

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK BOARD HELD ON Tuesday, 17th November, 2015, 7.30 - 9.55 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Joanna Christophides (Chair), Patrick Berryman, Tim Gallagher (Vice-Chair), Anne Stennett and Bob Hare

Non-voting members:

Gordon Hutchinson (Friends of Alexandra Park), Colin Marr (Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area), Nigel Willmott (Friends of Alexandra Palace Theatre), Cllr. Stephen Mann (Alexandra Park and Place Advisory Committee, observer)

Also Attending:

Isobel Aptaker (Education Officer, Alexandra Palace), Emma Dagnes (Managing Director, Alexandra Palace), Mark Evison (Alexandra Park Manager), Louise Stewart (Chief Executive, Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust), Neville Murton (LB Haringey, Lead Finance Officer) and Natalie Layton (LB Haringey Clerk).

35. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor McShane.

37. ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

a. Alexandra Residents' Association (ARA)

NOTED the resignation of Caroline Hayter.

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Mr Dermot Barnes as ARA representative.

b. Vitrine Ltd

NOTED that the membership of Vitrine Ltd (The Lakeside Cafe) on the Consultative Committee had not been renewed as the required annual membership document had not been received.

38. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair agreed an item of urgent business to be considered under item 14 below.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Hare declared a personal interest in that he was Chair of the Alexandra Palace Allotments Association, although this did not relate to any particular agenda item.

40. QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

None.

41. MINUTES

a. Alexandra Palace and Park Board

The unrestricted minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board held on 15 July 2015 were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair (pages 1-8 of the agenda pack).

b. Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee

RECEIVED the draft minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee held on 20 October 2015 (pages 9-11 of the agenda pack).

NOTED

- i. that Councillor Stephen Mann had been appointed by the Advisory Committee as non-voting Alexandra Palace and Park Board observer;
- ii. the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on page 11 of the agenda pack.

c. Joint Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee, and Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee (Joint SAC/CC)

NOTED the draft minutes of the informal Joint Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee, and Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee held on 20 October 2015 (pages 13-23 of the agenda pack).

The following amendments were proposed and would be agreed at the next Joint SAC/CC meeting:

i. Non-Voting Board Members Feedback (Minute No. 41)

Wording relating to the LB Haringey debt to be clarified.

ACTION: CLERK & LBH LEAD FINANCE OFFICER

ii. Restoration of Houses of Parliament

To amend the wording "...the Palace should consider Alexandra Palace and Park as a possible site for the decanting of parliament..."

ACTION: CLERK

42. REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RECEIVED the report of the Chief Executive - Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust, Louise Stewart, as laid out on pages 25-30 of the agenda pack.

a. Strategic Vision and Priority Areas (section 6.1 and 6.2)

Louise Stewart acknowledged the hard work of Palace and Park staff and drew attention to the three priority areas going forward:

- strategic vision
- shaping the organisation for the future, and
- organisational development.

NOTED, in response to concerns and questions raised, that

- previous consultations were acknowledged as having guided the work on the strategic vision to this point and would assist the move forward to establish a long-lasting vision. An appropriate and sensitive method of engagement would be designed and presented to the Board;
- staff had been consulted and supported the development of a long-term strategic vision;
- plans for the wider Palace were necessary; potential funders needed assurance that the East Wing would not be the only focus of the Palace;
- the expertise at the Palace and Park, the Council and the Board was recognised but it would still be necessary to bring in external consultants to support areas of expertise;
- Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT) would set the context of the vision with advice from the Alexandra Palace Trading Company (APTL, the "Trading Company"), who would deliver the vision;

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report and invited the CE to provide further plans and timetable the 3 priority areas.

ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

b. Fireworks Event (Section 7)

RECEIVED a verbal update on the Fireworks Event including that it had been attended by 46,000 people, including 6,000 at the bier festival. All emergency parties had been satisfied with the operation. Emma Dagnes thanked the events team for delivering the highly successful event.

NOTED, in response to questions, that

- i. Board members expressed that the event had been very well managed although there were concerns raised about the damage caused to the Park during the event and the need to ensure rapid repair to minimise the damage;
- ii. long term solutions such as installing track-way paths were being investigated to reduce ground damage. It was recognised that this year was the wettest fireworks event in terms of rainfall and it had been a learning experience for the operational team about how to phase the build in future;
- iii. Redston Road had been the only point in the Park with no access during the event. Emma Dagnes explained that the nearest gate to Redston Road was one of the lesser used areas of the Park, and during the event signs directed people to the nearest entrance. It was necessary to consider the costs of providing an additional entrance for the event; the Board was reminded that the purpose of the fireworks event was to raise money for the Charity. Additionally, the community had not given any negative feedback on this issue.

The issue had been raised at the last meeting of the Joint Advisory and Consultative Committee (Joint SAC/CC) on 20 October 2015 (Minute No. 40iii, bullet points 1 & 2), and would be responded to at the next Joint SAC/CC meeting. The Committees would be able to view a map and statistical information on the use of the gates as well as the minutes from the Safety Advisory Committee on this very point.

ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR

RESOLVED to note the COMMERCIAL update within the report.

- c. Bedford Road (Section 7.IV)

REPORTED that Emma Dagnes had met with residents of Bedford Road to discuss concerns regarding the increase in events and had agreed a strategy for moving forward including monitoring and witnessing activities, working with Haringey to link CCTV around the Park. Residents had been assured that staff employed to mitigate challenges with egress were Chapter H and SIA trained staff.

- d. Crossrail (Section 8)

REPORTED that the Park and Palace would be responding to the consultation which closed before the next meeting, therefore the Board would be consulted by email on the draft response.

NOTED, in response to questions, that

- i. the Trust's response would clearly support one of the options for the Crossrail station (Wood Green or Alexandra Palace);

- ii. there were advantages and disadvantages to both options and consideration would be given to the effect each option would have on the egress of events from the Park and Palace;
- iii. the Trust would work closely with the relevant regeneration teams to be involved as much as possible in the event of either decision. Trustees were invited to feed their comments to Louise Stewart before the Park and Palace response was drafted;

ACTION: TRUSTEES

- iv. in response to concerns about access to the Park during construction, Louise Stewart reported that there would be some impact on Station Road and that each of the stations proposed presented different challenges.

RESOLVED that Board members would be sent the Park and Palace's draft consultation response for Trustees' feedback via email in the second week in January.

43. TRUST FINANCIAL REPORT

RECEIVED the report on the financial results for Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust for the 5 months to 31 August 2015 and annual forecast. The report was presented by Dorota Dominiczak, Director of Finance and Resources, Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT), as laid out on pages 31-36 of the agenda pack.

NOTED, in response to questions, that:

- a. the increase in gift aid was due to a rise in the number of events. The organisation was seeing the benefits of diversifying the events offer, utilising the venue to maximise capacity, working with clients to improve the way they delivered their events and having a wider purpose than profits and shareholders;
- b. new funding arrangement with LB Haringey meant that the Charitable Trust could carry over any surplus to the following year;
- c. table 3, page 34, would be reissued to the Board after the meeting once the calculations for the HLF Grants budget and forecast were confirmed;
ACTION: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND RESOURCES
- d. legal and professional fees (table 3) included the costs to APPCT for enabling works, designers, surveyors fees, project construction works. Board members expressed concern at such a large amount (£1.6m) and were reminded that the restoration project totalled £27m and required expert advice;
- e. the 'Palace Leases' (table 4, page 35) related to the television mast and the national grid power station.

RESOLVED to note the performance of Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust.

44. EAST WING RESTORATION REPORT

RECEIVED the update on progress of the East Wing restoration project, presented by Emma Dagnes, Managing Director, Alexandra Park and Palace, as laid out on pages 37-40 of the agenda pack.

REPORTED that

- a. recommendations for the award of contractor would be presented to the Board at a special meeting on 26 November 2015;
- b. that the Park and Palace had requested provision be made for an assisted listening system in the Theatre, which had not been included in the original project scope.

Amendment: page 39 – key programme table, enabling works complete – this should state May 2016.

NOTED that the theatre strategy was being revised as the draft policy was only a broad outline. Councillor Hare commended the input of the Friends of the Theatre in the revisions of the document.

RESOLVED to note to contents of the report.

45. CONSERVATION REPORT

RECEIVED the report updating on the fabric maintenance plan and services, introduced by Emma Dagnes, Managing Director, Alexandra Park and Palace, as laid out on pages 41-44 of the agenda pack.

NOTED, in response to questioning, that the fabric lining to the ceiling had not been cleaned since it was installed in 1986 and, with a 10cm of dust layer was a fire risk.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

46. PARK REPORT

RECEIVED the Park updates within the report, introduced by Mark Evison, Park Manager, as laid out on pages 45-76 of the agenda pack.

- a. Fitness Equipment (Park Vision)

NOTED that Cllr Berryman congratulated the Park Team on the achievements and emphasised that, in considering the installation of fitness equipment in the Park, wooden equipment was longer lasting and more aesthetically pleasing than the metallic versions. Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust, agreed that wooden equipment was a better option and was preferred by all concerned.

b. Graffiti Wall (page 47)

REPORTED that as the pathway to the playground was within a 5 metre cordon of the wall it was not in line with the Health and Safety Executive recommendations.

A detailed discussion took place and it was NOTED that

- i. Colin Marr expressed his view that it would not be unreasonable to approach the graffiti artists requesting that they avoid using the wall for a few hours a day, when children were using the sandpit, rather than spending a large amount of money relocating the wall. The report highlighted (on page 48) that this was not a viable option. Graffiti artist blogs demonstrated that a number of artist travelled from other boroughs and were unlikely to go away to return at a later time;
- ii. other comments included:
 - the suggestion of raising money through the work produced by the graffiti artists;
 - that children were exposed to the paint spray for considerable amounts of time when they used the sandpit therefore it would be appropriate to move the sandpit. People using the pathway usually passed by quickly with minimal exposure;
 - that, if rebuilt, it was suggested that the wall did not have to be 30 feet long;
 - that the wall was suitably located next to the skateboard park and artists should be consulted about the location of a new wall;
- iii. the Palace supported the legal advice in paragraph 6.1 of the report and, having reviewed the risk, the strongest mitigation measure was to relocate the wall. The Board would be presented with the details of the risk controls and proposals to move the wall at the next meeting;
ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE & MANAGING DIRECTOR
- iv. the intention would be to demolish and build a new wall, of a similar size, simultaneously.

RESOLVED

- i. to note the report including the successes in the Green Flag and London in Bloom Award schemes and to recognise that support of the Grounds Maintenance Contractors and Park Volunteers;
- ii. to note the work undertaken to date on the Parks Vision;
- iii. to consider the strategy and costs for moving the graffiti wall to a new location at its next meeting on 16 February 2016.

47. LEARNING AND COMMUNITIES REPORT

RECEIVED the report on learning and community activities, introduced by Isobel Aptaker, Education Officer, Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust, as laid out on pages 77 -80 of the agenda pack.

Isobel Aptaker thanked the Friends of the Theatre for contributing to the Open House event and highlighted the uncertainty of repeating the event next year due to restoration work that would be in progress.

NOTED, in response to questioning, that more communication around the learning opportunities at the Palace was required but resources were limited.

RESOLVED to note the contents of the report.

48. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Restoration of the Houses of Parliament/ Palace of Westminster

Colin Marr referred to press coverage earlier this year to do with refurbishment of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster, which might involve decanting all or parts of government to other sites. The budget for this was about £4.5 billion and the timescale between six and eleven years. With under-utilised space at AP and our need for capital investment, it was argued that AP should let it be known that we might want to be considered as a host site.

NOTED, following discussion, that

- a. the currently unused space at the Palace was recognised and the Board was reminded that the Palace had been utilised as a hospitality venue during the 2012 Olympics.
- b. Louise Stewart, Chief Executive, informed the Board that there were preferred options to retain the main activity of Parliament within the hub of Westminster. However, contact could be re-established to consider how the framework for the decanting of Parliament could fit in with the long term vision and current operation of the Palace.
- c. in response to questioning: there would be no implications if enquiries to Parliament were made but location would be a main consideration and better options were available in Westminster.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive, Alexandra Park Charitable Trust, conduct informal investigations into the potential use of the Palace for Parliamentary activities during restoration of the Houses of Parliament, and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

49. FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the following dates:

26 November 2015 (special)
16 February 2016

50. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting for items 17 to 23, as they were likely to contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972; paragraphs 1 (information relating to an individual), 2 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual), 3 (information relating to the business of any particular person, including the authority holding that information), and 5 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings).

51. MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board held on 15 July 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the removal of Mark Evison and Melissa Tettey from the list of attendees.

ACTION CLERK

52. EXEMPT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in the report.

53. EXEMPT TRADING COMPANY FINAL REPORT

RESOLVED to note the performance of the Trading Company for the period ended 31st August 2015.

54. EXEMPT PARKS TENANT RENT REVIEW REPORT

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in the report.

55. EXEMPT FABRIC MAINTENANCE CANOPY CLEANING TENDER AWARD REPORT

RESOLVED to approve the recommendations in the report.

56. EXEMPT FABRIC MAINTENANCE ROOF WORKS PACKAGES TENDER AWARD REPORT

REPORTED that this report had been deferred due to consideration of technical procurement elements and would be brought to the next meeting.

ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR

57. ANY OTHER EXEMPT BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

CHAIR: Councillor Joanna Christophides

Signed by Chair

Date