# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. HELD ON TUESDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2018, 19:00

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors: Joanna Christophides, Bob Hare, Jennifer Mann, Ann Waters and Charles Wright.**

**John Wilkinson (AP Allotments Association), Hugh Macpherson (AP Organ Appeal), John Boshier (Muswell Hill Metro Group), Richard Hudson (WERA), Gordon Hutchinson (Chair), Rachael Macdonald (Hornsey Historical Society), Val Paley (Palace View RA), Nigel Willmott (Friends of AP Theatre), Dermot Barnes (Alexandra RA), , Jacob O'Callaghan (APP Conservation Advisory Area Advisory Committee) and Duncan Neill ( Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association).**

## 7. FILMING AT MEETINGS

***Clerk's note - Duncan O'Neill nominated Gordon Hutchinson to chair the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Jennifer Mann*.***

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'.

## 8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The following apologies for absence were noted:

- Cllr Stennett

## 9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 10. GOVERNANCE REVIEW UPDATE

RECEIVED the report of Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Alexandra Park and Palace.

The following matters arose from the discussion of the report:

a. The Committee sought clarification on the proposal to have clearer separation between stakeholder views and the Board. In response the CEO advised that Board members had to act in the best interests of charity and that there was considered to be an inherent conflict with Committee members sitting on the Board as non-voting members, as they had specific interests arising from their membership of a particular stakeholder group.
b. The Board was also advised that a proposal to change the format of engagement away from council meetings, was in relation the current to statutory requirements around local government decision making that were placed on the Consultative Committee as a committee of Haringey Council.
c. In response to a query around authorisation required to dispose of property acquired prior to 1985, the CEO advised that authorisation would require a specific scheme to be agreed by the Charity Commission, and possibly even an Act of Parliament.
d. The Committee was advised that both Alexandra Palace and Park Panel and the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Forum were obsolete bodies that had not been in use for some time.
e. The Committee raised concerns with the potential for meetings of the proposed stakeholder group to not have agendas or papers publically available.
f. In response to questions around the proposed justification for replacing the Committee with a stakeholder forum, the CEO advised that the intention was to engage with a wider array of stakeholders including the beneficiaries. As presently formulated the Consultative Committee was limited to 30 specific interest groups. It was suggested that the Palace's stakeholders were much broader than that and that their preferred forms of engagement may be quite diverse.
g. The Committee suggested that by developing a stakeholder forum there were concerns that this would result in a loss of experience and expertise from local groups. It was also suggested that the new format might result in broader and less focused discussion.
h. The Committee advocated that current arrangements could be built upon to ensure that members' experience was not lost. It was proposed that perhaps a meeting of local constituted groups could meet once or twice a year and that this could be supplemented by wider forum meetings with different stakeholders. It was suggested that such a meeting could focus on a particular issue.
i. It was also suggested that in the interests of widening participation the residents groups could be taken off the Consultative Committee as they were already represented through the Advisory Committee.
j. Concerns were raised that there was a wider democratic deficit within the Palace's governance arrangements and that these proposals would reduce the involvement of local interested groups. In response the Chair commented that the organisation was a charity not a public body, that operations were governed by the Charity Commission and that ultimately the charity was accountable to its Board of Trustees.
k. The Committee were advised that the Friends of Alexandra Palace Theatre were going to draft a response to the paper and would share it with members for comments in due course.

l. The Committee considered that it was imperative that the Trust Board had the requisite skill set and knowledge base to be able to carry out its work in the best interests of the charity. The role of co-optees was to bring expertise to the Board and it was suggested that the existing model did not fully utilise this role.
m. In response to a request that the Board consider examples of other originations who were charities with a local authority as corporate trustee, the CEO acknowledged that there were examples elsewhere but that they tended to be for much smaller organisations such as town halls and recreation grounds. There were significant number of comparative examples of large charitable companies limited by guarantee and that the report recommended that this was the most suitable model given the charities size and complex history.
n. The Committee advised that it felt that there was a lack of briefing for new members and organisations who sat on the Committee and that a learning point to consider was that the Trust could do more to clearly set out the role and contribution expected of associated groups.
o. In response to a query of whether future meetings would be held in public, the Committee was advised that ultimately this was a decision for the Board to make. Most charities did not meet in public but still produced public minutes of meetings.

**RESOLVED**

The findings contained in the report were noted.

## 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

## 12. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

There were no further meetings scheduled in the current municipal year.

CHAIR: Gordon Hutchinson

Signed by Chair ……..

Date ……