

MINUTES OF MEETING Alexandra Palace and Park Board HELD ON Monday, 26th February, 2024, 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Emine Ibrahim (Chair), Sean O'Donovan (Vice-Chair), Nick da Costa, Ahmed Mahbub and Anne Stennett

Co-optees/Non Voting Members: Duncan Neill (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association) (Co-Optee) and Nigel Willmott (Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre) (Co-Optee) and John Chilton (Friends of Alexandra Park)

39. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair drew attention to the information included on the agenda front sheet and noted that the meeting was being recorded and webcast live.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence received from Jason Beazley & Cllr Elliott.

41. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair informed members of the board that there were no late items and highlighted that the following documents were circulated by email on the morning of the Board meeting. These documents included:

- Item 9 - FRRAC Chair's feedback report
- Item 10 - Revised FRRAC Terms of Reference (to include FRRAC & APTL edits)
- Item 17 - Large copies of Exempt Strategic Risk Register
- Item 18 - Exempt APTL Chair's feedback report

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

43. QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS

There were no questions, deputations or petitions received for this meeting.

44. MINUTES

The minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board held on 14 December 2023 & 25 January 2024 were agreed.

45. FEEDBACK FROM THE STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEES

It was noted that the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee held on 25 January 2024 and the Advisory Committee held on 25 January 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

46. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S GENERAL UPDATE REPORT

CEO Emma Dagnes presented the Chief Executive's General Update report, which included updates on Creative Learning, Park, Property, and Events activities. The Advisory (SAC) and Consultative (CC) committees reviewed this information during their meetings on January 25th.

Unit38, specialists leading the Shaping The Grove public engagement exercise, provided a brief presentation to the SAC & CC on January 25th outlining the approach. An online survey, "Shaping the Grove," containing 27 multiple-choice questions and text boxes for additional comments, is now open to gather feedback. There are currently 500 responses to the Grove Masterplan Consultation.

Work on repairing the North East Office Building (NEOB) has already commenced. The first phase, aimed at making the NEOB watertight, started and is expected to finish in May 2024.

Efforts are underway to address a funding gap for the reactivation of the Campsbourne Building to meet required standards for public access.

An online visitor survey was launched in October to gather feedback on the northern area of the Park, including the skatepark, playground, and Boating Lake. The data collected will support improvement projects and funding requests.

The People's Picture, a giant Mural project in the East Court, is currently in development.

The Café Restaurant project, situated in a listed building, is progressing through the RIBA stage, though there is still considerable work to be done.

Mark Evison, Head of Park and Environmental Sustainability, provided a brief introduction to the Park and Environmental Sustainability section of the report. He mentioned updates on rubbish collection, volunteer activity, traffic improvements, and memorial benches. Additionally, he noted that on New Year's Eve, there were an estimated 6,000 visitors to the park.

The following points were noted in the discussion:

- Cllr O'Donovan expressed concern about the state of the notice boards, noting vandalism and green mould, highlighting their significance as the first impression for new visitors. He inquired about the timeline for improving their appearance. The response outlined plans for refurbishment, emphasising the need for a holistic approach to address structural issues comprehensively. Despite previous challenges with short-term fixes, funding has now been secured for the refurbishment project.
- A concern was raised regarding the unsightly appearance of the concrete and plastic barriers on the Main Road, questioning their permanence. Emma Dagnes responded that they were installed temporarily during Covid to address safety concerns related to anti-social behaviour. The concrete barriers are not for pedestrian use but to deter such behaviour, which has been a long-standing issue.
- A concern was raised about New Year's Eve, which drew 6,000 visitors. It was noted that this attendance represented a slight decrease compared to previous years. Additionally, it was highlighted that New Year's Eve is not a public display and is not considered an appropriate place for young children. This aspect has been clarified in communications, and collaboration with the police is ongoing to address any related issues.
- Alexandra Park and Palace was promoted as a free fireworks viewing location by some sources, leading to criminal disorder issues as individuals set off their own fireworks.
- On Creative Learning it was noted that the current focus is on projects to commemorative Alexandra Palace's 150th Anniversary continue including outreach towards an exhibition and mural concluding in the Spring of 2024.
- Rhythm Stick, our night club for adults with disabilities, took place on the 14th December in Marcus Garvey Library as part of the Young Creative Network (YCN) programme.
- The Transmitter Hall and Creativity Pavilion continues to be used regularly for community group activities and rehearsals including: boxing and skating clubs, Haringey Music Service and other local music groups and the theatre school.
- Alexandra Palace's Young Actors Company are currently working with the former Associate Director of The Hampstead Theatre, Jonny Siddle, on a version of Macbeth based on the young people's experiences of living in Haringey. The performance will take audiences on a tour of the Palace's basements, opening this rarely seen space for visitors as part of the 150th programme.
- A Biblio-buzz tour of literary based activities is currently being finalised with Haringey and Enfield Libraries which will include author readings, performances, crafts workshops, and creative writing activities.
- On Volunteering at the Palace, 60 Active volunteers are embedded in numerous departments across Alexandra Park & Palace and delivering: stewarding in the theatre/events, archive and interpretation, image moderation, curation, supporting creative learning activities, assistants teaching, designing/running tours, and gardening. A new recruitment drive is planned for early 2024 to increase the number of Theatre volunteers.

- Emma Dagnes encouraged the members of the Board as well as Consultative Committee and Statutory Advisory Committee to keep updated with what's on at Alexandra Park on the website.

AGREED:

The Board noted the content of the report and noted feedback from the stakeholder committees.

47. FEEDBACK FROM, RESOURCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE (FRRAC)

The Board was informed about the HR report, which fell under other considerations, providing an overview of HR activities up until January 2024. The report highlighted an improvement in BAME representation, attributed to positive actions taken to foster inclusivity, including initiatives such as recruitment through Haringey Works and ensuring all staff receive training in equality, diversity, and inclusion. This information is updated every three months.

Councillor O'Donovan emphasised the importance of e-learning, suggesting that volunteers, trustees, and board members should also complete these online trainings.

AGREED:

The Board resolved to:

To consider the tabled report of the Chair of FRRAC and approve any recommendations from the 19 February FRRAC meeting.

The recommendations from FRRAC were:

- i. To note the feedback from FRRAC including that the Trustee Board:
- ii. approves and adopts the amended Terms of Reference for the Finance, Resource, Risk and Audit Committee (FRRAC) subject to the inclusion of the recommendations in 3.4 of this report.
- iii. approves the Risk Register and agree the two areas for deep dive in 2024/25 as: Fundraising Approach and Security.
- iv. notes the 2024/25 draft budget information and the proposal to review the APTL Licence Fee. However, following FRRAC it was subsequently decided not to review the licence fee.

48. FRRAC TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Board was asked to approve the tabled version of the reviewed terms of reference for adoption. It was noted that although an advisory committee with no decision-making powers, it is still good governance practice to review the Terms of Reference for FRRAC, which were last reviewed in November 2018. The Board was informed that all amendments aimed to tidy the language and clarify the role of the APTL, as well as address issues related to the quoracy of the committee.

The Board was informed about the tabled version of the terms of reference, which incorporated FRRAC and APTL Board additions, highlighted in yellow.

AGREED:

The Board resolved:

To approve the amended Terms of Reference for the Finance, Resource, Risk and Audit Committee (FRRAC) for adoption with immediate effect.

49. FINANCE REPORT

The Board received the report introduced by the Richard Paterson, the Director of Finance & Resources. The Board was informed that the Finance Report was being presented to update them on the Trust's financial position and to seek approval for the outline budget. It was noted that the recommendation to review the Trading Subsidiary license fee is no longer relevant

It was clarified that in terms of cashflow this is not until October 2023, it is from December where the deficit is being projected. In terms of the timings in the report it was noted that this was an iterative process.

On leases it was noted that we are looking to renegotiate or take back in house – this is us making an assumption, and be relatively pragmatic, and in terms of car parking

ACTIONS:

1. To change the wording of section 1.2 to use "Note" instead of "approve".
2. To remove the content mentioned in section 1.3 altogether.

AGREED:

The Board resolved to:

To note the full year forecast for the Trust.

1.2 To approve the outline Budget position for 2024/25.

1.3 To note the Trust's intention to undertake an internal review the Trading Subsidiary Licence Fee and Cost Sharing agreements, as set out in section 5.

50. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

51. DECISIONS TRACKER

The Board was informed that there were no decisions taken since last reported for information.

52. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

53. EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2023 & 25 January were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

54. EXEMPT PROPERTY REPORT

The exempt information was considered and the recommendations were approved.

55. EXEMPT STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The exempt information was considered and the recommendations were noted.

56. EXEMPT TRADING SUBSIDIARY CHAIR'S REPORT

The exempt update report from the Chair of the APTL was noted.

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

None.

CHAIR: Councillor Emine Ibrahim

Signed by Chair

Date