TLC;
- The need for improvement to the Redston Road entrance and pond area and the mystery of who dredged the pond.
- That the HLF programme was reaching its conclusion and that there would be a programme of work to maintain and upkeep the project and that the overall programme had been a magnificent achievement and its results much appreciated and welcomed.
- That an audit of tree planting and cutting was due to be finalised and that this would then be acted upon.

The Chair then summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

- i. That the contents of the report be noted;
- ii. That the detailed plans of proposals to the Grove, and lakeside Cafes be circulated to the Advisory Committee for their information; and
- iii. That the 3 volunteers at the Information Centre who are members of the Advisory Committee be thanked for their efforts in helping the Park Manager.

APSC21. FORTHCOMING EVENTS (REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, ALEXANDRA PALACE) TO ADVISE THE COMMITTEE ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS TO THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR.

The Chair asked for a brief update.

Mr Loudfoot advised the Committee that the main overnight event was scheduled for 22 March 2008 'Slamming Vinyl' which was the Easter period, and that the 'Cinderella – Holiday on Ice ' was scheduled for 10-16 December 2007.

In response to clarification re the annual Fireworks display event Mr Loudfoot advised that the arrangements were being finalised and invitations would be issued by the early part of the week commencing 22 October 2007.

Ms Baker commented on the event the previous week which she had attended and that the food was of very poor quality and seemed to be mainly not eaten because of its taste/appearance.

In response Mr Loudfoot advised that he would look into the issue and report back to the next scheduled meeting.

NOTED

APSC22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Ms Hutchinson raised the issue of the crossing points at the front of the

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	<p>Palace which were hazardous and dangerous, and she asked if there were any plans for improvement.</p> <p>In response Mr Loudfoot advised that he would look into the issue and report back to the next scheduled meeting.</p> <p>Ms Myers also referred to the difficulties at the Grove bus stop and the crossing hazard there. In response Mr Loudfoot advised that he would look into the issue and report back to the next scheduled meeting.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
APSC23.	<p>TO NOTE THE DATE OF MEETINGS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2007/2008 AS FOLLOWS: 5 FEBRUARY 2007</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 21.25hrs.</p>

D Liebeck

Chair