

MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK BOARD

APRIL 2003

Members: *Krokou (Chair), *Dobbie (Deputy Chair), *Diakides, *Haley, E. Prescott and Reynolds. (Two vacancies)

Guesting representatives: Ms. V. Paley, *Mr. M. Tarpey and one vacancy.

Members present

Guest: Mr. D. Liebeck (Chair, Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee)

Absent: Councillor Hare.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Reynolds and E. Prescott and from Councillor Krokou for lateness.

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Krokou, the Deputy Chair, Councillor Dobbie took the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

URGENT BUSINESS - VANDALISM IN THE GROVE AREA ALEXANDRA PARK:

Our Chair agreed to admit this item under urgent business and to consider it under item 8.

MINUTES:

Councillor Haley advised that in his view Minute AP37 did not fully reflect the concerns which had been raised with regard to the levels of community usage and limited usage by a small number of groups.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Board meeting held on 11 March 2003 be approved and signed subject to the discussion of matters arising during the exempt part of the meeting.

ALEXANDRA PALACE PARK:

The Chair welcomed Dominic Cole of Land Use Consultants and Matthew Baker the recently appointed Development Manager - Parks who jointly provided a briefing on the development of the masterplan and the draft work programme.

The Board noted that both the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage had approved the project and Members noted that it would be dedicated to the Park and not the Palace, although works to the setting of the Palace would form an important part of the project. Initially there was a good deal of work to do in terms of housekeeping eg. paths, paving and clearance of scrub. Other parts of the refurbishment would include: traffic calming on the approaches to the Palace with an emphasis on the reduction of the visual and physical effects of traffic using Alexandra Palace Way as a "cut through". The lake was to be dredged with the rebuilding/refurbishment of the Café and boat storage area. It was hoped that the material removed from the lake could be used in the Park. A large scale removal

of poor tree specimens and clearance of scrub will enhance the setting of the Palace. This would involve a management plan for the tree belt and could involve removal of approximately 70% of the trees at the southern end of the Palace. A further initiative would be to link with the local authorities parks police initiative and may result in the employment of a full time police officer to assist in crime prevention in the park and the identification of issues/problems in terms of personal safety and security in the Park.

Concern was expressed at the level of tree loss and the Board indicated that this aspect of the project would need sensitive handling. Members were advised that much of the tree stock was of poor quality as a result of having been planted too close together during the development in the 1970's. Officers undertook to provide information to the Tree Trust as a means of communicating the plans for the landscape, and the trees in particular, during the life of the project. Officers were agreeable to attending a meeting of the Tree Trust to appraise them of the plans for the Park and the management of trees in particular. A site visit to take Members through the project "on the ground" would be arranged.

Officers undertook to update the Board on progress regularly as well as the Consultative Committee and the Statutory Advisory Committee. As part of the project to disseminate information about the works, notices would be displayed in the park and displays etc held in the Palace.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and agreed.

AP47 OPERATING BUDGET:

The Board received information on the eleven month position and a full year forecast. The results for the eleven months to 28 February 2003 showed a deficit of £1,576,000 on all activity excluding lottery funding against a budget of £1,706,000, a £130,000 (8%) favourable variance.

The full year forecast showed a projected deficit for the Trust of £1,786,000 an improvement of £60,000 against the budget of £1,846,000 and after the lottery funding the deficit was £1,779,000 a favourable variance of £250,000 against the budget of £2,046,000. After adjustment for Fixed Assets as required by the SORP/FRS15 the projected deficit for the year before lottery funding would be £1,673,000 including depreciation of £33,000 and removal of £146,000 of capital into fixed assets.

The overall result for the Charity was an anticipated deficit of £942,000 against the budget of £746,000 before lottery funding equating to an increased funding requirement of £196,000. After adjustment for fixed assets the anticipated deficit before lottery funding in the year end accounts will be £829,000.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

AP48 VANDALISM IN THE GROVE AREA, ALEXANDRA PARK:

The Chair agreed to admit this item as late and urgent business. The report was late as it included photographic evidence of the incident which was not available at the time of despatch. The report was urgent as it was important for the Trustees to be appraised of the seriousness of the attack on the Park at the earliest opportunity.

The Board were informed that during the night of 31 March / 1 April the Grove area of the Park had suffered some severe vandalism with water based emulsion paint. A successful test to remove the graffiti had been carried out and specialist machinery was to be hired for use by the grounds maintenance contractor. The estimated cost for the removal amounted to £5,000.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

AP49 ALEXANDRA PALACE PARK:

The press and public were excluded during consideration of this item, as it contained exempt information relating to proposed expenditure and terms for the supply of goods and services.

The Board received a detailed appraisal of the budget costs for the component parts of the five year project for the refurbishment of the Park. The costs reflected as level a spend as possible for the life of the project whilst accepting that changes to the priorities of the scope of works would impact on both the volume and annual total of the expenditure.

RESOLVED:

That the Board notes and approves the report.

AP50 THE CRICKET CLUB:

The press and public were excluded during consideration of this item, as it contained exempt information relating to proposed expenditure and terms for the supply of goods and services.

The Board were appraised of the position with regard to the outstanding matter of the Cricket Club lease and on a proposal to move the matter forward.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation in the report for resolving the matter be agreed, subject to the commencement date of the new lease being amended to 1 January 2003.

AP51 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The press and public were excluded during consideration of this item, as it contained exempt information relating to proposed expenditure and terms for the supply of goods and services.

Councillor Hare advised that he felt that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2003 should reflect the fact that he and the non voting representatives were excluded from the meeting following consideration of the item on the Garden Centre (AP 41 refers). The Trust Solicitor and the General Manager advised that the matters discussed were confidential matters for the Trustees only and the meeting had been an opportune moment in which to sound out the Trustees. The matters were not an agenda item and not formally part of the meeting and hence there was no requirement for the minutes to reflect this.

South East Wing (Minute AP39)

RESOLVED:

That the resolution be amended by the insertion after the word "budgets" of, "subject to formal approval by the Board of the funds to be contributed".

The Garden Centre (Minute AP41)

Councillor Hare suggested that as a result of the environmental effects of the proposal the Statutory Advisory Committee should have been consulted. The Trust Solicitor advised that there was no requirement to consult the Statutory Advisory Committee as no planning applications were included in the proposal.

Proposed Letting Of The "Old Boxing Club" To The Cypriot Elderly And Disabled Group Ltd (Minute AP 42)

Councillor Krokou declared his interest in the foregoing item and left the meeting.

Councillor Hare queried whether the disposition of the Old Boxing Club ought to have been advertised more widely. The Trust Solicitor advised that the advice received from the Trust's property consultants Messrs Strutt & Parker indicated that the rental negotiated was the best that could reasonably be obtained and that the Trust had fulfilled its obligations under Section 36 (3) of the Charities Act 1993.

AP52 VOTE OF THANKS

The Board placed on record their appreciation to the Chair, Councillor Krokou, for the sensitive manner in which he had conducted the proceedings over the past year.

Councillor Dobbie, the Deputy Chair, was also thanked for his contribution to the effective running of the Board.

ANDREW KROKOU

Chair