

MINUTES OF THE JOINT ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022, 7.30 – 8.45 PM.

PRESENT:

Statutory Advisory Committee Members:

Councillors Anne Stennett (Chair), and Viv Ross.

Jane Hutchinson (Alexandra Residents' Association), John Crompton (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Residents' Association), Kevin Stanfield (Palace Gates Residents' Association), Elizabeth Richardson (Palace View Residents' Association), and Jim Jenks (Warner Estate Residents' Association).

Consultative Committee Members:

Councillors Nick da Costa, and Bob Hare.

Rachel MacDonald deputy for John Thompson (Alexandra Palace Television Group), Jacob O'Callaghan (Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee), Gordon Hutchinson (Friends of Alexandra Park), Annette Baker (Friends of Alexandra Palace), Nigel Willmott (Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre), Rachael Macdonald (Hornsey Historical Society), and Val Paley (Palace View Residents' Association).

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The meeting was not filmed.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Statutory Advisory Committee: Councillors James Chiriyankandath, Josh Dixon, Scott Emery, Khaled Moyeed, and Elin Weston.

Jason Beazley (Chair, Three Avenues Residents' Association), and David Frith (The Rookfield Association),

Consultative Committee: Councillors Kirsten Hearn, Elin Weston,

Richard Hudson (Warner Estate Residents' Association), Duncan Neill (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association),

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

5. MINUTES

In response the Consultative Committee minutes held on the 30 November 2021 the following was noted:

- The Finance Director said that he would come back to the committee about how the Salix lighting project scheme was benchmarked;
- There was a discussion about the Alexandra Park and Palace forums, which would be held in the new municipal year, the following points were raised:
 - o The Consultative Committee should continue to meet, supported by the Council; and
 - o The forums would be held on a small budget; therefore, not affecting the finances of the trust.

RESOLVED

1. To approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees held on 4 October 2021 as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:
 - On page Si Grant should be spelt Cy Grant;
 - Elizabeth Richardson had given apologies for the meeting; and
 - Annette Baker had given apologies for the meeting.
2. To note the draft minutes of the Statutory Advisory Committee meeting held on 30 November 2021.
3. To note the draft minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting held on 30 November 2021.
4. To note the draft minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board meeting held on 13 December 2021 and 24 January 2022.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) UPDATE

The CEO introduced the report which provided an update on current issues, projects, and activities.

In response to questions, the following answers were provided:

- The daily tariff for future car parking arrangements at the Alexandra Park and Palace were as follows:
 - o Free for 0 – 30min;
 - o £1.50 for 30min – 1hr;
 - o £3.00 for 1hr – 2hr;
 - o £4.50 for 2hr – 3hr;
 - o £6.00 for 3hr – 4hr;
 - o £8.00 for 4+ hours;
- Trustees had approved car parking charges. Committee members would not have to pay to park when there was a meeting taking place they were attending, provided they give their number plate in advance;

- It was hoped that new car parking signs would look discrete, with clear instructions on pricing and how to pay. As the trust was in a heritage setting, they were sensitive to signage around the estate;
- It should be noted that the power of issuing penalty notices lay solely with the trust. The trust also had selected a provider that allowed multiple methods of payment;
- The CEO commended the team at Alexandra Park and Palace for how they weathered storm Eunice, keeping visitors at the park safe and keeping damage at the park to a minimum;
- It was noted by a committee member that the paths which were being renovated through the culture recovery grant were poorly signed posted and cordoned off during their renovation;
- It was unknown exactly why the Caucasian Wingnut Trees had been felled. Park Manager, Mark Evison, would circulate the answer to this; and
- There was a strategic plan in place to improve pathways across the park. In order to carry out this plan it was important that drainage investigation was undertaken, to understand why some areas of the park became boggy. The trust had recently submitted an application to fund this work.

The Head of Creative Learning, Mark Civil, presented on information on creative learning at Alexandra Park and Palace explaining information as set out in the CEO's report at item 5. He also showed a power point presentation to members on this area.

The committee commended Mark Civil for the work he had done, the Chair noted that creative learning was a welcome addition to Alexandra Park and Palace particularly as it fulfilled one of the charitable objects of the trust.

In answer to questions, the following responses were provided:

- The trust was reaching out to local bookshops. Currently they were working with four book shops, which were rotated to ensure all local bookshops in the area were represented;
- The trust was collaborating with stakeholders in the community to welcome refugees;
- Regarding the fire pit, it was part of the outdoor learning curriculum. The trust had put various health & safety protocols in place to ensure staff and public safety;
- A member noted that it was important that the trust had expanded the education part of Alexandra Park and Palace as it was in line with the charitable objects of the trust. There was concern around the renovation of the Transmission Hall for this purpose. The CEO explained that any works done in this area would be sensitive to the history of the building; and
- The creative learning section of the trust was not guaranteed in perpetuity. Charitable funding, particularly in the arts, was a contested space, with increasing numbers of charitable projects and decreasing pools of institutional funding available. It should be noted that levelling up was prioritised, which meant that funding was becoming decentralised. Overall, the trust had found that it had been easier to get funding for specific projects, than it was for staffing, which was a perennial struggle.

The CEO moved on to noise complaints that had been received in relation to park events. In answer to questions, the following responses were provided:

- Independent noise consultants were employed for large events with amplified music to monitor sound levels and in response to complaints during the events;
- The CEO highlighted that the sound and noise policy that the trust operated did not have a technology specification. The trust had a strong commitment to be good neighbours. The trust was dedicated to containing noise at events where possible; and
- The trust had benchmarked complaints. This exercise had reflected favourably on the trust, as relatively it had fewer complaints than venues of similar size.

RESOLVED

To note the general update.

7. MAST LIGHTING POLICY

The CEO gave members an opportunity to consider the new Mast Lighting Policy and provide comments, feedback, and advice.

Member comments on the policy:

- A member highlighted that the mast had not been lit in commemoration of the Grenfell tower fire. This was flagged at the committee level by this member, who had also wanted the policy to go out to consultation. This member felt that it was an incorrect decision to not light the mast for events such as the commemoration of the Grenfell tower fire. He felt that it was wrong for officers to make decision that he considered political, as in his opinion the lighting of the mast was not a commercial decision. He felt that the board should consider lighting the building permanently, every evening, and wanted to make a presentation to the board about this. The CEO said that it was for the committee to make comments to the board. Alexandra Park and Palace catered to a diverse range of community stakeholders and residents, meaning that not all decisions that were made could appease all groups and individuals.
- A committee member read out 4.1.1 on page 46 from agenda item 7:

‘Requests falling within the charitable purposes will be reviewed and authorised by the CEO or in their absence the Deputy CEO or Director of Finance and Resource. This falls within the delegated powers of the CEO and therefore the decision is deemed final.’

This committee member felt that this did not represent democratic decision making. She felt that this should not be an officer decision, rather, the committees should make the decision. A committee member responded that the CEO was employed to make decisions such as when the mast should be lit; and

- A committee member thought that the cost of lighting the mast frequently or permanently could create an unnecessary financial burden for the trust. The equipment used to light the building would degrade faster, and more pertinently energy costs were due to increase significantly. The Finance Director could inform the committee at a future date the exact cost of running the mast lighting at present, and the costs of running it more frequently.

The majority of the committee were happy with the policy.

RESOLVED

To note the general update.

8. CREATION OF PÉTANQUE COURTS

The CEO sought feedback on the proposal for two Pétanque courts in the park.

In answer to questions, the following responses were provided:

- The cost of creating the pétanque courts was extremely low;
- A committee member felt that pétanque was an activity enjoyed by a limited number of people, especially when compared with the vast number of people who would get enjoyment from the mast being lit regularly; and
- A committee member highlighted that more toilets around the park would be of great benefit.

RESOLVED

To provide advice and feedback to the Trustee Board, who will consider the issue at their next Board meeting.

9. APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH TRUSTEE BOARD MEMBERS AS NON-VOTING CO-OPTES

The Head of Creative Learning sought feedback from SAC/CC members on expanding the youth programmes to include representation of young people on the Trustee Board.

The Head of Creative learning explained that this report came of a drive within the arts sector to think about how youth voices could be incorporated within governance structures. Having a youth voice in Alexandra Park and Palace's governance structure was important in enfranchising young people, while also tying into future funding proposals. The trust was working with the young creatives network to gauge interest. The overall proposal was for 18–25-year-olds to join the board as non-voting co-optes.

In answer to questions, the following responses were provided:

- A committee member welcomed the proposal as they were in favour widening participation. He felt that the proposal was still in a draft form and would like to see further work on the proposal, to be brought back to committee at a later stage. The Head of Creative Learning agreed with this, emphasising that he was looking for agreement in principle from the board;
- The trust was working with the youth trustee movement, seeking advice from them in the recruitment process;
- There was work to be done in establishing if participation was to be borough wide or London wide. The continual assumption of the trust was that the Alexandra Park and Palace was for the benefit of all people living in London. The trust would be managing the mechanism of recruitment carefully.

The committee expressed general support for the proposal.

RESOLVED

To consider and provide feedback on the proposal to appoint two young people from the local community to the Trustee Board, as non-voting members.

10.ITEMS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS

There were no new items of urgent business.

11.MATTERS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS

There were no matters raised by interested groups.

12.NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

There was no new non-voting board member feedback.

13.NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

14.DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To note the dates of future meetings:

Thursday, 9 June 2022
Tuesday, 9 March 2023