

MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK BOARD

11 MARCH 2003

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

Non-voting representatives: *Ms. V. Paley, *Mr. C. Richell and *Mr. M. Tarpey

*Members present

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

Also present: Councillor Hare.

AP33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dobbie.

AP34 MINUTES:

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the Board meeting held on 29 October 2002 and the Special Board meeting held on 29 January 2003 be approved and signed.
2. That the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Panel meeting held on 17 December 2002 be noted.

AP35 OPERATING BUDGET 2002/03:

The Board received information on the ten month position and a full year forecast. The results for the tenth months to 31 January 2003 showed a deficit of £1,487,000 on all activity excluding lottery funding against a budget of £1,575,000, a £88,000 (6%) favourable variance.

The full year forecast showed a projected deficit for the Trust of £1,769,000 an improvement of £78,000 against the budget of £1,846,000 and after the lottery funding the deficit was £1,779,000 a favourable variance of £268,000 against the budget of £2,046,000.

The overall result for the Charity is an anticipated deficit of £921,000 against the budget of £746,000 before lottery funding equating to an increased funding requirement of £175,000.

Members noted that adverse trading conditions in the events and exhibition market had not been helpful.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

AP36 CHARITY COMMISSION SCHEME - PRESENT POSITION:

The Board noted that following the meeting on 29 July the Charity Commission had been notified that the Board as Charity Trustees wished the Commission to continue to promote the Charity Commission Scheme. The Commission had, following a meeting on 25 February confirmed its willingness to continue to promote the Scheme. Before being submitted to the Home Office the next stage would be to submit the draft Scheme to the Legal Commissioners at the Charity Commission for approval. Once approved or "settled" by the Legal Commissioner further conduct proceeds in the Home Office.

The Charity Commission advise that once the Scheme had been "settled" a revised list of stages in the procedure for the Scheme would be provided and if possible a indication of the likely timescales for the remaining steps.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

AP37 COMMUNITY USAGE:

The Board received a detailed appraisal of recently held and forthcoming community events/use of the Palace and Park.

Discussion centred on the feasibility of increasing community usage on the basis that it did not increase the budget deficit. The Chair suggested that a small working party be established to consider the means by which this could be achieved.

In relation to speculation concerning the condition of the organ framework the General Manager confirmed that in advance of the Christmas celebration the framework had been inspected by an independent structural engineer who had recommended some minor works be carried out. It was confirmed by the Contracts Manager that these had been completed within seven days.

Following a request it was agreed that the weekly list of events be emailed to Trustees.

RESOLVED:

1. That a small working party be established to consider the means by which community usage could be increased on the basis that the budget deficit is not increased as a result.
2. That the weekly list of events be emailed to Trustees.
3. That the report be noted.

AP38 THE PARK - GROVE CAFÉ AND THE ISLANDS:

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 above buildings and the intention to repair the Grove Café as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund works before seeking bids for the lease. The Islands would require some repair works before being leased and a condition survey was to be carried out.

The Board noted that reports complying with Section 36 of the Charities Act 1993 would be submitted in respect of both buildings in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

AP39 SOUTH EAST WING:

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 advised of discussions which were continuing with regard to possible developments in the South East Wing and the proposal to undertake a feasibility study to consider the potential of the building.

RESOLVED:

That Board commit to commit funds to cover any residual costs (those not covered by contributions from potential partners) of the feasibility study from within existing budgets.

AP40 CONTRACTS:

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 noted contracts placed or proposed mainly for maintenance and repair works.

RESOLVED:

That the Board notes the report and where applicable approves the waiving of Contract Standing Orders 6.3 and 6.4 in accordance with Contract Standing Order 7.2.

AP41 THE GARDEN CENTRE:

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 considered the surrender by the Garden Centre of their existing lease and the grant of a new term.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board accepts the advice of Messrs Strutt & Parker and that this enables it to meet its obligations under Section 36 (3) of the Charities Act 1993.
2. That the Board are satisfied that the terms of the disposition proposed to be made are the best that can reasonably be obtained and delegate authority for the detailed negotiation to Officers.

AP42 PROPOSED LETTING OF THE "OLD BOXING CLUB" TO THE CYPRIOT ELDERLY AND DISABLED GROUP LTD:

The Chair, Councillor Krokou declared his interest in the foregoing item and left the meeting. In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, Councillor Haley was appointed to the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

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.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board accepts the advice of Messrs Strutt & Parker and that this enables it to meet its obligations under Section 36 (3) of the Charities Act 1993.
2. That the Board are satisfied that the terms of the disposition proposed to be made are the best that can reasonably be obtained and delegate authority for the detailed negotiation to Officers.

ANDREW KROKOU

Chair