

UNRESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE - TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2009

In attendance;

Councillors: *Egan, *Dogus,*Hare, Oakes *Peacock, *Stanton and *Williams

Nominated Members:

Alexandra Palace Allotments Association	*	Mr S. Ballard
Alexandra Palace Amateur Ice Skating Club	*	Mr M. Tarpey
Alexandra Palace Angling Association		Mr K. Pestell
Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal		Mr J. Apperley
Alexandra Palace Television Society		Mr S. Vaughan
Alexandra Palace Television Group		Mr J. Thompson
Alexandra Residents' Association		Ms C. Hayter (Ms Hutchinson deputising)
Bounds Green and District Residents' Association	*	Mr K. Ranson
Friends of Alexandra Park		Mr G. Hutchinson
Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre	*	Mr N. Willmott
Hornsey Historical Society	*	Mr J. O'Callaghan
Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association	*	Ms D Feeney
Muswell Hill Metro Group	*	Mr J. Boshier
New River Action Group	*	Mr F.W.Clark
Palace View Residents' Association	*	Ms V. Paley (Mr Williams deputising)
Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians		Mr J. McCue
Warner Estate Residents' Association	*	Prof. R. Hudson

*Members present.

Also In Attendance:

David Loudfoot - General Manager, Alexandra Palace
 Rebecca Kane – Managing Director, Alexandra Palace trading Limited (APTL)
 Mark Evison – Park Manager, Alexandra Palace
 Clifford Hart – Clerk to the Committee – Committees Manager – LB Haringey

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
APCC54.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Kevin Pestell, John Apperley, Gordan Hutchinson, Caroline Hayter (for whom Ms J Hutchinson was substituting) and Val Paley (for whom Me H Williams was substituting), and also from Paul Brayebrooke - APTL.	

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	<p>NOTED</p>
<p>APCC55. URGENT BUSINESS</p>	<p>The Chair sought clarification as to whether there were any items of urgent business.</p> <p>The Clerk to the Consultative Committee advised that he had been notified of an item of business raised by Mr Willmott on behalf of the Friends of the Theatre relating to a question to the Board regarding the Board's policy towards the AP Theatre and as a request to the board to discuss and outline its policy.</p> <p>The Chair agreed to take the item under urgent business.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
<p>APCC56. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</p>	<p>There were no declarations of interests.</p> <p>NOTED</p>
<p>APCC57. MINUTES</p>	<p>i. Minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee – 14 October 2008</p> <p>The Committee briefly discussed the circulated minutes and queried the figure quoted in page 8 – penultimate paragraph of £750K for the overall running costs per annum for maintaining the Palace. Following clarification from the General manager of the inaccuracy of the figure the Chair asked that the minutes be corrected, and that the correct version be circulated to the Committee, and posted on the web. The Committee also queried the name quoted in page 10 – ‘Mark Thomas’ and that this should read ‘Mark Thompson’.</p> <p>There being no further comments it was;</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee held on 14 October 2008 be agreed subject to the amendment at page 7 of the minutes and amendment at page 10, and that the amended minutes be circulated to the Committee for information, and placed on the web.</p> <p>ii. Minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board – 21 October, & 5 November 2008, and 6 January 2009</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>

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That the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board held on 21 October, and 5 November 2008 (special), and 6 January 2009 (special) be noted.

Following a brief clarification and discussion in relation to the issue of raising issues contained within the minutes as circulated when there was no opportunity to question items discussed under matters arising.

The Clerk advised that if Members had any matters they wished to raise then they could do so at this point. The Clerk also advised that if there were any issues the Committee wished to put to the Board then this could be done via a resolution agreed upon by the Committee, or also channelled through the three Consultative Committee members who sat on the Board.

Mr O'Callaghan commented that he wished to raise an issue in relation to the operation and performance and activities etc at the Palace, together with the deliberations of the Board, as partly reflected during the discussion at the Board on 6 January 2009 in relation to the Accounts, and sought clarification as to whether the accounts had been unanimously agreed and signed off.

The Chair, in response advised that he would take the item under any other business.

NOTED

- iii. Minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee – 7 October 2008, and 10 February 2009

The Clerk advised that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2009 were not available.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee held on 7 October 2008 be noted.

APCC58. PARK ACTIVITIES UPDATE

The Chair asked for a brief introduction of the report.

In a succinct introduction to the circulated report Mr Evison gave a brief update of recent activities carried out in Alexandra Park and answered points of clarification.

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The Committee then raised the following points of concern;

- The difficulties with the Thames Water work at the Bedford road end of the lower road and the resultant difficulties with traffic movement etc and the expected completion of the works the following day;
- issues relating to pathway surfaces and the preference to gravel as opposed to the use of tarmac (being visually un-natural in landscaping terms);
- the problem with drainage in the general vicinity of the upper part of the Lower Road with running off of water , and issues of drainage blocking and urban flooding in the vicinity of the Park, and also across the Borough, and in London as a whole;
- the issue of restricting speed of vehicles across the Park given the number of vehicles exceeding speed limits, including buses , and the need for some clear indication of the Park entrances now that the gantries no longer were at each end, and the need for signage at both ends of the Park stating 'you are entering/leaving the Park' to celebrate the fact that a Park was what was being driven through, as well as clear speed restrictions of 20 mph;
- the usage of the road as a cut through, and its status as a private or public road and the consequential maintenance/upkeep costs and whether such cost should be met solely by the Trust, or with a contribution by the Mayor of London/TfL;
- the proposed expansion of deer enclosure which would require planning permission, and the issue of the increase in 'Lime Disease' which can be contracted from Deer and the need to ensure regular checks by vets to ensure prevention;
- the absence of byelaws on the notices boards around the Park and whether these could be placed on notice boards;
- Discussions in relation to pros and cons of the proposals by Warner Estate Residents Association in respect of a proposal for a all-weather path to replace the present informal, and very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston Road playing fields and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park, and the Committee's discussion in relation to 'desire lines' for the path across the particular area, and the Committee's endorsement (on a vote of 7 for, and 6 against) of this proposal for recommending to the Board, noting that the proposal will be considered by the Alexandra Palace and Park Board on 24 February 2009, and endorsed by the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee on 10 February 2009;

There being no further discussion it was:

RESOLVED

- i. that the report and discussions be noted;
- ii. that the Park Manager be asked to investigate the possibility of for signage at both ends of the Park stating 'you are entering/leaving the Park' to celebrate the fact that a Park was what was being driven through, as well as clear speed restrictions of 20 mph;
- iii. that the proposals by Warner Estate Residents Association in respect of a proposal for a all-weather path to replace the present informal, and

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	<p>very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston Road playing fields and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park, be endorsement for recommendation to the Alexandra Palace and Park Board on 24 February 2009.</p>
APCC59.	<p>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>The Chair asked for a brief introduction o the report.</p> <p>The Managing Director of Alexandra Palace Trading Limited (APTL) – Ms Kane, referred to the circulated report and the events shown therein. Ms Kane confirmed that those events shown in <i>italics</i> were yet to be confirmed, and she also highlighted the 3 large events confirmed – the Bike, Dinghy, and Railway modelling exhibitions. Ms Kane commented on the knock on effects of the recession and the fact that people did not have as much readily available disposal cash therefore this would have an influence but the sales team at APTL were currently working to secure events that were yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>In commenting on the number of successes during the past year Ms Kane made particular reference to the Darts event during late December to early January 2008/09 and its high attendance, noting that the event hosted up to a max of 2500 on any one day. The other main event s were the Annual Fireworks display and also the immensely popular Knitting and Stitching event, which showed the each attracting a diverse range of attendees.</p> <p>The Committee then discussed the report and Ms Kane responded to a number of comments in relation to individual events.</p> <p>Arising from the discussions the Committee commented on the issue of publicity for free events that were available at the Palace, citing in particular the event that took place in late December in terms of the tour of the Palace, especially the part that involved the Theatre and TV studios., and how such publicity could be improved. Ms Kane confirmed that the website was currently being revamped which would go some way to improve this. In response to other comments Mr Loudfoot and Ms Kane confirmed that public events were shown on notice boards in and around the Palace and Mr Loudfoot undertook to review the matter of public information in and around the Palace and Park, in conjunction with Mr Evison.</p> <p>Further discussions also ensued in relation to the monies collected at the Fireworks event and whether this money could be put back into the up keep of the studios/theatre and other parts of the Palace.</p> <p>Mr Loudfoot undertook to report the matter to a future meeting of the Committee in respect of the income share out for such events including a breakdown of the amounts etc.</p>

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	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>
APCC60.	<p>ITEMS REQUESTED BY NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>(i)</p> <p>Professor Hudson raised the issue of the proposal for a path at Redston Fields as detailed in the circulated document by the Warner Estate Residents Association.</p> <p>In detailing the proposal as circulated, Professor Hudson commented that the matter had also been discussed by the Statutory Advisory Committee, who had endorsed the proposal for consideration by the Alexandra Palace and Park Board.</p> <p>The Committee then had a lengthy discussion in relation to the proposals, the main points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the direction of the proposed path across an area originally intended for a football pitch and by having such a path would prevent such usage in the future• the natural 'desire lines' of individuals using the area currently and where the best possible sighting would be• the number of people actually desiring the path to be placed in this location and whether there had been a survey carried out of residents in the near vicinity to the Redston entrance• whether the path could be routed around the edge of the Park up towards the Lower Road, to the existing path which would then conserve and keep the green space intact• the need to ensure the proliferation of tracks and 'desire' lines stops and by the introduction of such an outline edge path would prevent such proliferation• the need for a visual idea of the path and the likely need for a site visit• the need for clear professional advice in terms of the proposed path and its overall effect on the existing green space etc <p>Following a summary by the Chair, on a show of hands there being 7 for and 6 against, it was:</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That the Alexandra Palace and Park Board be asked to note that the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee endorses the proposal of the Warner Estate Residents Association for an all-weather path to replace the present informal, and very muddy, desire line from the top of Park Avenue North across the Redston</p>

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	<p>Road playing field and the old race-course to join the Lower Road at the eastern end of the car park, and requests that the Board gives consideration to and approves the proposal as outlined.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded the Councillor Members that should the matter be brought to the Board then should it endorse the proposals, which would require planning permission, those Board Members sitting of the LB Haringey's Planning Committee would require to declare their interest and if were to agree the proposal at the Board, and would then have to not take part in consideration of the item at that Committee.</p>
APCC61.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>i. The Chair advised of the item raised by Mr Willmott on behalf of the Friends of the Theatre relating to a question to the Board regarding the Board's policy towards the AP Theatre and as a request to the board to discuss and outline its policy. Mr Willmott thanked the Chair for allowing this item and commented on the issue of the Theatre which was one that needed to be clarified by the Board in terms of its future intention as to its future usage/renovation. In briefly outlining the history of the theatre usage and the current situation the Board now found itself in terms of moving forward with a blank canvass the Theatre group were asking through this committee that the Board states its short and long term views as to the Theatre's future. The existing facility could be improved by the introduction of some effective heating which would make the space useable for both rehearsal and small production.</p> <p>The Chair responded that the core Trustees were currently having a number of away days where it was discussing the blank canvass and he stressed that no idea of concept was being ruled either in or out. One of the issues that no doubt would be discussed was the issue of the Theatre and studios. Following on from the informal away days it was proposed to have some widened discussions in a similar vein to have an idea of what the representatives of both this, and Advisory Committee would see the future of the Palace.</p> <p>Arising from the further discussion a number of points were raised including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the possibility of making a business case for the securing of further funding in the form of grants to improve the fabric, and heating of the theatre, and studios through national organisations such as the National Trust/English Heritage• the previous difficulties in attempting to have the theatre used as was intended and the spiralling costs that that detailed and the lack of existing funds to improve the theatre currently• the fact that the theatre in its 'heyday' since 1924 had failed to attract interest or money and whether this was still the case today• the concept of theatre production was welcomed particularly for certain types of Victorian melodrama/Dickensian type productions given the current state of the theatre• the possible usage of the theatre and studios as a place for rehearsals, show cases which in themselves were concepts not unachievable

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The Chair then summarised and it was:

RESOLVED

- i. That the Alexandra Palace and Park Board be asked to note that the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee discussed the future of the Alexandra Palace theatre in the context of possible utilization of the existing facility for possible usage for workshops, theatre production and events, and that the Board be asked to consider whether there were any possible avenues open to it in order to further this request; and
- ii. That the General Manager Alexandra Palace be asked to prepare a short briefing paper outlining the past history of the theatre and a response to the Consultative Committee's request .

ii. Issue raised by J. O'Callaghan

Mr O'Callaghan

Mr O'Callaghan commented that he had wished to raise an issue in relation to the operation and performance and activities etc at the Palace and whether the issues of concern could be clarified. However, he advised that during discussions this evening a number of his concerns had been aired and discussed and he was much reassured as a result and would be raising any further point in this respect. However he sought clarification in relation to the recent deliberations of the Board, as partly reflected during the discussion at the Board on 6 January 2009 in relation to the Accounts, and whether the accounts had been unanimously agreed and signed off.

In response, the General Manager advised that the Accounts had been signed off by the Board and forwarded to the Charity Commission.

Councillor Williams clarified that there had been some issues in relation to the narrative of the accounts and some proposed changes put forward by 3 Board members but these had not been incorporated, and consequently the accounts had not been signed off by 3 Trustees.

NOTED

In response to a point of clarification by Mr Ballard relating to the review of the strategy the Chair advised that this matter formed part of issues relating to Governance and the action plan that the Board would be considering at its next meeting.

NOTED

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The meeting ended at 21.40hrs

COUNCILLOR PAT EGAN

Chair