

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING Alexandra Palace and Park Board HELD ON Monday, 3rd November, 2025, 7.30 - 9.00 pm**

## **PRESENT:**

**Trustees: Emine Ibrahim (Chair), Sarah Elliott, Anne Stennett and Lester Buxton, Jason Beazley, Duncan Neil and Nigel Wilmott.**

## **ALSO ATTENDING:**

**Chris Liasi – Principle Committee Coordinator, Emma Dagnes – CEO of APP**

### **75. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

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

### **76. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were received by the following Trustees: Cllr Nick Da Costa and Cllr Sean O'Donovan.

### **77. URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

### **78. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were none.

### **79. QUESTIONS, DEPUTATIONS OR PETITIONS**

There were none.

### **80. MINUTES**

- The unrestricted minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust Board held on 18th September were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.
- The minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Advisory Committee held on 17th July 2025 were noted.
- The minutes of the Alexandra Park and Palace Consultative Committee held on 17th July 2025 (In Quorate) were noted.

### **81. FEEDBACK FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE & CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE VERBAL**

The new elected Chair of the Consultative Committee (Duncan Neil) was congratulated.

## **82. FUNDRAISING REPORT**

Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT), registered with the Fundraising Regulator and a signatory to its Code of Fundraising Practice, had reviewed its fundraising policies in preparation for the updated Code launching in November 2025.

The review led to proposed updates to the Fundraising Policy, particularly around donation acceptance and refusal, based on benchmarking with similar charities. Key changes included:

- Clearer criteria for due diligence, including raising the income threshold from £10,000 to £20,000 and setting renewal periods. Expanded guidance on the due diligence process for identifying potential risks or conflicts.
- Additional criteria will trigger due diligence assessment for donations under the £20,000 income threshold that pose risk to the charity.
- Trustees were no longer required to declare conflicts for all donations—only those escalated to the Board.
- The Fundraising Policy was removed from the website, with the public instead directed to the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Practice and Fundraising Promise.

These changes aimed to strengthen compliance in fundraising decision-making. Queries had been raised regarding fundraising and what might trigger due diligence assessment under the £20,000 threshold. Criteria include donations made as loans, from anonymous sources or originating from foreign accounts.

### **RESOLVED:**

The Committee approved the contents of this report.

## **83. FINANCE REPORT**

Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT) had faced significant challenges common to the cultural and heritage sectors, including economic uncertainty, rising costs, labour market pressures, and external shocks such as climate change and geopolitical instability. These factors made it difficult to maintain a balanced budget and grow Gift Aid contributions from its trading subsidiary.

The Trust had responded by aligning its operations with its Strategic Vision and Goals, which focused on sustainability, heritage protection, community engagement, and organisational resilience. A new Operational Business Plan introduced in 2024/25 was refined for 2025/26, with objectives including financial target achievement, strategic project delivery, and embedding organisational values.

Despite financial constraints, APPCT had achieved a balanced budget for 2025/26 through cost-saving measures and improved revenue forecasting. Key financial pressures included rising insurance premiums, increased National Insurance rates,

security costs, and general inflation. Mitigation strategies included recognising the Restoration Levy in-year, increasing car park charges, launching new fundraising initiatives, and expanding estate tenancy.

Operational efficiencies were pursued through resource sharing, cost reassignment, and potential recruitment freezes. Strategic investments continued in staff development, digital infrastructure, and essential estate maintenance to support high visitor numbers.

Queries had been raised regarding the loans and rate of repayment. According to the budget, the Trust was repaying approximately half a million pounds a year.

**RESOLVED:**

The Committee noted Forecast against Budget 25/26

**84. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

There were none.

**85. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Items 12-16 were subject of a motion to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they contain exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972; Para 1 – information relating to any individual, Para 2 – Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, Para 3 - information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), and Para 5 – Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

**86. EXEMPT MINUTES**

The Committee considered the exempt information.

**87. EXEMPT FINANCE REPORT**

The Committee considered the exempt information.

**88. EXEMPT HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT (PAY REVIEW)**

The Committee considered the exempt information.

**89. DECISION TRACKER & FUTURE MEETINGS - TABLED AT MEETING**

The Committee considered the exempt information.

**90. ANY OTHER EXEMPT BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

There were none.

CHAIR: Councillor Emine Ibrahim

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....