

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK & PALACE STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 2021, 7.30 - 8.45 PM

PRESENT:

Statutory Advisory Committee Members:

Councillors Josh Dixon, Scott Emery, Emine Ibrahim, and Viv Ross.

Elizabeth Richardson (Palace View Residents' Association) and Jason Beazley (Chair, Three Avenues Residents' Association).

Consultative Committee Members:

Councillors Anne Stennett (Chair) and Dana Carlin.

Hugh Macpherson (Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal), John Thompson (Alexandra Palace Television Group), Jacob O'Callaghan (Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee), Gordon Hutchinson (Friends of Alexandra Park), Nigel Willmott (Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre), Rachael Macdonald (Hornsey Historical Society), and Jason Beazley (Three Avenues Residents' Association).

At the start of the meeting, Jacob O'Callaghan noted that the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee used to have a separate meeting at least once a year and that this should be the first meeting after the Council Annual General Meeting

1. ELECTION OF A CHAIR FOR THE MEETING

RESOLVED

To elect Jason Beazley as the Chair for the meeting.

2. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and this information was noted.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Statutory Advisory Committee – Councillor Patrick Berryman, Councillor James Chiriyankandath, Councillor Khaled Moyeed, Councillor Elin Weston, John Crompton

(Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Residents' Association), and Jim Jenks (Vice-Chair, Warner Estate Residents' Association).

Consultative Committee – Councillor Elin Weston, Councillor Kirsten Hearn, John Wilkinson (Alexandra Palace Allotments Association), Duncan Neill (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association), John Boshier (Muswell Hill Metro Group), and Richard Hudson (Warner Estate Residents' Association).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Viv Ross noted that there were a number of issues on the agenda that related to licensing and planning and that he was a member of the Planning Sub-Committee and the Licensing Committee. Councillor Emine Ibrahim also noted that she was a member of the Planning Sub-Committee.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

6. MINUTES

In relation to the minutes of the joint meeting on 15 March 2021, Jacob O'Callaghan, Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee, drew attention to his comments that the Trustees could enforce the bylaws instead of the traffic enforcement proposals. The Chief Executive Officer noted that the bylaws could be used but explained that they were not considered to be the most cost effective measures and would require enforcement officers.

In relation to the Board minutes on 29 March 2021, Cllr Ibrahim asked about the policy for requests to light the mast. The Chief Executive Officer noted that there were restrictions on the number of days and times that the mast could be lit. It was explained that it had originally been done to celebrate Alexandra Palace commemorations but that there was an internal process in place to consider requests. It was added that this was a charitable resource that could only be used for charitable purposes. It was also noted that there were an increasing number of requests which could not all be honoured but that the Trustees were reviewing the policy for lighting the mast. Councillor Stennett stated that there had been a good discussion at the Board meeting and that the conclusion had been for the Trustees to look at the policy for lighting the mast. Members suggested that it would be beneficial to look at the lighting policies of other buildings in London.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees held on 15 March 2021 as a correct record.

2. To note the draft minutes of the Statutory Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 March 2021.
3. To note the draft minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board meeting held on 29 March 2021.
4. To note the draft minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Panel meetings held on 15 March 2021 and 7 June 2021.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) UPDATE

Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, introduced the report which provided an update on current issues and projects at Alexandra Park and Palace and additional information on the events programme and a range of activities of the Charitable Trust.

It was noted that there had been no substantial update in relation to car parking since the last meeting. It was explained that the procurement process was progressing and it was aimed to implement the new scheme from April 2022. It was added that the donate to park scheme would be continuing until then.

In relation to the Duke's Avenue Bridge, it was clarified that the Trust felt that 'permitted development rights' should not apply to any proposed changes to the bridge and that a full planning application process was required. However, since then, it was noted that Highways England had halted its programme of legacy bridge works across the country and was revising their approach after a significant amount of protest from a range of local and national interest groups and the general public.

It was enquired what sort of consultation would take place in relation to the charging for professional dog walkers. The Chief Executive noted that the Trust had been looking to introduce licensing for professional dog walking in Alexandra Park for several years. It was explained that a number of areas had introduced schemes for valid management reasons, primarily in order to meet costs. It was noted that there was no timetable for consultation but that the Trust would be approaching local professional dog walkers and active social media groups; it was added that any suggestions for consultees were welcomed.

It was enquired whether the slogans for Alexandra Park, such as 'Forever Yours', had been tested more widely in a focus group. The Chief Executive noted that there was no budget to conduct a focus group but that the feedback provided on the had been noted and that the wording of the slogans had been revised.

It was noted that the building, including the East Court, remained closed to the general public, other than for specific events. The Chief Executive explained that it was aimed to re-open to the public as soon as possible but that it was necessary to have appropriate cleaning regimes and arrangements in place.

In response to a question about flooding on the site near the Crouch End Playing Fields, the Chief Executive noted that the flooding had been a known issue for a number of years. It was explained that an application had been made to the Mayor's

Fund for sustainable drainage systems (SUDS); the whole area would need to be surveyed and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would be funding some of the surveys. It was added that this was being progressed with Haringey Council and that there would be a site visit with the Head of Planning shortly.

It was noted that a number of members and local residents responded positively to the set up for Kaleidoscope as it had been contained within the boarded area and the vehicles had not caused damage to the park or created risks for pedestrians. However, it was stated that the post-event process had not operated as smoothly. It was suggested that it would be beneficial if the post-event process could replicate the pre-event process. The Chief Executive noted that she would forward this feedback.

It was noted that the BBC would be commemorating its 100 year anniversary in 2022 and it was enquired whether there were any plans to offer support. The Chief Executive noted that discussions were ongoing with the BBC and that it should be possible to provide future updates.

Cllr Ibrahim noted that the Cyprus Wine Festival was no longer taking place at Alexandra Palace and it was enquired whether the diversity of events was being maintained. The Chief Executive explained that the team was now collecting more information relating to the diversity of events, including audiences and artists, in order to increase diversity. She noted that she could not discuss individual events in a public meeting but that the issue of diversity and overcoming any barriers to access could be further discussed outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

8. NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK

Nigel Willmott, Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre, noted that he had been unable to attend the last Board meeting. He explained that he had made a comment previously about new ways to create revenue streams using the theatre. It was added that the investment in regeneration had paid off.

9. ITEMS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS

Jacob O'Callaghan, Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee, noted that he would like to raise the issue of the efficiency, diversity, and powers of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative and Advisory Committees and the Alexandra Palace and Park Committee/ Board as representatives of users of the Palace and Park from London and beyond. He stated that he was part of a new group that wanted to apply to join the Consultative Committee. He added that it was difficult to explain to people how the various bodies and committees worked. He stated that there was duplication within the various meetings and that the representatives were not particularly representative of the community. He suggested that the governance of the various bodies should be reformed.

The Chief Executive agreed that the various committees might no longer be fit for purpose. It was explained that there had been a governance review in 2017 which had identified the need for changes to be implemented. However, it was noted that there were some practical limitations, including the fact that an Order would be required to make changes to the Statutory Advisory Committee. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to obtain the views of the members of the existing committees before embarking on any public consultation. It was noted that the Alexandra Park and Palace team was required to engage with stakeholders and had offered to approach people outside of the committee structures if this suited them better. The Chief Executive also noted that, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to focus on financial recovery, the governance review was not currently a priority but she stated that it would be useful to consider modernising or replacing the existing committees to ensure that they were more representative.

10. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings:

- 4 October 2021
- 30 November 2021
- 9 March 2022

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date

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