

# MINUTES OF MEETING Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee HELD ON Thursday, 30th November, 2023, 7pm

## PRESENT:

**Councillors: Annette Baker (Consultative Committee Member), Wilkinson (Consultative Committee Member), John Thompson (Consultative Committee Member), O'Callaghan (Consultative Committee Member), Nigel Willmott (Consultative Committee Member), Jason Beazley (Advisory Committee Member), Anne Stennett, Lotte Collett, Sarah Elliott and Emine Ibrahim.**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Ayshe Simsek (Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager), Boshra Begum (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Natalie Layton (Charity Secretariat).**

## 17. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

It was noted that in view of the previous meeting being inquorate and in accordance with the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committees constitution, the appointment of the Chair for the municipal year 2023/2024, was brought forward to this meeting.

Members indicated by raising their hands on nominations for the chair. The nominations were seconded.

**Nigel Willmott:** Nigel Willmott explained to the committee that he had taken over as Chair of the Consultative Committee because it did not have a permanent Chair at the time, therefore the Chair changed every meeting. As this current Chairmanship will be a short one Nigel hoped to provide continuity to the committee.

**Annette Baker:** Annette explained that she would be committed to the role, to bring the committee together and ensure new starters to the committee are given a good introduction.

### Vote:

Nigel Willmott: 7 votes.

Annette Baker: 4 votes.

## RESOLVED:

Nigel Willmott was appointed as chair of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee.

**18. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The chair noted the filming at meetings notice.

John Crompton joined the meeting virtually.

**19. WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nick da costa and Duncan Neil.

**20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**21. URGENT BUSINESS**

It was noted that the minutes of the previous meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were sent out as a supplementary pack.

**22. MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING**

The Chair noted that as the previous meeting was inquorate the decision-making items had been brought forward to this meeting. Items 6 -14 were noting items.

John Chilton highlighted inquiries raised in the previous committee regarding the fulfilment of set targets and a detailed examination of the Theatre's financial status.

The Chief Executive further conveyed that these inquiries pertained to commercial matters, emphasising that a comprehensive investigation was not suitable. Nevertheless, concerning the Theatre, the committee was informed that it was financially on track. The overall financial accounts of the park were also accessible on the website, with the current year's accounts scheduled for publication upon completion.

**RESOLVED:**

The minutes of the meeting on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October were also agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

**23. NOMINATION OF NON-VOTING CO-OPTEEES**

In accordance with the constitution of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committees, four non-voting members needed appointment to the Alexandra Palace and Park Board. One of these positions was designated for the Chair of the Statutory Advisory Committee, a role filled by Jason Beazley, appointed as the Chair of the Statutory Advisory Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September.

The committee proceeded to nominate the remaining three non-voting co-opted members for the Alexandra Park Palace Board. Individuals expressing interest in these positions raised their hands.

**Voting Results:**

John Chilton – 8 Votes

Duncan Neil – 9 Votes

Nigel Willmott – 7 Votes (Chair of Consultative Committee)

Annette Baker – 4 Votes

Jacob O'Callaghan – 2 Votes

**RESOLVED:**

Based on the voting outcomes, Nigel Willmott retained the Chairmanship, and co-opted appointments were extended to John Chilton (Friends of the Park), filling the vacancy, while Duncan, Nigel, and Jason retained their positions on the Board.

**24. CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHARTER**

The Protocol for Advisory and Consultative Committee members was presented by the Chair.

The Chair emphasised aspects outlined in the section titled 'Expectations of Committee Members,' particularly stressing active participation during meetings while being mindful of the overall meeting timetable. Additionally, committee members were reminded to adhere to any specific instructions from the Chair regarding the length of individual contributions.

The introductory statement in the charter was clarified, indicating that it was crafted during workshops held in January 2023. It was acknowledged that, being the committee's charter, adjustments could be made to align with the committee's goals as perceived by its members. Proposed changes were to be communicated to Natalie Layton and required approval from the Chair.

**RESOLVED:**

1. The report was noted, and the Protocol for Advisory and Consultative Committee Members was adopted by the Consultative Committee.
2. It was agreed that any proposed changes to the Protocol would be submitted via email to the Chair and Natalie ahead of the agenda pack dispatch for the next Consultative Committee meeting. Subsequently, these proposed changes would be presented as an agenda item for voting during the meeting.

**25. GENERAL UPDATE REPORT**

Emma Dagnes, CEO of Alexandra Palace and Park introduced the report,

The following was noted in the discussion:

- The Trustee Board convened on the 12th of October 2023, appointing Nick da Costa as the Lead Trustee for Environmental Sustainability.
- On governance matters, the updated draft byelaws were dispatched to the SAC and CC in June, eliciting some feedback. The SAC and CC will be involved in the final draft consultation, although the work to replace the existing 1929 Byelaws is not anticipated to progress until the next financial year. A timetable will be shared when available.
- Concerning maintenance, repairs, and improvements since the last report, the CEO highlighted ongoing work related to the Bedford Road structural retaining walls. Path and railings work continued throughout September and October.
- In October, the Ice Rink replacement chiller installation included the crane lift from the North Service Yard and subsequent commissioning.
- Regarding Collection Preservation, attention was drawn to the archive shelving unit dismantled at Goodwood Archive and donated to the Trust in 2019. Installed in the former BBC Canteen, these units facilitate easy access to the collection while maintaining the necessary storage conditions to prevent deterioration over time. This consolidation enables the archives to be stored in a central space.
- The People's Picture (150 Lifetimes) project will install a mural in the East Court and replace information boards near the BBC Tower and Transmitter Hall. Statutory applications, including Listed Building and Advert Consent, will be submitted shortly.
- In terms of strategic projects, the CEO highlighted a mini-tender exercise undertaken in autumn to procure the services of a public engagement specialist. This specialist will conduct a first-phase fact-finding exercise to ascertain the sentiments of users and non-users regarding The Grove, identifying necessary improvements or changes and providing recommendations for the next steps. The Committee will be informed of the timetable for this work.
- The Trust is exploring ideas from local community groups to revitalise the Campsbourne Building in the short to medium term. Several necessary works are required to bring the building up to a good standard before the Trust can legally lease or license it.
- An online visitor survey was initiated in October to collect feedback and opinions on the northern part of the Park (skatepark, playground, and Boating Lake). The survey aims to gather data supporting improvement projects and aiding in funding requests.

**RESOLVED:**

To acknowledge the content of the report and provide any feedback to the SAC.

## 26. PARK & ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Mark Evison, Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability introduced the report.

The following was noted in the discussion:

- Park visitor numbers for 2022-23 were estimated at 3.8 million. Although this figure was lower than the peaks observed during the pandemic, it still surpassed the pre-pandemic averages.
- The Park maintained the Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards in 2023 and achieved Gold standard in three London in Bloom categories (large park, heritage park, and large conservation area).
- The committee was encouraged to submit stories for the Creative Learning 'The People's Picture' before the Christmas period.
- The Creative Learning team secured funding to deliver engagement activities for both the Haringey Feast and Alexandra Palace's 150th Anniversary. The Young Producers oversaw two commissions, organising workshops across Haringey and leading on digital content for the feast.
- Regarding Haringey music services, the Symphony Orchestra worked on an exciting program of repertoire for the upcoming term, with details to be circulated once confirmed. Haringey Music Service brought 106 young musicians to Alexandra Palace each week.
- Young adults with disabilities from John Dewey Specialist College collaborated with filmmaker Joe Bloom to create a short film. The Rhythm Stick events management course, designed by and for people with disabilities, attracted 15 young participants. The events were hosted in Marcus Garvey Library as part of the Library Lates series.
- Creative Learning received a grant to deliver a program of engagement across Haringey Library Service for Biblio-buzz 2024. This included performances, author readings, and discussions in libraries, with 30 schools enrolled in the program.
- The Windrush 75: The Grip Exhibition, organised by Haringey artists collaborating with older Haringey Residents from the Windrush Generation, was exhibited at Bruce Castle Museum and became part of their archive.
- 81 active volunteers were involved in various departments across Alexandra Palace and Park Palace. The CEO hosted a social event with the volunteers in September, expressing gratitude for their continued support and planning the launch of the 'By the People: 150 Lifetimes' project.
- Incidents with fireworks included an intruder cutting communication cables in the park, endangering many lives. Security was increased to ensure the safety of staff and visitors.
- Councillor Sean O'Donovan, the new Vice Chair of the APPCT Board, congratulated the events and performances, particularly praising the use of the Transmitter Hall. Councillor O'Donovan shared positive feedback on volunteering efforts, including firework displays and the Haringey Feast.

- The carbon footprint pre-covid was ,3000 tonnes CO2e, this reduced to 2,243 tonnes CO2e in 2022/23.
- Gas consumption for 2022/23 decreased by 21% compared to the previous year.
- As the Palace bared a large and complex electrical distribution system installed in the 1980s it had been awarded a Local Energy Accelerator grant by the GLA in 2022. This grant funded a clean energy feasibility study that assessed potential ways to reduce the carbon footprint of the Palace and Park and there is still more work to be done in this area.
- The main outcomes of the report include various building interventions to reduce demand, and the installation of ground source heat pumps and other options will be reviewed.
- Regarding events and catering, plans are in place to produce more food in-house, reduce food waste, focus on local sourcing, and minimise packaging.
- In terms of Transport, the Park team replaced two diesel vehicles with electric versions and reduced diesel consumption by almost 40%. The security team now operates an electric buggy instead of a diesel vehicle.
- On recycling, improvements have been made, and additional suggestions have been proposed for signage and food waste separation. No waste from Alexandra Park and Palace goes to landfill.
- The Environmental sustainability policy has been updated to reflect the previous 12 months.
- The committee was informed that the facility team were addressing other issues, however there were challenges.
- Emma informed the committee that the venue is unique in that there are no seats in the main auditorium. Therefore, Alexandra Park and Palace was ahead of the sector in terms of plastic usage, and the catering team continued to explore options for further improvement.

## **27. WORKSHOP ACTIONS & FOLLOW-UP**

The report was noted.

## **28. NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS' FEEDBACK**

The feedback from Non-Voting Board Members was noted.

## **29. VIEWS/ QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No views or questions were presented by members of the public.

## **30. SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

John Chilton proposed discussing the topic of park closures at the next Consultative Committee meeting.

**31. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**32. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting of the Consultative Committee will be held on the 25th January 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.34pm.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....