

ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK BOARD

12th OCTOBER 2023

MINUTES

Members Present: Councillors Emine Ibrahim (Chair), Nick da Costa, Ahmed Mahbub and Anne Stennett, Jason Beazley (Three Avenues Residents Association (TARA)) (Co-Optee), Duncan Neill (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association) (Co-Optee) and Nigel Willmott (Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre) (Co-Optee)

Also present: Emma Dagnes (Chief Executive, APP), Richard Paterson (Director of Finance & Resources, APP), Catherine Solomon (Director of Human Resources, APP), Mark Evison (Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability, APP), Iain McDonald (Head of Facilities, APP), Neil Coe (Building Surveyor, APP), Natalie Layton (Charity Secretary, APP), Felicity Foley (Democratic Services Manager, LBH) and five members of the public.

1. **FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair drew attention to the information included on the agenda front sheet and noted that the meeting was not being recorded for future or live webcasting.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lotte Collett.

3. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Members were invited to declare any interests in relation to items on the agenda.

Cllr Mahbub reminded the Board of his role as chair of the Pensions Sub-Committee. The Trustee Board agreed that this was unlikely to give rise to any perceived conflict of interest during consideration of the Pay Review report at exempt item 15.

5. **QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS**

5.1 Deputation

RECEIVED a deputation and briefing note by Colin Marr, Chair of the Alexandra Palace (AP) Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC) explaining that the AP CAAC had applied, twice, to Historic England for Alexandra Palace to be upgraded to Grade II* listing (from its current Grade II listing).

NOTED

- Mr Marr expressed thanks for the opportunity to speak to the Board on behalf of the CAAC, which had several planning and conservation professionals among its membership.

- Both Grade II* applications had been unsuccessful and, it was the CAACs opinion that Historic England had not given proper attention to the matter.
- The CAAC was considering asking Historic England to conduct a further full assessment and wished to raise support from the Trustee Board.

NOTED the following responses to questions put to Mr Marr by the Trustee Board:

- The Palace had changed since obtaining Grade II listing in 1996 with stronger factors than other local buildings with Grade II* listing. As a much loved community asset, the CAAC believed that the Trust would have access to resources and guidance from Historic England with the higher grade of listing and potentially access to more funding.
- Grade II* listing did not necessarily mean increase costs for the Trust; to maintain higher standards and planning authority requirements would not change.
- The CAAC had held discussions with the AP staff in the past, who had been sceptical about whether Grade II* listing would be helpful.

Emma Dagnes (ED), Chief Executive APP:

- thanked Mr Marr and the CAAC for continuing to support the Palace and reminded those present at the meeting that the Trust was a high profile charity with a very small team, whose efforts had to be focussed on resourcing large fundraising applications;
- explained that statutory funders such as the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) and Historic England (HE) no longer used grade listing as a criteria for allocating funds and the Palace's status on the Heritage At Risk Register proved more beneficial;
- emphasised that if the executive team believed more funds could be raised for the charity by being Grade II* listed, this would have formed part of the recommended vision and goals put before the Trustee Board. The Trust remained a heritage building at risk and therefore the recommendation to the Board was to continue to focus on projects to raise funds to safeguard the charitable assets for the future. CM reiterated CAAC applauds the AP team for all its successes but does feel it has more importance than other local buildings with the higher listing.

The Chair thanked Mr Marr and the CAAC for their efforts in supporting the Palace.

5.2 Question by Jacob O'Callaghan (JOC), in relation to the Trust's Vision and Goals: Could the Friends of Alexandra Palace be reassured of the opportunity to participate and advise in these projects?

Following discussion, it was noted that:

- The Trust's commitment to consulting with its stakeholders was demonstrated by the Advisory Committee (SAC) and Consultative Committee (CC) and when project plans were available the stakeholder groups will be consulted through the SAC & CCs.

- The Trust would employ independent expertise for the various projects at the appropriate time through open procurement and was unlikely to seek direct involvement from local people unless through an open tender exercise.
- The Trust had much to thank its stakeholders for, in their past work to prevent serious mistakes being made that would have damaged the Palace. However, operations were different today and, whilst there would be difficult decisions to be made to protect the site, the Trust would continue to consult the SAC & CC when there were any formal proposals relating to the 2024 Vision & Goals.

6. MINUTES (PAGES 1 - 10)

ED highlighted amendment to the minutes of 19 July on Page 3 as there had been no planning in relation to the BBC Wing restoration project. It was agreed that the minutes should be amended to reflect the actual position:

BBC Wing Restoration Project

This project was listed in the Derelict Spaces project goals and ~~The Project Manager had started conversations with stakeholders and potential partners would take place when the Trust was ready to proceed with phase 1.~~

RESOLVED to approve, as correct records of the proceedings, the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board meetings held on:

- 19 July 2023, subject to the above amendment, and;
- 20 September 2023 as correct records of the proceedings,

7. FEEDBACK FROM THE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEES (PAGES 11 - 22)

NOTED the minutes of the following meetings:

- Joint Advisory & Consultative Committee – 20 April 2023
- Advisory Committee – 14 September 2023
- Informal notes of the inquorate Consultative Committee – 14 September 2023

The spelling of NW name would be amended **Action: Committee Clerk**

Nigel Willmott (NW):

- explained that there had been no nominations for the CC Chair due to the meeting being inquorate and that he, the present Chair, remained in position until the CC was able to take a decision;
- highlighted that concerns had been raised at the meeting about the lack of progress, due to capacity, on actions arising from the Consultative Committee workshop;
- Suggested a review of the CC quorum, which had been set when the Trustee Board had 8 members. **Action: Committee Clerk**

In response to comments about how people could find out about events in the Theatre, it was also noted that the local brochure was available in hard copy

from the East Court and should also be available in libraries, which would be checked. **Action ED.**

Board members commended the diverse programme of events.

8. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GENERAL UPDATE (PAGES 23 - 30)

RECEIVED the report, introduced by Emma Dagnes, Chief Executive of Alexandra Park and Palace (APP) as laid out.

- 8.1 The report recommended that the Trustee Board reconsider appointments to the lead trustee roles as the Sustainability Lead Trustee had not been filled at the previous meeting.
- 8.2. Mark Evison (ME), Park & Sustainability Manager explained that:
 - 8.2.1 Park visitor numbers remained high due to the change in working patterns since the pandemic which meant more pressure on the Park, which had won three Gold awards in London in Bloom as well as maintained the Green Flag.
 - 8.2.2 The Wetlands Feasibility Study is almost finished and the final report would be presented to the Board and the Committees. The Board congratulated the team on the work.
 - 8.2.3 The Cricket Nets previously brought before the Board were in place. A board member highlighted that the cricket team had been extremely positive about the support and work of the Park Team.
 - 8.2.4 In response to a question, ME explained that the Pétanque Court installed in a semi derelict car park, was regularly used and reminded the Board that it had been crowd-funded by the Hornsey Pétanque society.
 - 8.2.5 Trustees would receive a fuller report on sustainability at the next meeting. A staff team had entered a global Race to Zero challenge.
 - 8.2.6 The final report on the Local Energy Accelerator Project had been received. It contained 100 of pages of projects and data which needed to be worked through before bringing to the Board and Committees.
- 8.3 Members were encouraged to submit their photos for [By the People: 150 Lifetimes - The People's Picture \(thepeoplespicture.com\)](https://thepeoplespicture.com), as soon as possible. The installation would be in place March 2024. In response to questioning ED explained that the other strands of the project include outreach work for community officers to go into care homes and schools to make their own murals as part of the project.
- 8.4 Communications and a map were being prepared for local residents to inform them that Gate 3 would be closed during the fireworks for health and safety reasons.
- 8.5 Members asked for more information about the Haringey Feast event, which was available at: <https://www.haringeyfeast.com/>

RESOLVED

- i. To note the report, and;
- ii. That Nick da Costa be appointed as Lead Trustee Board Member for Environmental Sustainability and, in the meantime;

- iii. The Council be asked to review whether co-opted trustees were able to take on Lead Trustee roles. **Action: Clerk & Charity Secretary**

9. FINANCE REPORT (PAGES 31 - 34)

RECEIVED the Finance Report introduced by Richard Paterson, Director of Finance and Resources, updating on the current year forecast including:

- £12,000 better than forecast and the increase on the projected Gift Aid amount from the trading subsidiary for 2022/23, which would be transferred to the Trust in the current year. More information on trading in the exempt section at the next meeting.
- Corporate Trustee Loan repayments were budgeted although this had an impact on cashflow.

NOTED in response to questions:

- 9.1 The forecasted deficit on the cash balance in March was expected to improve in April after the grant payment and efficiencies were being considered to reduce the £500,000 deficit before the end of the year, which would mean some projects may not be completed. The large negative balance between April and May was mainly due to insurance costs which had been spread out over the year, when in the past it had been paid as a single upfront cost.
- 9.2 Feedback about car park signage had been taken on board and new signage had been ordered.

RESOVLED to note the 2023/23 full year forecast.

10. SAFEGUARDING REPORT (PAGES 35 - 44)

RECEIVED the report updating on the work conducted to promote safeguarding, introduced by Catherine Solomon (CS), Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, APP) as laid out.

NOTED in response to Board Member questions:

- E-learning was refreshed on a regular basis;
- The Staff Handbook would be made available in hard copy if requested but staff were encouraged to access it online, due to links to various policies which were updated regularly.

RESOLVED to note the report.

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

None.

12. FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted the future dates: 14 December 2023 and 26 February 2024.

13. DECISION TRACKER

NOTED the tabled decisions tracker.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

21:04 The Chair closed the public session of the meeting. AP staff left the meeting.

15. EXEMPT - PAY REVIEW (PAGES 45 - 66)

RECEIVED the Exempt Pay Review 2023 report.

RESOLVED to defer the item to a special APP Panel meeting to enable FRRAC and APTL Board to consider the recommendations first.

16. EXEMPT VERBAL UPDATE

None.

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

Ended: 21:00